

**MINUTES**  
**STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021**

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at the Department of Mental Health in Jackson, Mississippi.

**In Attendance:**

Board Members: James Herzog, Ph.D.; Sampat Shivangi, M.D.; Manda Griffin, Ph.D.; Mr. Courtney Phillips; Alyssa Killebrew, Ph.D.; and 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. Mallory Malkin, Chief Clinical Officer for Bureau of Community Mental Health Services; 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

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

Program Directors: James Chastain, Mississippi State Hospital; 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; Shannon Bush, Specialized Treatment Facility; Sabrina Young, South Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional 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

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. Killebrew and second by Dr. Shivangi, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2021 (FY22) and Two Months Ended August 31, 2021 (FY22). He provided an overview of the Federal (DHHS) FY22 grant description, amount and purpose. Mr. Breland also provided an overview of the MHBG and SABG COVID-19 Supplemental Funding Plan Proposal that has been approved by SAMHSA.

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**  
**Ellisville State School**

Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
HMP Nursing Services, Inc.	4/01/21	3/31/22	\$74,500	\$45/hr.	Contractor will provide nursing services.

**South Mississippi Regional Center**

Dr. Robert Culpepper, MD	1/01/22	12/31/27	\$408,000	\$81,600	Contractor will provide treatment and management of persons served.
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**Mississippi State Hospital**

TD Medical	8/19/21	7/22/23	\$500,000	\$250,000	Contractor will provide professional nursing services.
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**Contracts, state retirees, \$20,000 or more annually**

**Mississippi State Hospital**

Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/Hourly	Description
Amy Williams, RN	10/25/21	6/30/22	\$30,175	\$33/hr.	Retiree will consult on retention and recruitment of nursing and evaluating and advising on policies and procedures.

On motion of Dr. Shivangi and second by Dr. Griffin the Board voted unanimously to approve the “Request for Board Approval of Contracts” non-state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually and Contracts, state retirees, \$20,000 or more annually.

Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, provided a COVID-19 update. She reported that as of Tuesday, October 19, there were 27 active cases among staff at the 11 program locations across the state and 34 active cases among patients/clients/residents. Ms. Bailey reported that for the state hospitals, the average vaccination rate for staff is 70%. Ms. Bailey reported that DMH is beginning to see a slight uptick in the number of direct care and nursing staff at some of the programs and are hopeful the efforts with SPB will reap benefits in the coming months. She reported that she has had conversations with the State Department of Health for testing machines and supplies for the programs utilizing a federal grant they received. The State Department of Health is already providing testing kits at no-cost to the CSUs until the mitigation grant from SAMHSA for the CMHCs is received. Ms. Bailey reported that our state hospitals are now requiring a negative COVID test prior to transfer from a CSU to a state hospital.

Ms. Bailey reported that on September 24, she presented the FY23 budget request to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. This included an overview of FY21 highlights in mental health community services, state hospital services, IDD services, and addiction services. She reported that DMH is requesting \$220,868,752 in General Funds or \$6,786,349 more funds from the current fiscal year. Ms. Bailey reported that of that increase in general funds, \$1 million would be allocated toward the ongoing expansion of community services in the area of data enhancement and a focus for the Office of Utilization Review at the Central Office. This office will be responsible for tracking and analysis of the utilization of behavioral health services and intellectual and developmental disability services for state-operated programs and key community-based services to prevent institutionalization. Ms. Bailey reported that additional expansion of community services for mental health and addiction services will be from the COVID

supplemental block grant funding totaling \$40 million over the next three years for the SAMHSA Block Grants. She reported that as Mr. Breland mentioned, the first round of this funding has already been issued to community providers in the form of grants. The second round will be issued very soon. Also of the General Fund increase, \$885,960 is requested for MSH's Psychiatry Residency Program's additional new Residents. She reported that MSH welcomed the first six residents on July 1, 2021, and an additional 24 psychiatrists will be working in the state by July 2024. In the current fiscal year, DMH did not request any additional funding to begin and staff the program; however, for FY23 DMH is requesting funding directly for the salaries for the 12 residents. Also of the increase, \$4,900,389 is one-time funding for MSH's Forensic Unit. The renovation of Building 63 will expand the state's capacity for inpatient Forensic Services to 83-beds. It is anticipated this project will bid during October. Currently, this project is underfunded by \$4,900,389. Current projections show a completion date of March 2023 for this renovation. Ms. Bailey reported that she also highlighted the shift in institutional funding to community funding. FY12 to FY20: decrease in institution care \$70,829,115; FY12 to FY20: increase in community services \$88,838,281. She reported that this doesn't include the FY21 shift of \$4 million and FY22 shift of \$5.8 million from institutions to community services. She also discussed staffing concerns and future goals for the next 24 months, particularly goals to prevent any unnecessary inpatient care. While the inpatient part of the continuum of care provided by state health hospitals must be maintained for those who need it, she reported that DMH's priority is to do everything to divert from state hospitals and provide services in the community. She reported that JLBC followed up with some additional questions that she responded to in writing the following week.

Ms. Bailey reported she and Katie Storr, Chief of Staff, traveled to Camp Shelby Military Family Assistance Center (MFAC) on September 29. She reported that they were thoroughly briefed on the outstanding programs the MFAC team offers to military personnel and their families. Ms. Bailey reported that she provided a copy of a letter she sent to Colonel Rick Weaver, Post Commander Camp Shelby Training Center. Ms. Bailey and Ms. Storr was joined by Joe and Sandy Kinnan, long time Planning Council members and members of the Governor's Challenge. They discussed future partnership efforts in the area of community based mental health services including possible legislation in January that could address some of these needs and be connected with the Governor's Challenge. She reported that Mississippi was pleased to be one of eight states accepted this year in the Governor's Challenge which is a partnership between SAMHSA and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement state-wide suicide prevention best practices through a public health approach. DMH will be continuing the Academy with another site visit virtually in December to discuss implementation plans for our state's goals. Ms. Bailey reported that she appreciates Ms. Storr and Molly Taylor, Director of the Division of Outreach and Training for leadership in this Challenge.

Ms. Bailey reported that the CMHC Commissioners Group meeting was held in Biloxi on October 13. She thanked Dr. Herzog and Dr. Shivangi for representing the Board at the meeting. Ms. Bailey reported that they both gave an excellent speech on the importance of the CMHCs and a continued partnership as we move forward. She thanked Jake Hutchins for sharing information on the Opioid report that was presented last month and the current status of the SAMHSA COVID funding. Mr. Hutchins is one of DMH's main liaisons with the CMHCs in his role as Deputy Executive Director of Community Operations and his relationships with these providers are valued and essential as we move forward. Ms. Bailey also thanked Mr. Chastain for attending and showing the importance of the partnership between the state hospitals and CMHCs. Region 4, Region 8, and Region 14 had staff and executive directors present as well at the meeting.

Ms. Bailey reported that she included in the Board packet a report that was developed and has been shared with state leaders regarding some key adult mental health services, most of which are listed as Core Services in Judge Reeves Remedial Order. She reported that this is to present both a description of these services and also highlight some key data from FY21 including number served, readmission rates, and diversion rates. Moving forward, this data is being analyzed on a monthly basis by the leadership team with Dr. Malkin working directly with the CMHCs on data validation. Ms. Bailey reported that DMH is placing a key emphasis on data collection and outcome measures.

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

1. Wendy Bailey: Each death by suicide is one too many
2. Substance abuse continues to climb during the coronavirus pandemic
3. Mississippi Psychological Association Newsletter: President's Report
4. Legislative budget hearings kick off as lawmakers begin crafting FY2023 Mississippi state budget
5. Mental health report: 'Sizable' difference in county funding for community health centers
6. Mississippi provider org's use of telehealth enables huge turnaround during the pandemic
7. Court rules MS Dept. of Mental Health must come into compliance with ADA in 120 days
8. Better access to crisis stabilization units, crisis response teams are key pieces of new Mississippi mental health plan
9. State asks to delay order that it create mental health plan
10. Mental Health chief says agency will comply with federal order despite appeal by attorney general
11. State appeals judge's ruling to reform mental health system

Ms. Bailey reported that the November 2021 Board of Mental Health meeting will be a virtual meeting held at the Department of Mental Health on November 18.

Katie Storr, Chief of Staff, provided a FY22 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Outreach report. She reported that this is a new report that will be provided each quarter to highlight some of the outreach efforts to raise awareness in the community. She reviewed the print media which includes the DMH Newsletter (Mississippi Profile), Press Releases and additional media contacts, inquiries, or interviews from July through September 2021. Ms. Storr reported that for this quarter the majority of the press contacts were regarding DOJ litigation. She reported that on September 16, DMH facilitated an appearance for JaQuilla Newsome, Director of Suicide Prevention, on the SuperTalk show Good Things with Rebecca Turner and on September 17, Ms. Bailey participated in an interview with Mississippi Public Broadcasting and additional information regarding alcohol and drug addiction was sent to MPB. Ms. Storr reported that DMH has a DMH Facebook page, Stand Up, Mississippi Facebook and Instagram page, and DMH Instagram page. The total post for this quarter is 258, total reached is 69,231 which does not include the Instagram account and engaged is 8,108. Ms. Storr provided an update on the trainings, presentations, and exhibitor opportunities for this quarter. She reported that during this quarter DMH participated in 59 trainings, presentations, or opportunities to exhibit and that reached 3,772 participants. Ms. Storr reported that DMH distributed 4,767 materials for this quarter. She reported that from July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, the DMH web site had 18,803 users and 71,272 page views.

Adam Moore, Director, Division of Communications and Planning, presented the FY22 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Strategic Plan Highlights Flyer. He reported that the flyer highlights the 5th Annual Suicide Prevention Symposium in partnership with Mississippi State University. The one-day symposium featured six different speakers, with the focus of this year's event being GRITT: Gaining Resilience in Turbulent Times. The symposium itself had 441 people attend virtually throughout the day. Mr. Moore reported that the flyer also highlights the 2021 Trauma-Informed Care Conference held virtually on September 22-24, with more

than 430 people attending this year's event. The theme of this conference was "Building Resiliency Through the Pandemic." He reported that the conference offered 15 breakout sessions and eight keynotes with a variety of topics all centered around trauma-informed care.

Dr. Mallory Malkin, Bureau of Behavioral Health Services presented Reentry Connectional to Treatment providing information regarding a pilot project. Dr. Malkin reported that this project is a result of Senate Bill 2926. She reported that DMH was appropriated \$600,000 specifically for community mental health centers to expand outpatient services and community-based services for former inmates of the Department of Corrections who are no longer incarcerated within a correctional institution of the Department of Corrections. She reported that DMH leadership met with Representative Bo Brown in May. Rep. Brown voiced interest in treatment and lack of treatment in some situations of mental illness that may affect recidivism for those who have been recently released from a correctional facility. DMH also met with Department of Corrections in June to discuss the process of referrals, as well as the Level of Care designations they use specific to MDOC to help inform how the pilot project affective and meaningful to those in the communities. She reported that Rankin County (Region 8) and Hinds County (Region 9) were identified and submitted RFPs to participate in the project. Dr. Malkin reported that requested in the RFP was to provide individual psychotherapy services and intensive case management services (PACT, ICORT, or ICSS) and focus on a wraparound continuum of care to ensure that former inmates have providers and case managers following them after they are released and/or paroled to support them in living out a meaningful and productive life in the community and maintaining their mental health, social health, and emotional health. Dr. Malkin reported that individuals incarcerated in a DOC facility are provided with a Level of Care designation. She reported that as of May 2021, approximately 1,973 inmates statewide were diagnosed with a mental health diagnosis. The three most common diagnoses include major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Dr. Malkin provided an update of the performance measures and the Pilot: MDOC Mental Health Outreach Referral Form.

Dr. Malkin presented the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services FY 2022-2023 State Plan and the FY2022/2023 Community Mental Health Services State Plan which are submitted on an annual basis. She reported that before the plans were submitted, they were open for public comments. She reported that there were no public comments on the Substance Use Block Grant State Plan; however, DMH received two comments regarding the Mental Health State Plan from Dr. Joy Hogge, Executive Director, Families as Allies and Ms. Melody Worsham, Certified Peer Support Specialist. Dr. Malkin referred to the public comments which were included in the Board packet. The comments will be posted on the DMH web site and DMH will provide a formal response to the comments. Dr. Malkin stated that the DMH leadership team had also reviewed and discussed the feedback received.

Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, State Operated Programs, presented the Monthly Survey Reports for Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital, South Mississippi State Hospital, Ellisville State School, North Mississippi Regional Center, and South Mississippi Regional Center.

Cindy Cooley, Director, South Mississippi Regional Center, presented the SMRC Review. She gave a brief overview of SMRC's history reporting that SMRC was established in 1978 with the primary focus on residential services which originally began with four cottages that served 96 people and eventually expanded to include eight cottages that served 160 people. In the 1990s SMRC expanded to include community homes located in Biloxi, Gautier, Poplarville, and Wiggins. She reported that partnerships in the community have allowed for transitions from the SMRC main campus and Community Homes. The introduction of

Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services changed the focus of SMRC's services. Ms. Cooley reported that SMRC has 43 years of service thus far and the journey continues. She reported that SMRC's catchment area includes Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone and George counties. She reported that the number of people served by SMRC on campus – 61, community home – 73, Targeted Case Management – 119, and Support Coordination – 564. She reported that since FY19, SMRC has transitioned 54 people. Ms. Cooley also provided an update on SMRC's employee recognitions.

Dr. Paul Callens, Director, North Mississippi State Hospital, presented the NMSH Review. He provided an update on staff changes and NMSH's employee recognitions. Dr. Callens provided an update on the FY21 roof project. He reported that even in a pandemic, NMSH has been able to receive donations from local colleges. He reported that NMSH has relationships with Itawamba Community College, Northeast Community College, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi and the medical center, Blue Mountain College, and Bevill State Community College. Dr. Callens provided a brief overview of the roof project, the Joint Commission 2021 visit, and the corroded pipes projects. He reported that he and the staff at NMSH appreciates the Board of Mental Health, the Department of Mental Health and its leadership for all the support that has been given to NMSH.

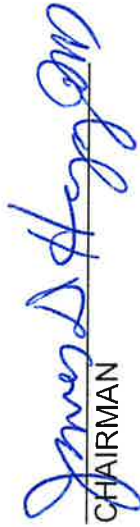
**Patient Care Subcommittee Report:**

Dr. Duncan Stone reported that the Patient Care Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. The Patient Care Subcommittee recommended the initial appointment of Ashley Villarreal, MD to the Mississippi State Hospital Medical Staff for the period of August 11, 2021 to June 30, 2023 and the reappointment of Walter Thames, DMD to the North Mississippi State Hospital Medical Staff for the period of November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2023.

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and second by Mr. Phillips, the Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendations of the Patient Care Subcommittee.

On motion by Mr. Rutledge, the Board voted to close the regular monthly meeting to determine the need for an Executive Session. On motion of Dr. Killebrew and second by Mr. Rutledge, 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. Griffin 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