

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
JACKSON, MS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held a special called board meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at the Department of Mental Health in Jackson, MS.

In Attendance:

Board Members: Mr. Courtney Phillips; Sara Gleason, M.D.; Alyssa Killebrew, Ph.D.; Mr. Robert Landrum; Mr. Stewart Rutledge; Manda Griffin, DNP.

Absent: James Herzog, Ph.D.; and Teresa Mosley, M. Ed.

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; 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; Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel.

Guests: Emily Webb, Legal Extern from MC School of Law

Central Office Staff: Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Courtney Phillips with a roll call of the board members.

Mr. Phillips asked for a motion and a second to approve the agenda. On the motion of Mr. Stewart Rutledge and a second by Dr. Alyssa Killebrew, the Board voted to unanimously approve the agenda.

MaCall Chastain, General Counsel, presented the updated *DMH Operational Standards for Mental Health, IDD, and Substance Use Community Service Providers* for approval. Mr. Phillips asked for a motion and a second for approval of the *DMH Operational Standards*. On the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew and a second by Mr. Robert Landrum, the Board voted to unanimously approve the *DMH Operational Standards*.

With no further business, on the motion of Dr. Sara Gleason and a second by Mr. Stewart Rutledge, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.



VICE-CHAIRMAN



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at the Department of Mental Health in Jackson, MS.

In Attendance:

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

Absent: None

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; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel; Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel; and Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director.

Guests: Gwen Dillworth, Mississippi Today

Central Office Staff: Marquaita Lampkin, Director, Human Resources; Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary

Program Directors: Dr. 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; Renee Burton, 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; and Dr. Paul Callens, North Mississippi State Hospital

Assistant Directors: Kenneth O'Neal, Ellisville State School; and Ricky Grimes, Boswell Regional Center

Other DMH Program Staff: Dr. Duncan Stone, Mississippi State Hospital

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Mr. Courtney Phillips with a roll call of the board members. Mr. Phillips asked everyone to stand while Craig Kittrell opened the meeting with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Phillips asked for a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda. On the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Phillips requested Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, continue the meeting with her report.

Ms. Bailey provided a FY24 update on HB 1222. HB 1222 requires each county and municipal law enforcement agency provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety training to all officers by July 1, 2031. There were 404 officers trained in MHFA as of June 30, 2024. It also requires county and municipal law enforcement agencies to employ at least one CIT Officer on or before July 1, 2025. Agencies with fewer than five officers may contract with another agency to fulfill this requirement. Ms. Bailey reported that 45% of Mississippi law enforcement agencies employed a CIT officer as of June 30, 2024. In FY24, Court Liaisons conducted 1,130 assessment interviews and diverted 654 people from placement under a writ or involuntary commitment, for a diversion rate of approximately 58%. Additionally, 1222 requires Chancery Clerks to report data to DMH each quarter. Chancery Clerks have access to the psychiatric bed registry to report the required data.

Ms. Bailey reported on HB 231, a bill introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session and directed DMH to establish a comprehensive statewide fentanyl and drug abuse education, prevention, and cessation program. DMH has partnered with the Mississippi Public Health Institute (MSPHI) to implement this program. The workgroup implementing this educational initiative has selected a combination of two programs to form the curriculum: Positive Action and BirdieLight.

Ms. Bailey shared that DMH officially launched the Mental Health Mississippi app in July that provides easier and faster access to mental health resources to everyone in the state of Mississippi.

Ms. Bailey shared that DMH applied for and was accepted into a Behavioral Health Workforce Policy Academy through the National Academy for State Health Policy. It is for one-year technical assistance and brings together various agencies and stakeholders including Division of Medicaid, MS Employment Security, Community College Board, Harm Reduction Initiative, and the Community Mental Health Centers.

Ms. Bailey reported that she and Dr. Killebrew participated on a panel at the MS Department of Corrections first Re-entry Symposium that focused on preparing people for community reentry, and how to appropriately address their mental health and addiction needs during reentry.

Ms. Bailey concluded her report by encouraging everyone to register for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Virtual Symposium on September 17, 2024.

MaCall Chastain, Office of General Counsel, asked for approval from the Board to file the DMH Operational Standards for Mental Health, IDD, and Substance Use Community Service Providers for a second public comment period. On the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew and a second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Phillips stated that agenda item V, Informational Items, consisted of the Consolidated Financial Summary, Contracts Summary and the FY23 Independent Audit report. Mr. Phillips informed Board members that the documents pertaining to Informational Items were in the Board packet for review.

**Presentation of Contracts to the State  
Board of Mental Health Contracts, non-  
state retirees, \$50,000 or more annually**

<b>HUDSPETH REGIONAL CENTER</b>					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/ Hourly	Description of Services
Infiniti Healthcare Services	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	Contractor will provide agency nursing services for LPN and CNA/PCAs as needed.
<b>MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL</b>					
Name	Start	End	Amount	Annual/ Hourly	Description of Services
Elior, Inc. DBA Cura Hospitality LLC	11/1/2020	10/31/2025	\$19,066,588.70	\$3,813,317/annual \$6.68/meal	Contractor to provide food management services for individuals being served at MSH.

Mr. Phillips moved to Subcommittee Reports.

**Patient Care Subcommittee Report**

Dr. Duncan Stone reported the Patient Care Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. The Patient Care Subcommittee recommended the following medical appointments from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026.

- Mississippi State Hospital**  
 Michael Stacy Thaggard, MD  
 Marjorie Grace McCoy, MD  
 Vincent Herrin, MD  
 David Mitchell Ray, MD

Stephen Commiskey, MD

**Specialized Treatment Facility**

Bryan Vyverberg, MD

On the motion of Dr. Herzog and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board unanimously approved Patient Care appointments.

Dr. Stone presented the Patient Care subcommittee bylaws. On motion of Ms. Teresa Mosley and a second by Mr. Rutledge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Patient Care subcommittee bylaws.

On the motion of Mr. Phillips, the Board voted to close the regular monthly meeting to determine the need for an Executive Session. On the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew and second by Dr. Sara Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss matters related to potential litigation. On the motion of Mr. Stewart Rutledge and second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to exit the Executive Session.

With no further business, on the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew and a second by Dr. Manda Griffin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY