

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL
WHITFIELD, MS
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026**

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held their regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, 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; Kim Wood, Chief Information Officer; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel; and Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director

Guests: Ms. Martina Martin, New Progressions; Ms. Sylvia Morris, New Progressions; Mr. Geovon Martin, New Progressions; Mr. Jeremy Garman, Capital Police; Allen Siegler, MS Today journalist; Mr. Melvin Collins, Mississippi State Hospital, Charles Best, AG's office

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; Jamie Odom, Division Director, ID/DD Home & Community Based Wavier Program, Sarah Greene, Division of ID/DD Home and Community Based Wavier Program, Caleb Pracht, Director of Strategic Partnerships

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: Amy Carruth, Mississippi State Hospital; Carla Dearman, Mississippi State Hospital; 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 and Dr. John Norton

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

Dr. Killebrew called for a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the December Board meeting. On the motion of Dr. Sara Gleason and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda and the Minutes from the December 2025 meeting.

Dr. Killebrew requested Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, to continue with her report. Ms. Bailey reported that the 2026 legislative session is progressing quickly with several key bills still under consideration, including those related to the Ibogaine Clinical Trial Act, Opioid Settlement Fund, Rural Health Transformation Fund, and the appropriations bill.

DMH's appropriations bill originated in the Senate at the Legislative Budget Recommendation level, which included a \$3.9 million general fund reduction, despite a requested \$33.4 million increase. The House later adopted an amendment restoring the proposed cut and providing additional funding above the current fiscal year level.

The House amendment reflects an increase of approximately \$10.3 million over current funding and includes targeted investments in court liaisons, ID/DD crisis training, 988 call centers, electronic health records, waiver slots, and operational expenses.

The appropriations process remains ongoing as the House and Senate work to finalize a unified version. DMH will continue to monitor and update the Board. MS. Bailey reported that IDD Day at the Capitol was held March 3 with strong participation from providers, clients, and regional staff, and included a Governor's proclamation signing declaring March as IDD Awareness Month. Mental Health and 988 Day at the Capitol was held March 10 with a large turnout of stakeholders. Both events provided valuable opportunities for legislators to engage with clients and staff and to discuss the agency's services and budget needs.

Ms. Bailey shared that March was recognized as IDD Awareness Month, highlighting support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Personal stories were shared through social media to highlight individuals receiving services and to increase public awareness of available support.

Ms. Bailey reported that the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council submitted tiered funding recommendations to the Legislature for one-year grants supporting recovery-oriented, evidence-based services, including prevention, treatment, housing, and peer support. The Legislature will select which recommended grants to fund from the tiers provided.

DMH submitted three proposals: expansion of inpatient residential treatment beds, development of a supportive housing voucher partnership for individuals exiting treatment, and a statewide needs assessment with MSU to guide prevention, treatment, and recovery planning.

Ms. Bailey shared that South Mississippi State Hospital hosted a “Bridging the Gap” meeting bringing together inpatient providers and community partners to improve care coordination and continuity of services across the state. The meeting highlighted the “Strong Roots, Strong Minds” campaign focused on supporting the mental well-being of farmers and agricultural workers and included personal testimony and outreach efforts to promote culturally responsive mental health awareness.

Ms. Bailey reported that DMH has collaborated with Lamar and Forrest Counties on the development of a regional Diversion Center, envisioned as a model for crisis care. The facility will include CSU beds, diversion recliners, and integrated on-site clinical and law enforcement supports, serving as a single point of entry for behavioral health crisis services.

The project is supported by local, state, and federal funding, with strong involvement from county leadership and Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources. The center will reflect a broader effort to expand the continuum of crisis services across Mississippi.

Lastly, Ms. Bailey shared that A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Leadership Development Training curriculum was approved by the Department of Public Safety Board on Law Enforcement Standards and Training for continuing education, with the first graduating class of 17 participants held March 5. The training was designed to equip supervisors of CIT officers to better support crisis response efforts statewide. HB 1222 requires CIT training, and more than 400 officers were trained statewide last year.

Mr. Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the Eight Months ended Saturday, February 28, 2026.

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

Mr. Breland also presented a Grants summary, a statement on Economic Interest and a chart of Medicaid Pay Rates for Mississippi State Hospital.

Ms. Nancy Luke, Director of the Division of Professional Licensure and Certification (PLACE), provided a report on *PLACE Professional Credentialing Rules and Requirements*. On the motion of Mr. Courtney Phillips, and a second from Ms. Teresa Mosley, the *PLACE Professional Credentialing Rules and Requirements* were accepted.

Ms. Dawn Owens, Director of the Division of Risk Management, shared a report from the Human Rights and Advocacy Committee.

Mr. Bo Chastain, Director of Mississippi State Hospital, shared an update on the Mississippi State Hospital Hub program.

Ms. Katie Storr, Chief of Staff, shared an update on CCBHC.

Mr. Brent Hurley, Bureau Director of Crisis Services, shared a presentation on the state's crisis continuum.

Patient Care Subcommittee Report

Dr. Duncan Stone reported that the Patient Care Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. During the subcommittee meeting 18 patient files were reviewed. The Patient Care Subcommittee recommended the following medical appointments:

Boswell Regional Center

William Hay, M.D.

Hudspeth Regional Center

Thomas LaGarde, M.D.

North Mississippi State Hospital

Chanda Miller, M.D.

Mississippi State Hospital

Micheal Frederick Bugg, M.D.

Scott Carlton, M.D.

Paul Dare, M. D.

John David Floyd, M.D.

Zinat Khandekar, M.D.

John Kennedy, M.D.

Jarrold Marks, M.D.

Alexander McRae M.D.

David Cameron May M.D.

Stephen Shoop, D.O.

Gary Smith, M.D.

William Duncan Stone, D.M.D.

Nazmul Talukdar, M.D.

Walter Towery, M.D.

Kevin Young, M.D.

On the motion of Mr. Stewart Rutledge and a second by Dr. Jim Herzog, 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 the FY26 mid-year progress report.

Property Subcommittee Report

Cyndi Eubanks shared the request for a revocable license from Boswell Regional Center

Motion to accept the revocable license request from Boswell Regional Center was made by Mr. Stewart Rutledge and a second was given by Dr. John Mitchell.

On the 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 Dr. Sara Gleason and second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss matters related to potential litigation. On behalf of Mr. Courtney Phillips and second by Mr. Stewart Rutledge, the Board voted unanimously to exit Executive Session. After review of documents and an in-person hearing, the Board of Mental Health upheld the termination status of supervised living services for New Progressions of Mississippi.

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

CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY