

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
JACKSON, MS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, MS.

In Attendance:

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

Absent: Sampat Shivangi, M.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; Brent Hurley, Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health Services; Kim Wood, Chief Information Officer; Stephanie Foster, Bureau of Certification and Quality Outcomes; Cyndi Eubank and MaCall Chastain, General Counsel; Dr. Robert Maddux, DMH Medical Director

Central Office Staff: Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary

Program Directors: Rinsey McSwain, Ellisville State School; Cindy Caples, South Mississippi Regional Center; Sabrina Young, South Mississippi State Hospital; Jerrie Barnes, Hudspeth Regional Center; Shannon Bush, Specialized Treatment Facility; Jamie Odom, Mississippi Adolescent Center; Dr. Charles Carlisle, East Mississippi State Hospital; James Chastain, Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional Center; Clint Ashley, Boswell Regional Center

Absent: Dr. Paul Callens, North Mississippi State Hospital

Other DMH Program Staff: Bobby Sterling, Ellisville State School; Bo Blanks, Mississippi State Hospital; Lee Varner, Mississippi State Hospital; Amy Carruth, Mississippi State Hospital; Melvin Collins, Chaplain, Mississippi State Hospital

Guests: Isabel Taft, Mississippi Today; Stephen Gay and Victoria Fox, Office of the Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Mr. Stewart Rutledge. Mr. Rutledge asked everyone to stand while Chaplain Melvin Collins opened the meeting with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Rutledge announced that before the approval of the consent agenda, there would be two changes. Dr. Herzog made a motion that item 6B, an Ethics In-service would be removed from the agenda and tabled for today. Mr. Stewart Rutledge made a motion to add 3A, an introduction of Isabel Taft, a journalist with Mississippi Today. There were no objections to the motion, the motion was approved. Mr. Stewart then motioned the consent agenda be accepted, there was unanimous agreement, motion was approved to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Rutledge introduced Ms. Taft and discussed some of the articles she has worked on with Mississippi Today.

Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary.

Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, presented a 2024 Legislative Update and highlighted a few bills of interest including HB 336, HB 415, HB 873, HB9 73, HB 974 and HB 975. She also shared a copy of the FY25 budget request which was presented to the House of Representatives on January 23 and the Senate on February 8. She shared copies of a presentation on the state's mental health system for both the House and Senate Public Health Committee Hearings.

Ms. Bailey shared that DMH participated in the One Pill Can Kill partnership launch event on February 1 at Alcorn State University. The on-campus initiative was announced, and details were given of the harm prevention kits that will be distributed as part of the campaign and provide students with naloxone and harm prevention training.

Ms. Bailey shared a special video highlighting 988 and the Congregational Recovery Outreach Program (CROP), a faith-based initiative in which the church plays a pivotal role in meeting the needs of those on a journey of recovery and healing.

Ms. Bailey shared information about the 2024 Real Hope video series DMH has launched to bring real stories of hope, from real Mississippians, about real recovery, and resiliency, to create increased awareness of resources in Mississippi. Each video will be highlighted monthly on DMH's social media channels.

Dr. Tom Recore presented an overview of Forensic Services highlighting the mission and trends, evaluations of forensic services, and continuum of care.

The ECT Annual Report was presented by Dr. Duncan Stone, Medical Chief of Staff for the Mississippi State Hospital. Dr. Stone's report included data regarding the administration of ECT therapy from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

**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 following medical reappointments/initial appointments:

1. Mississippi State Hospital Michael Tyler Stout, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist who works as a consultant providing anesthesia for patients and residents receiving ECT. **He** was highly recommended by his peers and there are no NPDB reports.

2. Hudspeth Regional Center Nahid Islam, MD, is a board-certified internist who works part time providing primary care to individuals in group homes. He was recommended without reservations by two of his peers and was highly recommended by one peer. There are no NPDB reports.

On motion of Mr. Phillips and seconded by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment until June 30, 2025, at Mississippi State Hospital for Michael Tyler Stout, MD, and at Hudspeth Regional Center, Nahid Islam, MD.

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

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*Stewart Rutledge*  
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CHAIRMAN

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY