MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
ELLISVILLE STATE SCHOOL
ELLISVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held its regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, September 17,2026 at Ellisville State School, Ellisville, MS.

In Attendance:

Board Members: Sara Gleason, M.D.; James Herzog, Ph.D.; Teresa Mosley, M.Ed.; John Mitchell, M.D.; Ms. Judy Hollingsworth; Mr. Jamie Aultman; Mr. Courtney Phillips; Mr. Stewart Rutledge; and Ms. Sue Gallaspy

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

Absent: MaCall Chastain, General Counsel

Guests: Mr. Kevin Polk, Ellisville State School; Mr. Corey King, Ellisville State School; Ms. Jennifer Nichols, MS Attorney General's Office; Adam Speights, MS Power; Mark Alexander, MS Power; Ms. Brenda Patterson, Contact the Crisis Line; Ms. Anna Hu, Mississippi Today; and Photographer, Mississippi Today

Central Office Staff: Marquaita Lampkin, Director, Human Resources; Shondra Barker, Director, Accounting; Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary; Adam Moore, Director, Division of Communications and Planning; Ja'Quila Newsome, Director, Division of 988

Program Directors: Rinsey McSwain, Ellisville State School; Cindy Caples, South Mississippi Regional Center; Jerrie Barnes, Hudspeth Regional Center; Renee Burton, Mississippi Adolescent Center; Amy Carruth, Mississippi State Hospital; Ricky Grimes, Boswell Regional Center; Dr. Paul Callens, North Mississippi State Hospital; Dr. Kathy Crockett, East Mississippi State Hospital; Shannon Bush, Specialized Treatment Facility; and Sabrina Young, South MS State Hospital

Absent: Dr. Edie Hayles, North Mississippi Regional Center

Assistant Directors: Carla Dearman, Mississippi State Hospital; Kerry Nichols, North Mississippi Regional Center; Haley Theall, East Mississippi State Hospital; Cathy Luckett, East

Mississippi State Hospital

Other DMH Program Staff: Dr. Duncan Stone

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Ms. Teresa Mosley. Ms. Mosley asked everyone to stand while Mr. Kevin Polk and Mr. Corey King opened the meeting with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Mosley called for a motion and a second to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the June Board meeting. On the motion of Dr. James Herzog and a second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the June Board meeting.

Ms. Mosley requested Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, to continue with her report. Ms. Bailey introduced a new board member, Mr. Jamie Aultman, who represents the Second Supreme Court District on the Board. Ms. Bailey welcomed Mr. Aultman to the Board and expressed appreciation for his willingness to serve in this important role.

Ms. Bailey provided an update on the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund. Ms. Bailey informed the Board that Senate Bill 3072 directed money from the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. It provided $11,995,000 in abatement funds, money required to be spent specifically on addressing the opioid epidemic. The funds are divided among six recipients. DMH administers each grant, releasing funds as reimbursement and requiring recipients to submit regular reports on how the money is spent and what it accomplishes.

Ms. Bailey provided updates on the pilot projects that DMH will be responsible for administering in year one of the Rural Health Transformation program. These initiatives include implementation of EmPATH sites, expansion of crisis stabilization services, increasing access to behavioral health care through telehealth, strengthening workforce training, and enhancing support for individuals intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Ms. Bailey informed the Board that the month of September is Suicide Prevention Month. Ms. Bailey reported that DMH received the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Grant. This grant will aid DMH in strengthening suicide prevention and identification among youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Ms. Bailey shared that DMH leads the MS Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Families. She shared that the DMH team attended the 2026 Innovation Conference in August to discuss new opportunities for our state to help in this area. DMH also took part in several outreach activities during Suicide Prevention Month and 988 Day, which included proclamation signings with the Governor, a press release that was sent statewide, and the 10th Annual Suicide Prevention Symposium hosted on September 9, 2026.

Ms. Bailey reported that August 31, 2026, was recognized as Overdose Awareness Day. Ms. Bailey shared a press release and photo from the proclamation signing with the Governor, and

social media from a press conference DMH hosted with MSPHI at the Jackson Medical Mall on that day.

Ms. Bailey shared with the Board that Boswell Regional Center requested approval to provide employee housing to the individual selected for the Night Administrator position. On the motion of Dr. Sara Gleason and a second by Dr. John Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the provision of employee housing to the individual selected for the Night Administrator position.

Ms. Bailey continued her report by sharing with the Board that the 2026 MH/IDD Conference will be held at the IP Resort in Biloxi, October 21-23, 2026. Ms. Bailey stated that the MH/IDD Conference Executive Council is excited to once again to provide education opportunities to professionals and paraprofessionals in the field of mental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Lastly, Ms. Bailey shared with the Board that DMH has submitted their FY28 Budget Request and has been invited to present their request to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on October 1, 2026.

Mr. Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the twelve months ending Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

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

Ms. Ja'Quila Newsome, Division Director of 988, and Ms. Brenda Patterson, Executive Director, CONTACT the Crisis Line shared an update on 988.

Mr. Adam Moore, Director of Communications and Planning, shared the FY26 End-Year Progress Report for the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Craig Kittrell, Deputy Director, IDD Services, shared with the Board an update on Center for Start Services.

Dr. Rinsey McSwain, Director of Ellisville State School, gave an update to the Board on Ellisville State School.

Ms. Mosley asked Dr. Duncan Stone to continue with the Patient Care Subcommittee Report to the Board.

Patient Care Subcommittee Report

Dr. Duncan Stone reported that the Patient Care Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. The Patient Care Subcommittee recommended the following medical appointments:

Mississippi State Hospital
David "Bo" Jolly, M.D.
Madison Kolb, M.D.
Oscar Barrett Jones, M.D.

On the motion of Dr. John Mitchell and a second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the Board unanimously approved the Patient Care appointments.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee Report

Ms. Teresa Mosley reported the Strategic Plan Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting to review the FY26 End-Year Progress Report.

On the motion of Mr. Courtney Phillips and a second by Mr. Stewart Rutledge, the Board voted unanimously to close the regular meeting to determine the need for an executive session. On the motion of Mr. Stewart Rutledge and a second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session to discuss matters related to potential litigation. On the motion of Stewart Rutledge and a second by Dr. Sara Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to deny an easement request from Mississippi Power Company in Meridian, Mississippi.

On the motion of Ms. Sue Gallaspy and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to close executive session.

With no further business, on the motion of Mr. Stewart Rutledge and a second by Dr. John Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the September 2026 meeting.

_____ _____

CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY