

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
State Director John H. Magill

**TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**  
Executive Director Christian Barnes-Young

November 2015

DMH OPERATES A NETWORK OF 17 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, 43 CLINICS, FOUR HOSPITALS, THREE VETERANS' NURSING HOMES, ONE COMMUNITY NURSING HOME, A FORENSIC PROGRAM, AND A SVPTP.

**DMH HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES**

**Columbia, SC**

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital

William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute (Child & Adolescents)

Morris Village Alcohol & Drug Addiction Treatment Center

C.M. Tucker, Jr. Nursing Care Center - Stone Pavilion (Veterans Nursing Home)

C.M. Tucker, Jr. Nursing Care Center - Roddey Pavilion

**Anderson, SC**

Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital

Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home

**Walterboro, SC**

Veterans Victory House (Veterans Nursing Home)

**DMH HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

South Carolina has a long history of caring for those suffering from mental illness. In 1694, the Lords Proprietors of South Carolina established that the destitute mentally ill should be cared for by local governments. The concept of "Outdoor Relief," based upon Elizabethan Poor Laws, affirmed that the poor, sick and/or disabled should be taken in or boarded at public expense. In 1762, the Fellowship Society of Charleston established an infirmary for the mentally ill. It was not until the 1800's that the mental health movement received legislative attention at the state level.

Championing the mentally ill, South Carolina Legislators Colonel Samuel Farrow and Major William Crafts worked zealously to sensitize their fellow lawmakers to the needs of the mentally ill, and on December 20, 1821, the South Carolina State Legislature passed a statute-at-large approving \$30,000 to build the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum and a school for the 'deaf and dumb'.

The Mills Building, designed by renowned architect Robert Mills, was completed and operational in 1828 as the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum. The facilities grew through the decades to meet demand, until inpatient occupancy peaked in the 1960's at well

over 6,000 patients on any given day. Since the 1820's, South Carolina state-run hospitals and nursing homes have treated approximately one million patients and provided over 150 million bed days.

In the 1920's, treatment of the mentally ill began to include outpatient care as well as institutional care. The first outpatient center in South Carolina was established in Columbia in 1923.

The 1950's saw the use of phenothiazines, "miracle drugs" that controlled many severe symptoms of mental illness, making it possible to "unlock" wards. These drugs enabled many patients to function in society and work towards recovery, reducing the need for prolonged hospitalization. Government support and spending increased in the 1960's. The South Carolina Community Mental Health Services Act (1961) and the Federal Community Health Centers Act (1963) provided more funds for local mental health care.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) was founded in 1964. In 1967, the first mental healthcare complex in the South, the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, was built. Since then, the Centers and clinics have served more than three million patients, and provided more than 42 million clinical contacts.

Today, DMH operates a network of 17 community mental health centers, 43 clinics, four hospitals, three veterans' nursing homes, one community nursing home, a Forensic Program, and a Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program (SVPTP). DMH is one of the largest hospital and community-based systems of care in South Carolina.

In response to community needs, DMH has developed multiple innovative blue-ribbon programs, two of which are its School-based program and its Telepsychiatry program. As of August, 2015, DMH's School-based program has mental health professionals embedded in approximately 500 public schools and serves 13,000 children per year. The Telepsychiatry program, which utilizes state of the art equipment that allows doctors to see, speak with, and evaluate patients from remote locations, is currently located in 21 emergency departments and has provided more than 25,000 consults.

DMH MISSION: TO SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.



### Tri-County Community Mental Health Center

1035 Cheraw Street  
 Bennettsville, SC 29512  
 843-454-0442

Counties Served: Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon

## TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

In 1960, Mrs. Louise Lee and a small group of Marlboro County ladies began advocating for community care for those experiencing mental illness. Five years later, Tri-County Mental Health Clinic began operations in Bennettsville. With a staff of four, under the direction of Dr. Al B. Harley, Jr., mental health care was made available locally to the citizens of Marlboro, Chesterfield, and Dillon counties. It was not until 1970 that services were actually provided on a part-time basis in Chesterfield and Dillon counties.

Over the years, Tri-County Community Health Center (TCCMHC) has been in many locations, typically sharing space with other

agencies or using available buildings, such as a courthouse basement, an old pharmacy, the Coachman 4 Club, a former carpet store, and an old, vacant mortuary.

Today, TCCMHC operates out of buildings that staff and patients helped design. Built specifically for mental health services, TCCMHC opened its Marlboro office in 1993, its Dillon Office in 1997, and its Chesterfield office in 2000.

TCCMHC provides mental health services to people of all ages. A staff of approximately 50 offers counseling, psychiatric assessment, medication management, crisis intervention, and other services to people

experiencing serious mental illness and significant emotional disorders.

During fiscal year 2015, TCCMHC served 1,321 adults and 622 children; a total of 1,943 citizens of the Tri-County area received more than 24,500 outpatient contacts/services.

All DMH facilities are licensed or accredited; TCCMHC has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 1997.

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## CHRISTIAN BARNES-YOUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Christian Barnes-Young,  
Executive Director

Executive Director Christian Barnes-Young earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Coastal Carolina University and a master's degree in clinical psychology from Francis Marion University.

Prior to joining TCCMHC, Barnes-Young worked as a master's-level psychologist with the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. He also held many positions at the Governor's Office: Continuum of Care for Severely Emotionally Disturbed Children. He is a licensed professional counselor and certified in primary behavioral health care integration by the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine. He initially joined TCCMHC as the Children, Adolescents, and Families (CAF) services coordinator and also served as the Center's project coordinator of the Primary Behavioral Health Care Integration (PBHCI) program.

While he has had many roles, Barnes-Young says his time at TCCMHC has been the most challenging and rewarding of his career. "Practicing on the cutting edge of healthcare, where innovation is encouraged, has been exciting and educational."

The most valuable lesson Barnes-Young has learned is that patients with complicated presentations should be the *expectation*, not the exception. By using a patient-oriented quality improvement approach to delivering care, TCCMHC has become an outcome-

driven Center that improves patients' lives.

Barnes-Young emphasizes the delivery of evidence-based services and utilization of best practices in community mental health. He has been instrumental in not only TCCMHC's but also the Agency's adoption of collaborative documentation, open-access models of care, enhanced scheduling strategies, and engagement techniques, all of which improve efficiency of operations and effectiveness of treatment.

Barnes-Young is well aware of the importance of strong partnerships in the pursuit of health outcomes. TCCMHC has school-based counseling programs in every school district in its catchment area. The Center also has a Hospital Liaison who works with local hospitals to decrease emergency department length of stay and to secure community-based services for patients with psychiatric conditions. Barnes-Young and other TCCMHC staff are active members of rural health networks, inter-agency meetings, and coordinating councils that operate in each county the Center serves. Building on the success of the Center's PBHCI program, TCCMHC has effective working relationships with CareSouth Carolina, McLeod Hospital System, Trinity Behavioral Care, and other healthcare and behavioral healthcare providers.

Barnes-Young has always been interested in state-of-the-

art technologies and supports the use of technology in the delivery of mental health care. TCCMHC has recently become a high utilizer of telepsychiatry services; approximately half of the psychiatric services provided by the Center are delivered via telepsychiatry. Electronic health records and health information exchanges boost opportunities to decrease health disparities and target particular conditions that benefit from aggressive treatment plans.

TCCMHC plans to continue to expand and enhance services in order to improve access and help patients' recovery. Barnes-Young is excited about increasing school-based, wellness, peer-support, and intensive family services. In the near future, TCCMHC will have an intake team that will allow potential patients access to services on the same day or next day referral.

Barnes-Young believes it is an exciting time to be working in the field of Behavioral Health Care. A tremendous amount of resources are currently available to support individuals' recovery efforts. Evidence-based mental health services provide effective treatment which allows people to recover. Barnes-Young is impressed with the staff at TCCMHC and knows they are committed to providing the best possible care to Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield county residents.

"PRACTICING ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF HEALTHCARE, WHERE INNOVATION IS ENCOURAGED, HAS BEEN EXCITING AND EDUCATIONAL."

## CLIFFORD C. “CLIFF” MCBRIDE ESQ., BOARD CHAIR

Born in Dillon and raised in Hartsville, Clifford C. “Cliff” McBride, Esq., received his undergraduate degree from The Citadel and his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina. As a Senior Staff Attorney for South Carolina Legal Services, he provides legal aid to low income individuals in need of legal services in six counties of the Pee Dee district. “I’m just a country lawyer,” said McBride.

An active member of the community, McBride’s been a dedicated member of the TCCMHC board for eight years. His first official activities regarding mental health came in the late 1980s when he was part of

a task force that explored the need for and ways to provide housing for the chronically mentally ill in Darlington County. This service led him to become a board member of the Darlington County Independent Housing Corporation. The Corporation, with grant funding, currently has two properties and 15 apartment units for the mentally ill. With some of the same client base, joining the TCCMHC board was a natural fit.

According to McBride, more youth services and school-based counselors are needed. “If you catch and treat problems when people are young, their problems are apt to be less se-

vere in the future,” he said. Transportation is also a major problem for TCCMHC patients because Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon counties span such a large geographic area.

“TCCMHC is blessed with great staff. If I could clone them and their cohesiveness I would. Community involvement with the Center is strong and TCCMHC’s board is active and committed. However, I would like to see more county appropriations to support and acknowledge the excellent services rendered at TCCMHC,” said McBride.



Clifford C. “Cliff” McBride Esq.,  
Board Chair

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## CRYSTAL MCLENDON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Marlboro County native Crystal McLendon returned to TCCMHC in June 2013 as the director of Administration. McLendon has worked at TCCMHC in several different capacities in the past. She began as an administrative specialist in the Marlboro Clinic in 2000 and was promoted to medical records analyst in 2002. Upon completion of a bachelor’s degree from Gardner-Webb University in 2003, McLendon accept-

ed a TCCMHC clinical position, and conducted Psychosocial Rehabilitation groups from 2003 to 2007. During this time, Crystal earned a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix. In 2007, she left TCCMHC to direct a non-profit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program in North Carolina. She served in that position for six years.

As TCCMHC’s director of Administration, McLendon

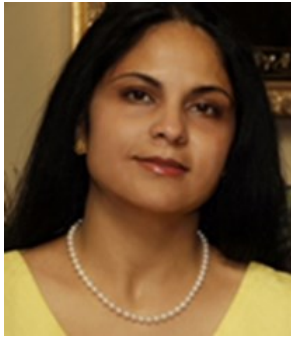
oversees all of the Center’s administrative and financial areas and serves as the Center’s patient advocate.

McLendon believes her experience and knowledge has helped her adapt well to her new position. “I am excited to be a part of the progressive team at Tri-County Community Mental Health Center. I enjoy being a part of a team that supports recovery while implementing innovative practices that improve our service delivery.”



Crystal McLendon,  
Director of Administration





Simi Sachdev, M.D.,  
Medical Director

## **SIMI SACHDEV, M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

Dr. Simi Sachdev received her medical degree in 1995 from Lady Hardinge Medical School in New Delhi, India. She completed her residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Michigan, Detroit, and completed a child psychiatry fellowship at The State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse in 2002.

Dr. Sachdev joined the Center in 2004, but worked with Marlboro Park Hospital prior and Aurora Pavilion during a small break from the Center in 2009. She returned to TCCMH in 2011 as medical director.

Dr. Sachdev primarily sees patients in the Dillon clinic,

but also provides telepsychiatry to patients in the Bennettsville and Chesterfield clinics. Dr. Sachdev shows great dedication and commitment to compassionate care of the Center's patients.

Dr. Sachdev is married and has two boys.



Teresa Curry,  
Quality Assurance Coordinator

## **TERESA CURRY, QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR**

Dillon County native Teresa Curry earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Francis Marion University and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Webster University. She began her career at the Center in 2004 when she was hired as a children's counselor for the Dillon County Clinic.

In 2007, Curry was promoted to the Children, Ad-

olescent, and Family (CAF) Services coordinator for the Center. Since 2011, she has served as the quality assurance coordinator. Her position evolved over the years to include the titles of corporate compliance officer, privacy officer, and risk manager. These roles fit neatly together, as they are all crucial to ensuring that quality clinical care is being

provided to patients, in a safe environment, with respect for their individual needs, all while being documented appropriately.

Curry strives to ensure that all Tri-County staff have an extensive understanding of each of the areas that she is responsible for and encourages open communication when issues arise.



Kathy Cornish,  
CAF Coordinator

## **KATHLEEN "KATHY" CORNISH, CHILD, ADOLESCENT & FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Kathy Cornish came to TCCMHC with a rich dialect and tropical flavor by way of Jamaica and Canada. She joined TCCMHC in 2005 as a children's counselor in the Dillon Clinic. Cornish currently serves as the Center's Children, Adolescent & Family (CAF) coordinator. She holds a Certificate of Education, as well as a bachelor's and

master's in Social Work from Coker College and the University of South Carolina, respectively.

A significant part of CAF coordination includes the oversight of school-based services. TCCMHC began its school-based program in 2002 with counselors serving schools in Dillon County. School-based services

have continued to expand over the years and TCCMHC currently has seven school-based counselor positions to serve schools in Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon counties. Being able to serve children in their schools is a tremendous asset to the child, their family, school, and community.

## R. MICHAEL TRULUCK, CLINICAL SERVICES CHIEF

Michael Truluck earned a bachelor's degree in Biology and Economics as well as a master's degree in Psychology from Francis Marion University.

Truluck spent eight years working in the electronics industry in quality control and three years working in finance prior to joining the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. Truluck began his career with the Agency in 1989 as a child and family counselor at Pee Dee Mental Health Center.

He came to TCCMHC in 1992, serving as an adult outpatient counselor and the coordinator for the Toward Local Care program. In 2000, Truluck was promoted to clinic director of the Chesterfield Clinic. He served in this role until 2006, at which time he was promoted to clinical services chief.

Today, Truluck wears many hats at TCCMHC. In addition to clinical services chief, he serves as clinic director of the Marlboro

Clinic, emergency services coordinator, and as the Center's hospital liaison.

With over 20 years' experience at TCCMHC, Truluck brings a great deal of knowledge and understanding about the needs of the community and the delivery of clinical services. Truluck oversees the clinical training needs of TCCMHC staff and ensures quality services are provided in an effective and efficient manner.



R. Michael Truluck,  
Clinical Services Chief

## EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Improving the health and well-being of citizens of Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield counties could not be done without strong partnerships. TCCMHC works closely with a variety of organizations, education systems, other state agencies, collaborative councils, and healthcare providers.

Several members of TCCMHC's staff actively participate in the county collaborative councils that regularly meet in each of the three counties served by the Center. Moreover, the school-based program at TCCMHC could not be successful without an effective

working relationship with local school districts. In addition to working with school districts, the Center's CAF coordinator collaborates with county DSS and DJJ offices to meet the needs of shared patients.

Executive Director Barnes-Young is a member of the Northeastern Rural Health Network (NRHN), which has the goal of "improving access to quality healthcare in rural communities through increased collaboration and communication among providers." Participating in the NRHN helped the Center strengthen its relationship with CareSouth

Carolina. Working together, TCCMHC and CareSouth have achieved tremendous health outcomes for shared patients.

Effective working relationships with McLeod Dillon and McLeod Cheraw hospitals have resulted in decreases in emergency department utilization.

Partnerships with Vocational Rehabilitation, local law enforcement, institutions of higher learning, Disabilities and Special Needs, healthcare providers, substance abuse treatment providers have helped TCCMHC meet the needs of its patients.

TCCMHC  
PARTNERS WITH  
MANY AGENCIES  
AND BUSINESSES  
IN THE  
COMMUNITY.



TO SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF  
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

**SC DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH**

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Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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WWW.SCDMH.ORG

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**TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**

**Bennettsville Clinic**  
1035 Cheraw Street  
Bennettsville, SC 29512  
843-454-0442

**Chesterfield Clinic**  
207 Commerce Avenue  
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(843) 623-2229

**Dillon Clinic**  
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**RECOVERY SPOTLIGHT**  
**“FROM THE BACK DOOR TO THE FRONT DOOR”**  
**BY – MARY L.**

Let me begin by expressing my deepest desire to share my recovery story and to inspire all who read this to know that Depression is treatable, enjoying life again is possible, and most importantly, that there is HOPE!

My son was killed by a drunk driver at the age of 22. I began my journey here at Tri-County Community Mental Health Center in 2000, only one month after his death. After suffering such a devastating loss, I found myself unable to function. I completely disconnected from my family and cut myself off

from everyone. At my worst, I truly didn't care if I ever awoke from my sleep.

Through the persistence of my family and my sister, who continually reached out and motivated me, I have become active and now enjoy doing things. I am grateful for their persistence even as I resisted. Working for the Humane Society increased my passion for animals; my pets have been instrumental in my recovery.

The counselors and staff at TCCMHC have provided me with a host of tools, including therapy, support, medication, and an overall com-

passionate caring atmosphere. Dr. Sachdev, in conjunction with my case manager, Shawna McLellan, who never gave up on me, has equipped me to persevere and live life again. My participation in a year-long grief group at Tri-County provided phenomenal support and helped me see that I was not alone in my hurt and grief.

As I continue on my path to wellness and recovery, I allow myself to enjoy every experience, whether it's going to the grocery store, running errands, having my hair or nails done, or visiting my family. Through my re-

covery process I have learned that I am fun, happy, and satisfied. Most importantly, I realized that I am stronger than I ever thought I was.

The title “From the Back Door to the Front Door” clearly indicates how much progress I have made. In the beginning I was always so upset and depressed that I could hardly face the waiting room or people but today I go out the front door smiling, speaking, and waving to everyone I come in contact with to show them there is HOPE.