

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
JACKSON, MS
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, MS.

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

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 Kirby, Chief Clinical Officer, IDD Services; Brent Hurley, Director, Bureau of Crisis Services; Kim Wood, Chief Information Officer; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel; Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel; and Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director

Guests: Mr. Melvin Collins, Chaplain; Ms. Sophia Paffenroth, Mississippi Today journalist

Central Office Staff: Marquaita Lampkin, Director, Human Resources; Adam Moore, Director, Communications and Planning; Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary; Destynnee Quinney, Public Relations Specialist

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; 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: Amy Carruth, Mississippi State Hospital and Carla Dearman, Mississippi State Hospital

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 Mr. Melvin Collins opened the meeting with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Phillips called for a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda. On the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew and a second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, provided an update on the 2025 Legislative Session. Ms. Bailey shared that the legislature had adjourned sine die, ending the 2025 regular session without coming to an agreement on a state budget. Ms. Bailey explained that the governor will call a special session to finalize next year's budget. This session may also address other items at the governor's discretion. In the final days of the session, three members of the Board of Mental Health were either confirmed for a new term or reappointed for an additional term: Courtney Phillips, Dr. John Mitchell, and Sue Gallaspy. Ms. Bailey reiterated the DMH FY26 appropriations bill died and DMH would not have an FY26 appropriation until a special session is called.

Ms. Bailey gave a brief update on several legislative bills, including SB 3017, HB 589, HB 807, HB 1404, SB 2767, and SB 2392. Ms. Bailey also reported that HB 1894, a state agency bond bill that provided \$25 million in bond funding, died during the session.

Ms. Bailey shared photos from several Capitol events, including IDD Day, Mental Health Day, 988 Day, and the Governor's proclamation signing for March as IDD Awareness Month.

Ms. Bailey reported that SAMHSA-provided COVID grants available to the state during FY25 were being discontinued immediately. Ms. Bailey expressed that DMH was working internally to determine how to cover expenses for some services for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Ms. Bailey shared that in November, DMH applied to participate in SAMHSA's 2025 Crisis System Design Policy Academy. A notice was received that Mississippi is one of six states selected to be a part of the academy. The goal is to strengthen the crisis response system by fostering collaboration across key partners, improve the capacity of serving vulnerable populations - especially children and youth - and enhance the overall integration of crisis services.

Ms. Bailey reported that DMH is partnering with HMA to conduct a year-long monthly crisis training series for all crisis partners and providers. DMH will kick-off the series by hosting a one-day, in-person convening on April 22, 2025.

Ms. Bailey reported that in 2025 NASMHPD funded 48 TTI awards to states on six topics. Mississippi was awarded three.

Ms. Bailey shared that NAMI MS will host the state's first-ever joint conference for CIT, Bridging the Gap: Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Teams. The conference will focus on

how mental health crises are managed in communities, emphasizing effective de-escalation strategies and connecting individuals to appropriate care.

Ms. Bailey concluded her report with details on the 2025 Mental Health Faith-Based Summit, A Bridge of Hope—Where Faith and Mental Health Connect. She announced that the summit will take place on May 8, 2025.

Mr. Kelly Breland, CFO, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary Report for the nine months ended Monday, March 31, 2025, as well as the Contract Summary Report. Additionally, Mr. Breland presented proposed private pay rate increases for approval. Upon a motion by Dr. James Herzog and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board unanimously voted to approve the increases.

Ms. Katie Storr, Chief of Staff, presented a Workforce Update report. Ms. Storr shared workforce data for both State of Mississippi employees and DMH, including generational and demographic breakdowns, total employee counts and trends, and average salary comparisons. She also highlighted the number of DMH employees receiving the minimum salary, below market rate, and above market rate across each DMH program.

Ms. MaCall Chastain, General Counsel, provided a brief report on the Jackson County South Mississippi Mental Health Center's status.

Mr. Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services, introduced Nena Klein, Chief Clinical Diversion Officer, to provide a report on the 2024 Consumer Satisfaction Survey.

Mr. Hutchins introduced Ms. Deidere Hollins, Children and Youth CSU Director at Hinds Behavioral Health Services. Ms. Hollins provided an overview of the Ruth Wilson Children and Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Mr. James Chastain, Director of Mississippi State Hospital (MSH), and Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director, provided an update on the Forensic Services project and history of services.

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.

North Mississippi Regional Center

Dr. Mary Shaun Helmhout

Dr. Tom Longest

Dr. Eric Dahl

Dr. Robert Cooper

Dr. Brant Kairit

Dr. Stanley Woods

Dr. Geroage Cain

Dr. John Collier

Dr. David Greenhaw
Dr. Thomas Hedge
Dr. Edwin Linder
Dr. Andrew Moore
Dr. Barney Pullen

South Mississippi Regional Center

Dr. Stephen Schepens
Dr. Dimitrios Dimitriades

Ellisville State School

Dr. Paul Hathorn
Dr. Terry Jordan

East Mississippi State Hospital

Dr. Robert Most

Mississippi State Hospital

Dr. Jeffrey Ali
Dr. William Coughlin
Dr. Salaahuddin Dakhalla
Dr. Kirtida Desai
Dr. Derrick Edwards
Dr. Karen Holloway
Dr. Jon Corey Jackson
Dr. Marlee Wadsworth
Dr. Bradley Suggs
Dr. Marjorie McCoy

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

Dr. Stone presented the NMSH bylaws. On motion of Ms. Teresa Mosley and a second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to approve the NMSH bylaws.

Dr. Stone presented the MSH ECT Annual Report. On motion of Dr. James Herzog and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board unanimously approved the MSH ECT Annual Report.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

Mr. Adam Moore, Director of Communications and Planning, reported that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting to review highlights from the FY25 Mid-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report.

Mr. Phillips brought everyone's attention to the informational items on the agenda. These items included the FY25 Mid-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report, information regarding the 2025 MH/IDD Conference, and a list of upcoming DMH Program events.

Mr. Phillips informed everyone there was no need for an executive session.

Ms. Bailey reminded everyone that the next board meeting would be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at Boswell Regional Center.

Mr. Phillips asked that all Board Members stay after the meeting for a tour of the Ruth Wilson CSU and ribbon cutting for the new Forensic Services Unit.

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


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY