

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER
OXFORD, MS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford, MS.

In Attendance:

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

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; Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel; Stephanie Berry, Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health; and Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director

Absent: Kim Wood, Chief Information Officer; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel

Guests: Mr. Chuck Clark, client of NMRC; Mr. Scott Heffner, client of NMRC; Jennifer Nichols, Attorney General's Office; Allen Siegler, MS Today journalist

Central Office Staff: Marquaita Lampkin, Director, Human Resources; Shondra Barker, Director, Accounting; Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary; Adam Moore, Division Director, Division of Communications and Planning

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; Renee Burton, Mississippi Adolescent Center; James Chastain, Mississippi State Hospital; Clint Ashley, Boswell Regional Center; Dr. Paul Callens, North Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional Center; and Dr. Kathy Crockett, East Mississippi State Hospital

Assistant Directors: Angela Alexander, Hudspeth Regional Center; Amy Carruth, Mississippi State Hospital; Carla Dearman, Mississippi State Hospital; Kenneth O'Neal, Ellisville State School; Tamara Webb, North Mississippi Regional Center; Kerry Nichols, North Mississippi Regional Center; and Ricky Grimes, Boswell Regional Center

Other DMH Program Staff: Dr. Duncan Stone, Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Susan Jenkins, North Mississippi Regional Center

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dr. Alyssa Killebrew. Dr. Killebrew asked everyone to stand while Mr. Chuck opened the meeting with the invocation and Mr. Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stewart Rutledge proposed an amendment be made to the September board minutes. The amendment was to include in the minutes Ellisville State School is requesting from the Board of Mental Health to remove building #5 and #30 from ESS 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 eyesore 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.

Dr. Killebrew called for a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the September board minutes. On the motion of Mr. Rutledge and a second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the September board minutes.

Dr. Killebrew requested Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, to continue the meeting with her report.

Ms. Bailey reported preparations for the 2026 Legislative Session beginning January 6, 2026. Key legislative priorities include reintroduction of the transportation pilot project, behavioral health workforce initiatives, and potential updates to the outpatient commitment statute. Budget hearings are expected in mid-January. DMH's FY27 request reflects a \$33.5M increase in general funds to support waiver enrollment, operations, staffing needs, IT and EHR infrastructure, crisis services, and capital needs. She noted FY26 appropriations required system-wide adjustments due to limited increases. Upcoming Capitol events include IDD Day on March 3 and Mental Health Day on March 10.

Ms. Bailey reported that the FY25 Annual Report has been completed and will be distributed to stakeholders and posted online. She highlighted key data including psychiatric and behavioral health service volumes, 988 call activity, Mobile Crisis response rates, CSU admissions, and court liaison outcomes. The report also notes extensive prevention and training efforts, the first graduating class of the MS Psychiatric Residency program, significant IDD service numbers, and strong substance use treatment utilization. Average waits for state hospital beds and jail days

decreased, and intensive service programs (PACT/ICORT) maintained low readmission rates. Children's services showed high rates of stability in the home, and implementation of HB 1640 produced a 31% reduction in jail-to-hospital admissions.

Ms. Bailey reported that SB 2392 of the FY25 session requires DMH and the Division of Medicaid (DOM) to apply for the upcoming Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Demonstration program. The application is expected to open soon with an anticipated April 2026 deadline. DMH is collaborating with DOM and has issued a readiness survey to CMHCs interested in serving as potential pilot sites. Ongoing updates will be provided as the grant process progresses.

Ms. Bailey reported that Governor Reeves' FY27 Executive Budget Recommendation (EBR) includes several mental health priorities. The EBR highlights improving mental health outcomes as a key statewide priority and proposes funding to address service gaps, including \$9 million for three adult psychiatric emergency service locations and \$5 million for an adolescent crisis stabilization and residential substance use unit. The EBR also acknowledges growing youth mental health needs. She noted appreciation for the Governor's collaboration and his inclusion of mental health, substance use, and IDD initiatives in the Rural Health Transformation Program application. Mississippi is expected to receive \$500 million to \$1 billion over five years.

Lastly, Ms. Bailey informed the Board that, in accordance with state statute, a 5% pay increase for a constable at Ellisville State School became effective December 1, 2025. No Board action is required, but the notification is to be recorded in the minutes.

Mr. Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the Five Months ended Sunday, November 30, 2025.

Mr. Breland presented the Contracts, non-state retirees, \$75,000 or more annually and the state retirees, \$20,000 or more annually.

Mr. Breland informed the Board of a private pay rate increase for Hudspeth Regional Center due to the Medicaid Per Diem rate increase.

Dr. Tom Recore, DMH Medical Director, provided an update on the State Hospitals to the Board.

Mr. Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, IDD Services, introduced Dr. Edie Hayles, Director of North Mississippi Regional Center (NMRC), and Dr. Susan Jenkins, Chief of Staff of NMRC, to present a staffing update to the Board.

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:

East Mississippi State Hospital

Micheal Beard, MD

John Montgomery, DO

Hudspeth Regional Center

Richard Kutner, MD

On the motion of Mr. Courtney Phillips and a second by Dr. Sara Gleason, the board unanimously approved Patient Care appointments.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

Ms. Teresa Mosley reported that the Strategic Plan Subcommittee met earlier that morning to review revisions to Forensic Service measures to align with the completion of the new building.

On motion of Mr. Phillips and second by Ms. Gallaspy, the Board voted to close the regular meeting to determine the need for an Executive Session. On motion of Mr. Phillips and second by Dr. Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss matters related to potential litigation. On motion of Mr. Rutledge and second by Mr. Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to exit Executive Session. There were no actions taken by the Board during this session.

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


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY