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MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER
OXFORD, MS
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

The Mississippi State Board of Mental Health held its regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026, 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.; Ms. Judy Hollingsworth, and Mr. Courtney Phillips

Absent: 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; Brent Hurley, Director, Bureau of Crisis Services; Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel; Stephanie Berry, Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health; MaCall Chastain, General Counsel; and Dr. Thomas Recore, DMH Medical Director

Absent: Craig Kittrell, Deputy Executive Director, IDD Services and Kim Wood, Chief Information Officer

Guests: Mr. Will Dunn, NMRC; Ms. Brittany Williams, NMRC; Mr. Brandon Smith, MS Attorney General's Office; Ms. Kaylee Carruth, NMRC; Adam Speights, MS Power; Mark Alexander, MS Power; Raquel Rosamond, Region 3 CMHC; Jason Ramey, Region 4 CMHC; and Brad Vuncannon, Region 4 CMHC

Central Office Staff: Marquaita Lampkin, Director, Human Resources; Shondra Barker, Director, Accounting; Suzanne Marler, Recording Secretary; Caleb Pracht, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Program Directors: Rinsey McSwain, Ellisville State School; Cindy Caples, South Mississippi Regional Center; Jerrie Barnes, Hudspeth Regional Center; 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

Absent: Shannon Bush, Specialized Treatment Facility; and Sabrina Young, South MS State Hospital

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Assistant Directors: Amy Carruth, Mississippi State Hospital; Carla Dearman, Mississippi State Hospital; Tamara Webb, North Mississippi Regional Center; Kerry Nichols, North Mississippi Regional Center; Haley Theall, East Mississippi State Hospital; Cathy Luckett, East Mississippi State Hospital; Angela Alexander, Hudspeth Regional Center

Other DMH Program Staff: Dr. Duncan Stone

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dr. Alyssa Killebrew. Dr. Killebrew asked everyone to stand while Mr. Will Dunn and Ms. Brittany Williams 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 March Board meeting. On the motion of Dr. James Herzog and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the March 2026 meeting.

Dr. Killebrew requested Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, to continue with her report. Ms. Bailey introduced a new board member, Ms. Judy Hollingsworth, who will serve in the social work position representing the Second Supreme Court District. Ms. Bailey welcomed Ms. Hollingsworth to the Board and expressed appreciation for her willingness to serve in this important role.

Ms. Bailey announced the appointment of two new program directors within the Department. Mr. Ricky Grimes has been named Director of Boswell Regional Center, and Ms. Amy Carruth has been named Director of Mississippi State Hospital, effective July 1, 2026. Ms. Bailey congratulated both individuals on their appointments and noted that their leadership and experience will support the continued advancement of services and operations at their respective programs.

Ms. Bailey provided an update on House Bill 1171 and discussed several key provisions of the legislation. She also reported on Mental Health Awareness Month activities, including the Governor's proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month and social media outreach efforts that promoted mental health awareness, education, and the role of peer support services. Ms. Bailey also shared that the Department launched "Mississippi Cares," a new online mental health resource designed to connect Mississippians with information, services, and support.

Ms. Bailey informed the Board of upcoming Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Provider Fair dates and locations and noted the success of these events in recent years as an opportunity for providers, individuals, and families to connect with available resources and services. She further announced that Mississippi had been selected as one of ten new states to participate in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Medicaid Demonstration Program. Ms. Bailey explained that the program expands access to comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services, including crisis response, treatment, care coordination, and recovery supports. She noted that the model promotes consistent quality standards and provides a sustainable framework for strengthening community-based behavioral health services across Mississippi.

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Ms. Bailey presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Board of Mental Health meeting schedule for the Board's consideration. Following discussion, Dr. Killebrew called for a motion to approve the proposed schedule. On the motion of Ms. Teresa Mosley and a second by Dr. Sara Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Board of Mental Health meeting schedule.

Lastly, Ms. Bailey discussed the annual appointments of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Mental Health for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Courtney Phillips made a motion to appoint Ms. Teresa Mosley as Chair and Dr. Sara Gleason as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. James Herzog. The Board voted unanimously to approve Ms. Mosley as Chair and Dr. Gleason as Vice Chair.

Mr. Kelly Breland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Consolidated Financial Summary for the eight months ending Sunday, May 31, 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. Nancy Luke, Director of the Division of Professional Licensure and Certification (PLACE), provided a report on the final *PLACE Professional Credentialing Rules and Requirements* and requested approval of the document. On the motion of Mr. Courtney Phillips and a second from Ms. Teresa Mosley, the *PLACE Professional Credentialing Rules and Requirements* were accepted.

Ms. Misty Bell, Director of the Division of Substance Use Treatment Services, shared an update on the Congregational Recovery Outreach Program.

Mr. Jake Hutchins, Deputy Director, informed the Board that a new appointment to the West Rankin Utility Authority was needed due to the retirement of the current appointee. He recommended Ms. Amy Carruth for the appointment. On the motion of Dr. Sara Gleason and a second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the appointment was approved.

The Board recognized Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain and Mr. Clint Ashley for their many years of dedicated service to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health upon their retirement. Dr. Killebrew expressed appreciation for their contributions to the Department and their commitment to improving services for Mississippians. Ms. Bailey read a proclamation by the Board honoring each retiree and presented the proclamations to Mr. Chastain and Mr. Ashley in recognition of their service, leadership, and lasting impact on the agency and the individuals they have served.

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:

East Mississippi State Hospital

Ruben Cruz, M.D.
Alexis Meadors, M.D.

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Robert Most, M.D.

Hudspeth Regional Center
Jo Harbour, M.D.

Specialized Treatment Facility
Richard Kutner, M.D.

Mississippi State Hospital
Karen Branam, M.D.
Stephen Commiskey, M.D.
Vincent Herrin, M.D.
Perry Morgan, M.D.
Thomas Recore, M.D.

On the motion of Dr. James Herzog and a second by Dr. Sara Gleason, the Board unanimously approved the Patient Care appointments.

Property Subcommittee Report
Cyndi Eubank, Chief General Counsel, requested Board approval to authorize Dr. Rinsey McSwain to execute an agreement with the Jones County Economic Development Authority for the third option to purchase land from Ellisville State School. On the motion of Ms. Teresa Mosley and a second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Ms. Eubank also requested the Board authorize Dr. Kathy Crockett, on behalf of East Mississippi State Hospital, to execute an easement to the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors to facilitate a bridge replacement project. On the motion of Dr. Sara Gleason and a second by Dr. James Herzog, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

On the motion of Ms. Teresa Mosley and a second by Mr. Courtney Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to close the regular meeting to determine the need for an executive session. On the motion of Dr. James Herzog and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session to discuss matters related to personnel and potential litigation. The Board reported one item from executive session. The Board voted to unanimously approve a salary of $200,638.88 for the Executive Director, Ms. Wendy Bailey, effective July 1, 2026. On the motion of Dr. James Herzog and a second by Ms. Teresa Mosley, the Board voted unanimously to close executive session.

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

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Alyssa Killebrew
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CHAIRMAN

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY