

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021, 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; Alyssa Killebrew, Ph.D.

Absent: Mr. Stewart Rutledge

Department of Mental Health Executive Staff: Wendy Bailey, Executive Director; Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director Community Operations; Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director State Operated Programs; Katie Storr, Chief of Staff; Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Kristin Merritte, Chief Clinical Officer for Community IDD Services; Toni Johnson, Director, Bureau of Human Resources; Stephanie Foster, Director, Bureau of Certification and Quality Outcomes; Cyndi Eubank, Office of General Counsel; McCall Chastain, Attorney General's Office; and Dr. Robert Maddux, DMH Medical Director

Guest: Dominic Deleo, MS Families as Allies

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; Dr. Charles Carlisle, East Mississippi State Hospital; Sabrina Young, South Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional Center; Jerrie Barnes, Hudspeth Regional Center; Jamie Prine, Mississippi Adolescent Center; and Clint Ashley, Boswell Regional Center

DMH Program Assistant Directors: Donna Creekmore, East Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Kenneth O'Neal, Ellisville State School; and Ricky Grimes, Boswell Regional Center

Other DMH Program Staff: Janis Hayden, Specialized Treatment Facility; Bradley Crow, East Mississippi State Hospital

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 Dr. Killebrew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Dr. Herzog then asked if there were any changes or additions to the October 2021 minutes.

On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Dr. Killebrew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October 2021 minutes as presented.

Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the Four Months (FY22) Ended October 31, 2021.

Mr. Breland presented for Board action, the "Request for Board Approval of Contracts" non-state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually and state retirees, \$20,000 or more annually.

Contracts, non-state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually					
Mississippi State Hospital					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
Precision Healthcare Staffing	12/17/21	1/31/22	\$74,500	Varies	Contractor will provide nursing services.
Southern Healthcare	12/17/21	1/31/22	\$74,500	Varies	Contractor will provide nursing services.
Infiniti Healthcare Services	12/17/21	1/31/22	\$74,500	Varies	Contractor will provide nursing services.
South Mississippi Regional Center					
Prime Nursing Care	1/1/22	12/31/26	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	Contractor will provide professional nursing services for main campus and community homes. Rates: RN - \$58/hr and \$87/hr for OT/Holiday; LPN - \$45/hr and \$67.50 for OT/Holiday; CNA - \$26/hr and \$39/hr for OT/Holiday
Southern Healthcare Agency	1/1/22	12/31/26	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	Contractor will provide professional nursing services for main campus and community homes. Rates: RN - \$61/hr and \$91.50/hr for OT/Holiday; LPN - \$42/hr and \$63 for OT/Holiday; CNA - \$26/hr and \$39/hr for OT/Holiday
Precision Healthcare Staffing	1/1/22	12/31/26	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	Contractor will provide professional nursing services for main campus and community homes. Rates: RN - \$50/hr and \$75/hr for OT/Holiday; LPN - \$45/hr and \$67.50 for OT/Holiday; CNA - \$25/hr and \$37.50/hr for OT/Holiday
East Mississippi State Hospital					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
Dr. Kim Nagel, MD	11/1/21	9/30/23	\$895,648	\$447,824	Contractor is a licensed Psychiatrist and will provide psychiatric services for adult patients.
Central Office					
The Focus Group	11/22/21	9/30/22	\$68,500	\$68,500	Contractor will provide a comprehensive media campaign for the

					HIV/AIDS awareness campaign.
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On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Mr. Phillips 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 that as of Tuesday, November 17, there were 22 active cases among staff at the 11 program locations across the state and 28 active cases among patients/clients/residents. She reported that the vaccination numbers have increased. Ms. Bailey reported that she would like to make the Board aware that two weeks ago the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule was published requiring COVID-19 vaccinations of eligible staff at health care facilities that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. She reported that within this mandate issued by CMS, healthcare entities must have a plan in place to ensure all of the organizations' employees, contract workers, and other applicable individuals receive their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccination by December 5, 2021. By January 3, 2022, all of the organizations' employees, contract workers, and other applicable individuals must be fully vaccinated. There was no testing out option in lieu of receiving a Covid-19 vaccine provided for within the mandate. Ms. Bailey reported that facilities that don't comply with the CMS rule may have to pay civil penalties or may be denied funding. She reported that as a last resort, facilities could be terminated from Medicare and Medicaid programs. Mr. Breland has pulled Medicaid payments from FY21, and it is approximately \$250,204,825 or 67.5% of total operating expenses.

Ms. Bailey reported that all of the programs are required to comply with this federal mandate issued by CMS to avoid monetary penalties and loss of certification; therefore, employees must make arrangements to receive the Covid-19 vaccination unless a reasonable accommodation is granted as a result of an employee requesting an accommodation based on a medical condition(s) or status or a sincerely held religious belief. She reported that the CMS rule will offer religious and medical exemptions and facilities must have a plan to ensure they comply with those exemptions.

Ms. Bailey reported that DMH is required to have a process or plan for vaccinating all eligible staff. She reported that DMH has already developed standard messaging to all staff and a policy has been developed for all of programs. She reported that DMH also has a plan for providing exemptions and accommodations for those who are exempt and a plan for tracking and documenting staff vaccinations. She reported that the goal has been to have consistent policies and guidance for all programs.

Ms. Bailey reported that she would like to make the Board aware that overall, 59% of agency staff have been fully vaccinated and 61% have received their first dose. She reported that these numbers are the ones she reports each month. This ranges by program, including the lowest fully vaccinated rate of 46%, and some programs have above a 70% vaccination rate. For example, at SMSH, 17 of the 36 full-time Active Treatment Technicians are unvaccinated. At MSH, 86 nurses are unvaccinated and according to a survey done in October, a total of 31 of those said they would refuse the vaccine. At MSH, 268 unvaccinated with a 76% fully vaccinated rate. She reported that while this may change when faced with their job status, that is an unknown at the moment. Ms. Bailey reported that despite efforts to encourage vaccination, there is still hesitancy among many staff. Knowing this, DMH is developing contingency plans for a "worst case scenario" - admissions may be temporarily stopped at the state hospitals or IDD Regional Programs may have to discharge clients due to staffing levels. Ms. Bailey reported that we do not know how many staff will choose to leave or be terminated due to their vaccination decision.

Ms. Bailey reported that CMS will check for compliance and expects to conduct onsite reviews for the requirements in two ways: Recertification surveys and complaint surveys. She reported that surveyors will check to determine if the facility has met three basic requirements: 1) A process or plan for vaccinating all eligible staff; 2) process or plan for providing exemptions and accommodations for those who are exempt; 3) process or plan for tracking and documenting staff vaccinations. She reported that programs are reporting to her twice a week their unvaccinated numbers and any changes in their staffing. Ms. Bailey reported that DMH has an amazing team who are working together to ensure continuation with the mission of the agency despite the staffing challenges that may encounter over the next several weeks and months.

Ms. Bailey reported that she and Mr. Hutchins met with Director Greg Snowden, Administrative Office of the Courts, on October 11 to discuss the support of mental health courts or intervention courts and legislation for funding. She reported that October 19 and November 5 she, Mr. Hutchins and Dr. Malkin met with Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Director Steven Maxwell to discuss hosting four town halls/forums together in January and February on the coast, central Mississippi, Forrest County and DeSoto County where there has been an increase in overdose deaths. This partnership will train law enforcement with MBN in Crisis Intervention and Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety.

Ms. Bailey reported that she met with Attorney General Lynn Fitch on November 8 to discuss opioid initiatives and the launch of 988 in 2022.

On November 10 she and Mr. Hutchins along with Region 12 met with Harrison County and Representative Felsher to discuss a Diversion Center hybrid model which DMH has secured \$1.2 million which will include 6-8 CSU beds and 23-hour beds. Ms. Bailey reported that on November 12, she and Mr. Hutchins met with Senator Bryan, Region 3, chancery clerks, judges, and sheriffs from Lee, Itawamba and Monroe counties for a pilot of a court liaison. She reported that in FY21, there were 1,769 admissions to adult psychiatric services throughout the state or a 9% decrease. With efforts to expand intensive community support services including PACT, ICORT and ICSS to prevent hospitalizations having someone dedicated to people who interact with the court system/law enforcement to make the person aware and access for these services to prevent unnecessary institutionalizations is vital. She reported that these specialist services aim to intervene early in the commitment process by working with the individual and/or loved ones who are seeking a commitment and linkage with treatment. The liaisons will work directly to ensure they receive appropriate evaluations and needed mental health services. The liaisons will form better community partnerships with crisis systems, law enforcement agencies, and courts to save state and local resources that might otherwise be expended on unnecessary hospital stays. She reported that liaisons will help with workforce shortages by assisting with pre-evaluation screenings and working with civil courts and families prior to commitments to connect individuals with community-based services. Ms. Bailey reported that these linkages can improve the outcomes for individuals with behavioral health disorders who encounter the legal system, and therefore, reduce the individual's use of other crisis systems and those staff resources. Law enforcement agencies will have a dedicated resource to reach out to when in need of linking a person to services and the liaison will be available on-site to provide individual service needs assessments and information to the Court and individuals in need of available treatment options.

Ms. Bailey reported that through funding provided by 26 State Mental Health Authorities (SMHAs), the NASMHPD Research Institute (NRI) has worked to collect information from all SMHAs over the last year. She reported that NRI used the information to produce succinct, timely reports on high priority topics identified by SMHAs. Ms. Bailey provided the final copies of the first set of the 2020-2021 State Profiles Highlight Reports to the Board. She reported that there will be several more reports produced over the next few months. These reports in particular are helpful in providing insight into other states' organizational structure, funding, crisis services, and use of state hospitals. She reported that DMH is pleased to have the honor to be on the Profiles Steering Committee for the development of these reports and forthcoming reports.

Ms. Bailey reported that with the addition of a new CIT program established in the Oxford/Lafayette County area in FY21, Mississippi now has eight fully functioning CIT programs. The fully-functional CIT programs in Mississippi are: East Mississippi CIT serves Lauderdale, Kemper, Clarke, Smith, Scott, Newton, Neshoba, Leake, and Jasper Counties; Pine Belt CIT serves Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Perry, Covington, Jeff Davis, Jones, and Pearl River Counties; Lifecore Health Group CIT serves Lee and Itawamba Counties; Hinds County CIT serves Hinds County; Harrison County CIT serves Harrison County; Pike County CIT serves Pike County; Northwest Mississippi CIT serves DeSoto County; and The Oxford CIT serves Oxford and Lafayette County. She reported that through grants given to the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department and Pine Belt Mental Health for CIT expansion, efforts continue to help new communities establish CIT programs. In FY21, there were 13 CIT classes conducted, with 49 different law enforcement agencies participating. Through these trainings, 151 officers received training and certification as CIT officers during the year.

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

1. Hattiesburg Veteran of the Year Joe Kinnan devotes countless hours to serving community
2. Survey highlights lack of 911 dispatcher training as state develops plan for a new national helpline
3. Two Mississippians gone too soon: Families speak about losing their sons to opioid overdoses
4. Northeast Mississippi law enforcement officers undergo Crisis Intervention training to respond to mental health incidents
5. The pandemic has been hard on Mississippi children. Here's what schools are doing to help
6. State employees face challenges with outpatient mental health care
7. US judge issues partial stay for Mississippi in federal mental health case
8. Opinion: Why is AG's office appealing feds' mental health suit?

Ms. Bailey reported that the December 2021 Board of Mental Health meeting will be held at Boswell Regional Center on December 16.

Katherine Simmons presented the School Mental Health Initiative. She reported that in 2019, the legislature passed the Mississippi School Safety Act which required the Department of Education to establish three pilot programs in six school districts utilizing an evidence-based curriculum to provide to students in grades K through 5. She reported that DMH was responsible for the selection of the curriculum. The bill also required the development of a State MOU between CMHC's, facilities and school districts; referral protocols; and training for school personnel to conduct initial behavioral health screenings of students who experience stress or at risk of harm. From this bill a learning collaborative team was formed in February 2019. She reported that there were three different components to the selection process. The first was to choose six school districts to participate in the pilot program. All districts had the opportunity to apply to participate. Ten districts applied and all ten were selected. The second Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculums had to be chosen. She reported that the committee chose a list of six curriculums and presented them to district representatives of the ten school districts during a focus group. Ms. Simmons reported that they received a rating form to rate the curriculums and discuss with Superintendents, to decide which curriculum was for their district. EduMotion and Second Step were used during the pilot. The third was which schools would participate and the number of classrooms and the district representatives informed the committee which K-5 schools they wanted to use in their district and the schools determined the number of classrooms for each grade they would implement the curriculum and report data on. She reported that twenty-three

schools were chosen within the ten districts. Data was collected and school principals chose to have their school counselors submit the monthly data. The committee, along with some district representatives chose what data to collect. Ms. Simmons reported that DMH covered the cost for the curriculum training and materials, which cost about \$50,000 and were able to use both federal grant and State funds. She reported that schools had an implementation date of October 1st. Second Step was implemented in eight school districts with eighteen schools, while EduMotion was implemented in two school districts with five schools. She reported that there were three surveys sent throughout the year of the pilot program. An initial survey was sent in August 2020, a mid-year survey sent in January and an end-of-year survey sent in May. Surveys were sent to school staff, counselors, and administrators. Anonymous results were sent to school principals for their schools and superintendents for their districts. Ms. Simmons reported that due to COVID there were many barriers to overcome. She reported that the team came together and worked to overcome the barriers and move forward with the pilot program to be implemented into the school districts the school year. Ms. Simmons reported that the Social, Academic and Emotional Behavior Screener (SAEBRS) is the initial behavioral health screening for school staff to use. It is used to evaluate student functioning in terms of overall general behavior, social, academic, and emotional behavior. She reported that when symptoms are exhibited is when the screener gets completed by the teacher and rate a student only for behaviors that were exhibited the previous month. The schools can use the total behavior score to determine if a non-crisis referral form needs to be completed. Once completed, the school would have to receive consent from the student's parent/legal guardian prior to referring the student to a provider.

Adam Moore, Director, Office of Communication and Planning, presented the DMH FY21 Annual Report. He shared several highlights that occurred from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, including the challenges that DMH faced throughout the year with COVID-19. He also highlighted the 3,409 individuals served at DMH's behavioral health programs, 1,784 admissions to acute adult psychiatric service. Mr. Moore reported that 837 people were served on campus at the IDD regional programs, with 564 people served at the ICF/IID community homes. He reported that in FY21, 674 people were served by PACT teams and 425 were served by ICORTS. Mr. Moore stated the report will be posted on the agency's website.

Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, State Operated Programs, presented a request for approval an increase in HRC's current private pay rate due to an increase in the per diem from \$340/day to \$400/day. He reported that the Medicaid per diem was increased from \$300 to \$385 effective January 1, 2021 and the normal practice is to keep private rate at a rate that is equal or greater than the per diem.

On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Dr. Killebrew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the private pay rate increase at HRC.

Mr. Kittrell presented the Monthly Survey Reports for Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital, Specialized Treatment Facility, and North Mississippi Regional Center.

Jamie Prine, Director, Mississippi Adolescent Center, presented the MAC Review. She gave a brief overview of MAC's program and the shift in services. Ms. Prine reported that MAC is a DMH program licensed by the Mississippi State Department of Health as an intermediate care facility for individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities and reimbursed by the Division of Medicaid on a per diem based on the cost of daily care. MAC is a specialized center for adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She reported that MAC is a 32 bed ICF/IID which offers client services in behavioral, medical, social, educational, recreational, nutritional, and therapy services. Ms. Prine reported that MAC became a Crisis Support Provider in 2017 and since that time, 15 adolescents have received crisis support services while the average length of stay for these individuals was 60 days. She reported that in addition to crisis support services, twelve individuals have received respite services from

January 2019 to present. She provided information of persons served by fiscal year since 2016. Ms. Prine also provided an update on MAC's employee recognitions and community partners.


Bradley Crow, Director, Substance Use Disorder Unit (SUD), presented an update on the unit. He reported that the SUD was officially opened on June 21, with the first five admissions on July 22 and as of date the census has grown from five to twenty-five. He reported that the unit is staffed with an experienced leadership team that has seen 94 residents come through the program with only four unable to complete it. Mr. Crow reported that the waiting list has dropped from over 100 to thirteen at present. He reported that the BASAC Treatment Model is the Matrix program, which is an integrative, evidence-based treatment model that incorporates a variety of therapeutic strategies, that combine to produce a proven effective treatment for substance use disorders. Mr. Crow reported that the Matrix Model identifies the impact of substance use on the physical, mental, and emotional well-being. He reported that the program also provides exposure to speakers from the AA/NA recovery community on a weekly basis and employs peer support specialists who have substantial periods of sobriety and experience with the recovery process. He reported that due to Covid, family visitation or in person family counseling sessions are not provided at this time. However, each resident is given the opportunity to speak with their family during their stay. Mr. Crow reported that if any of the members of the Board would like to do a tour of the program, they should contact him.

Property Subcommittee Report:

Cyndi Eubank reported that Rinsey McSwain, Director, Ellisville State School, received a letter from the Jones County Economic Development Authority requesting an Option to Purchase. She reported that in 2017 the Board approved an option to purchase agreement with the Jones County EDA. She reported that the Jones County EDA has sent a letter requesting to exercise its option to purchase about 32 acres from ESS to build some entrance roads and things to make this property more accessible for potential economic development. Ms. Eubank reported that this is just informational only and once the legal documents have been prepared for this purchase, it will be brought back to the Board for approval. No action is needed at this time.

On motion by Dr. Shivangi, the Board voted to close the regular monthly meeting to determine the need for an Executive Session. On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Dr. Killebrew, the Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters related to Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b). On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Mr. Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to exit the Executive Session reporting all actions taken by the Board during this session. There were no actions taken.

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


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY