

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
SOUTH MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL
PURVIS, MS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the South Mississippi State Hospital in Purvis, MS.

In Attendance:

Board Members: Alyssa Killebrew, Ph.D.; James Herzog, Ph.D.; Sara Gleason, M.D.; Teresa Mosley, M.Ed.; Sue Gallaspy; and John Mitchell, M.D.

Absent: Courtney Phillips and Stewart Rutledge

Department of Mental Health Executive Staff: Wendy Bailey, Executive Director; Katie Storr, Chief of Staff; Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director, Behavioral Health Services; Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, IDD Services; Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer; Brent Hurley, Director, Bureau of Crisis Services; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel; Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel; Dr. Kristin Kirby, Chief Clinical Officer, IDD Services; Kim Wood, Chief Information Officer; Stephanie Berry, Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health; Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director

Guests: Ms. Janet Rascoe, Census Management Director, SMSH; Mr. Andy Tucker, Fiscal Service Director, SMSH; Jennifer Nichols; Attorney General's Office; Cortney Shelton, Peer Support Specialist, SMSH; and LeaAnn Botteicher, Peer Support Specialist; SMSH

Central Office Staff: Marquaita Lampkin, Director, Human Resources; Adam Moore, Director, Communications and Planning; Shondra Barker, Accounting Director; 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; James Chastain, Mississippi State Hospital; Clint Ashley, Boswell Regional Center; and Dr. Paul Callens, North Mississippi State Hospital

Absent: Dr. Charles Carlisle, East Mississippi State Hospital and Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional Center

Assistant Directors: Kerry Nichols and Tamara Webb; North Mississippi Regional Center

Other DMH Program Staff: Dr. Robert Maddox, Mississippi State Hospital

Absent: Dr. Duncan Stone, Mississippi State Hospital

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dr. Alyssa Killebrew with a roll call of the board members. Dr. Killebrew asked everyone to stand while Ms. Janet Rascoe opened the meeting with the invocation and Mr. Andy Tucker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Ellisville State School requested from the Board of Mental Health to remove building #5 and #30 from our building inventory.

Building #5 was built in 1930. The building's original use was a dairy barn for milking cows. It was later converted to house the facilities Staff Development program. The building was vacated approximately 10 years ago because of severe structural issues. The building is an eye-sore and needs to be demolished. The repair cost would be greater than the value of the building.

Building #30 was built in 1966. The building's original use was a soiled laundry storage house for the adjacent building that was once a dormitory. The building is in dire need of repairs and no longer needed, therefore total demolition is recommended.

Building #5 and building #30 are approved for demolition/removal from inventory.

Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, provided an update on the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council. She reported that she and Dr. Edney serve as co-vice chairs of the Council. Mississippi is expected to receive approximately \$370 million from pharmaceutical companies related to the opioid crisis with 85% (about \$315 million) to be directed by the Legislature and the remainder allocated to local governments.

Ms. Bailey gave an update on Section 71401 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which establishes a \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program to be administered by HHS through state grants from FY 2026–2030. Ms. Bailey reported that the Division of Medicaid sought stakeholder input for the State's application and DMH presented a proposal for Psychiatric Emergency Services, which aligned with priorities for substance use and mental health services.

Ms. Bailey reported on the Executive Order issued July 24, 2025, directing federal action on crime, homelessness, and mental illness. She noted that SAMHSA was awarded \$170,623 in supplemental funding to support efforts in Mississippi. DMH's approved request focused on hiring a statewide coordinator and obtaining technical assistance to strengthen housing and services for individuals with serious mental illness who are homeless.

DMH presented the virtual National Crisis Jam in August, highlighting the state's progress in developing the full crisis continuum of care.

Ms. Bailey reported on the NRI 2024–2025 State Profiles. The profiles include data on crisis continuum services, mobile crisis teams, state psychiatric hospital capacity, organization of mental health agencies, and crisis system outcomes.

Ms. Bailey reported on activities recognizing Suicide Prevention Month, including a proclamation signing with the Governor, 988 Day, and the launch of the MS First Responder PTSD and Suicide Prevention Task Force, on which DMH is represented. She also announced the 2025 MH/IDD Joint Conference scheduled for November 12–14 in Biloxi.

Ms. Bailey concluded her report by providing information on the FY27 budget request, which was submitted in August and requests a \$33,467,962 increase in general funds from FY26 to support waiver enrollment, staffing, operations, IT, capital needs, crisis services, and increased CMHC operating costs.

Mr. Kelly Breland, CFO, provided the Consolidated Financial Summary Report for the 14 months ended and 2 months ended Sunday, August 31, 2025, as well as the Contract Summary Report.

Ms. Katie Storr, Chief of Staff, provided a brief presentation to the Board on Network of Care.

Ms. MaCall Chastain, General Counsel, presented an update on the dissolution of Singing River Services (Jackson and George Counties). She outlined the process an interested provider must follow to become a Community Mental Health Center. Ms. Chastain also reported on the status of Region 16 (Jackson County/South MS Mental Health Center) in the Certification process.

Adam Moore, Director of Planning and Communications, provided an overview of the FY25 Strategic Plan End of Year Report. He provided information on wait times at state hospitals, community services, and several other topics. He reported that the full report and a dashboard will be available on the Strategic Plan page of the DMH web site following the board meeting.

Mr. Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services, introduced Ms. Sabrina Young, Director of South Mississippi State Hospital. Ms. Young provided a brief presentation on the SMSH Peer Bridger Program and introduced Ms. Cortney Shelton and Ms. LeaAnn Botteicher, both peers in the program. Ms. Shelton and Ms. Botteicher shared their personal stories of lived experience and offered words of encouragement to the group.

Ms. Bailey recognized the retirement of Dr. Charles Carlisle, Director of East Mississippi State Hospital, commending him for his service to the state. Dr. Carlisle was unable to attend, but a resolution from the Board was presented.

Patient Care Subcommittee Report

Mr. Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services, reported the Patient Care Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. The Patient Care Subcommittee recommended the following medical appointments:

Ellisville State School

Dr. Jason Beddingfield

Mississippi State Hospital

Dr. Frank Perkins

Specialized Treatment Facility

Robert Culpepper

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

Ms. Teresa Mosley reported that the Strategic Plan committee met before the regular board meeting.

Ms. Cyndi Eubank provided the Property Subcommittee report regarding the request from EMSH for the East MS Power Easement to install underground fiber optic cables conditioned with approval/consent from the City of Meridian for this work to be done. Motion to approve this request pending approval/consent from the City of Meridian. On the motion of Dr. Sara Gleason and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the property report was approved.

On the motion of Dr. Alyssa Killebrew, the Board voted to close the regular monthly meeting to determine the need for an Executive Session. On the motion of Dr. James Herzog and second by Dr. Sara Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss matters related to personnel. On the motion of Ms. Teresa Mosley and second by Dr. John Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to exit Executive Session.

With no further business, on the motion of Ms. Sue Gallaspy and a second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY