

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at the Department of Mental Health in Jackson, Mississippi.

In Attendance:

Board Members: James Herzog, Ph.D.; Sampat Shivangi, M.D.; Manda Griffin, DNP; Mr. Courtney Phillips; Mr. Stewart Rutledge; Teresa Mosely, M.Ed.; Mr. Robert Landrum; Sara Gleason, M.D.; and Alyssa Killebrew, Ph.D.

Department of Mental Health Executive Staff: Wendy Bailey, Executive Director; Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director Behavioral Health Services; Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director IDD Services; Katie Storr, Chief of Staff; Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Kristin Merritte, Chief Clinical Officer, IDD Services; Dr. Mallory Malkin, Chief Clinical Officer, Behavioral Health Services; Brent Hurley, Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health Services; Stephanie Foster, Director, Bureau of Certification and Quality Outcomes; Cyndi Eubank, Senior Attorney; and Dr. Robert Maddux, DMH Medical Director

Central Office Staff: Grenaye Sullivan, Recording Secretary; and Adam Moore, Office of Communication and Planning

Program Directors: Rinsey McSwain, Ellisville State School; Cindy Cooley, South Mississippi Regional Center; Dr. Paul Callens, North Mississippi State Hospital; Sabrina Young, South Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional Center; Jerrie Barnes, Hudspeth Regional Center; James Chastain, Mississippi State Hospital; Shannon Bush, Specialized Treatment Facility; and Clint Ashley, Boswell Regional Center

DMH Program Assistant Directors: Ricky Grimes, Boswell Regional Center; Dr. Kenneth O'Neal, Ellisville State School

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dr. James Herzog. Dr. Herzog asked everyone to stand while Craig Kittrell opened the meeting with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Herzog asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Mr. Landrum, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Dr. Herzog then asked if there were any changes or additions to the January 2022 minutes.

On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Mr. Landrum, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 2022 minutes as presented.

Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the Seven Months (FY22) Ended January 31, 2022.

Mr. Breland provided an update of the utilization of all grant funding related to COVID.

Mr. Breland presented for Board action, the "Request for Board Approval of Contracts" non-state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually.

Contracts, non-state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually					
Ellisville State School					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
HMP Nuring Services	4/01/22	3/31/27	\$3,000,000	\$600,000	Contractor will provide nursing services: RN - \$56; LPN - \$45; CNA - \$30
Prime Care Nursing	4/01/22	3/31/27	\$3,000,000	\$600,000	Contractor will provide nursing services: RN - \$58; LPN - \$45; CNA - \$26
Stafflink f/k/a Supplemental Medical Service, Inc.	4/01/22	3/31/27	\$3,000,000	\$600,000	Contractor will provide nursing services: RN - \$49.80; LPN - \$45.80; CNA - \$33.80
TD Medical Solutions	4/01/22	3/31/27	\$3,000,000	\$600,000	Contractor will provide nursing services: RN - \$58; LPN - \$45; CNA - \$326
B Clean LLC	3/03/22	3/02/27	981,000	\$196,200	Contractor will provide plumbing services for ESS campus: 40 hours/week at \$75/hour
Mississippi State Hospital					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
Republic Services, Inc.	5/01/22	4/30/25	\$278,911	\$92,970	Contractor will provide waste management services at a rate of \$7,747/month
North Mississippi State Hospital					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
Micah Jade Davis-Hurt	1/03/22	1/02/23	\$63,000	\$63,000	Contractor will administer, score and interpret routine and complex psychological assessments.
Central Office					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
Mississippi State University – Social Science Research	2/18/22	2/17/23	\$74,530	\$145/hour	Contractor will provide evaluation services for Mississippi's Emergency Response to COVID-19 (MERC-19) Project.

On motion of Mr. Rutledge and second by Dr. Shivangi the Board voted unanimously to approve the "Request for Board Approval of Contracts" non-state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually.

Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, provided a COVID-19 update. She reported as of February 11, 2022, there were 151 active cases among staff at the program locations and 39 active cases among patients/clients/residents. Vaccination numbers have increased, as of February 11, 2022, currently 81% of staff at DMH Programs have had at least one COVID vaccination, while 76% are fully vaccinated. An additional, 32 staff have received medical exemptions and 672 had received religious exemptions. She reported that in total, 12% of DMH program staff were out of compliance (not fully vaccinated and no exemption granted) as of February 11, 2022.

Ms. Bailey provided a legislative session update.

Ms. Bailey reported that the Senate Subcommittee Budget Hearing chaired by Senator Angela Hill was held on January 26 and was posted on YouTube. Ms. Bailey reported that instead of an in-person hearing this year, the House requested a letter and copy of the presentation which is included in the Board packet.

Ms. Bailey reported Mental Health Capitol Day will be held virtually on March 10 from 10 -11 a.m. The program includes several advocacy group leaders and a personal story. Ms. Bailey reported that her comments will be focused on the statewide rollout of 988 in July and an update on the expansion of community-based services.

Ms. Bailey reported Alzheimer's Advocacy Day was held on February 8 and hosted by key stakeholders in the fight against Alzheimer's and dementia in Mississippi including the Alzheimer's Association Mississippi Chapter, The MIND Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Department of Mental Health. Ms. Bailey included in the packet a joint letter that was sent to all legislators.

Ms. Bailey provided a copy of the latest course catalog for the Mississippi Behavioral Health Learning Network which was established by the Mississippi Public Health Institute (MSPHI) in July 2017 in a partnership with DMH to provide professional and workforce development to behavioral health providers in the state of Mississippi.

Ms. Bailey shared copies of the most recent news articles. The articles included:

1. Mississippi Department of Mental Health reminds public about suicide prevention resources
2. Opinion: Despite lawsuits, state making strides on mental health
3. Helping others: Certified Peer Support Specialists help others through their own experiences
4. Addiction Touches Every Family Member
5. Divvying up the dough
6. Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann have the right approach on ARPA
7. Caution, calm, and care
8. Jones County sees alarming spike in suicides, mental health emergencies
9. Linebacker to lifesaver
10. US sees mental health in crisis

Ms. Bailey reported that the March 2022 Board of Mental Health meeting is scheduled to be held at the Department of Mental Health on March 17, 2022. Ms. Bailey recommended that the March meeting be held in-person at MSH. She reported that Dr. Hogan, Court Monitor, will be attending the meeting and would like to meet with the Board.

Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director, Behavioral Health Services, presented an update on the Mississippi Hospital Association Behavioral Health Committee meeting that was held on February 2, 2022. He reported that he presented an overview of expansion of community-based behavioral health services and use of SAMHSA supplemental COVID block grant funds and Ms. Bailey provided an update on activities of the Court Appointed Federal Monitor, Dr. Michael Hogan. He stated that Mr. Chastain, chair of the committee, also presented, along with Phaedre Cole and Dr. Kathy Crockett for the Community Mental Health Centers.

Mr. Hutchins presented the Monthly Survey Reports for East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital, South Mississippi State Hospital, and Specialized Treatment Facility. There were no significant findings during these surveys.

Adam Moore, Director, Office of Communication and Planning presented the FY22 2nd Quarter Strategic Plan Highlights Flyer.

Katie Storr, Chief of Staff, provided a 2nd Quarter Outreach report.

Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services, presented the Emergency Procurement of Contract Worker Nurses for Boswell Regional Center. He reported BRC is in the process of entering into two emergency contracts with Infiniti and Prime Care to address nursing shortages during Covid-19. These contracts are necessary to ensure patients have the best quality care needed. He reported both emergency contracts will expire on January 31, 2023 and each contract will not exceed \$80,000. Mr. Kittrell reported that no action is needed from the Board because this is an emergency procurement.

Mr. Kittrell presented the Monthly Survey Report for North Mississippi Regional Center. There were no significant findings during this survey.

Rinsey McSwain, Director, Ellisville State School, provided a program overview including updated census numbers, COVID stats, and initiatives at ESS.

Sabrina Young, Director, South Mississippi State Hospital, provided a program overview including number served, utilization of evidence-based programs, and the Peer Bridger project.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee:

Dr. Herzog reported that the Strategic Plan Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. He reported that Mr. Moore provided an update on the NRI project and how data is collected with the Strategic Plan process. Dr. Herzog reported there was no action taken but will have more details in the coming months.

Property Subcommittee:


Ms. Eubank reported that the Property Subcommittee met via email prior to the Board meeting.

She reported that EMSH is requesting to ask for legislative authority to sell a building located at 5800 North Hills Street in Meridian. The property was purchased in 2007 to serve as offices for EMSH Community Residential Services Division. This Division has been moved to Central MS Residential Center in Newton and the Kemper Group Homes. The building is vacant, and there is no further use for the building.

Ms. Eubank reported that EMSH is requesting to ask for legislative authority to sell a building located at 851 Northside Drive in Newton. This property was purchased approximately 20 years ago to serve as an Alzheimer's unit by CMRC. Recently, Weems Community Mental Health Center used it as a meeting/counseling space and they no longer have an interest in the building.

Mr. Rutledge made a motion to approve the two request by EMSH. A second was made by Dr. Killebrew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

With no further business, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting.


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY