

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH)

November, 2020

Mission

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health's mission is to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses, giving priority to adults with serious and persistent mental illness and to children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances.

The Department has other important and significant missions, as well, including a Division of Long Term Care which operates South Carolina's State Veterans Nursing Homes; a Division of Alcohol and Drug Addiction which operates the Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center (Morris Village), South Carolina's only State hospital for adult patients with addictive disease. The Department also operates the State's Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program.

Governance

The Agency is governed by a Mental Health Commission. The Commission comprises seven Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the SC Senate, and serve terms of five years. The Commission convenes monthly, with meetings rotating among DMH's centers, hospitals, and facilities. The Commission hires and supervises a State Director, who functions as the Chief Executive Officer of the agency. See *S.C. Code Ann., Title 44, Chapter 9*.

State Law

Although there are numerous other references to SCDMH in the Code of Laws, the chapters specific to SCDMH are all located in Title 44 and consist of Chapters 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 48 and 52.

Brief Overview of the Department

The Department of Mental Health is a large, complex and growing healthcare organization with a current operating budget approaching 500 million dollars, an employee work force of over 4,500 full time employees, and a contractual work force of over 1,500.

Hospitals

The agency operates three State hospitals:

1. **G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital (BPH)** in Columbia, one of the largest hospitals in the State with a pre-pandemic average daily census of over 400 patients. The hospital is divided into three separate service components:
 - a. Forensics, which treats adult defendants who are committed from the State's Courts of General Sessions, primarily following a finding that they lack capacity to stand trial due to mental illness or who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity. The forensic units are in a secure portion of the hospital which has the exterior appearance of a prison facility; BPH Forensic services also includes the Forensic Evaluation Service, which provides primarily court-ordered outpatient evaluations of adult and juvenile offenders regarding their capacity to stand trial and criminal responsibility.
 - b. Adult Services (civil), which treats adults who are admitted for psychiatric hospital care principally by means of the State's emergency involuntary admission process because they are believed to be posing a risk of harm to themselves or others by virtue of a mental illness;

- c. Child and Adolescent, which provides psychiatric hospital care to children ages 4 to 11 and adolescents, ages 12 to 18, manifesting serious disorders of mood or thought processes, severe difficulties with self-control and judgment, including behaviors posing a risk of harm to themselves or others. Patients are admitted both on an involuntary and a voluntary basis.
2. **Patrick B. Harris Hospital (HPH)** in Anderson with a pre-pandemic average daily census of 125 patients. HPH treats adults who are admitted for psychiatric hospital care principally by means of the State's emergency involuntary admission process because they are believed to be posing a risk of harm to themselves or others by virtue of a mental illness; and
3. **Morris Village**, in Columbia, with a pre-pandemic average daily census of 100 adult patients receiving hospital treatment for alcohol and substance use disorders. Patients are admitted on both an involuntary and a voluntary basis.

Community Mental Health Centers

The Department is one of only a few integrated public mental health systems in the 50 states and 8 U.S. territories, meaning that in addition to its 3 State hospitals, the agency also directly operates the State's community mental health centers. The Department operates 16 Community Mental Health Centers, with a combined total of 63 outpatient treatment sites covering all 46 Counties. In FY 2019, over 90,000 patients were treated at one of the agency's mental health centers.

- **Aiken-Barnwell Community Mental Health Center**, Aiken, SC
 - Serving Aiken and Barnwell counties
- **Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Community Mental Health Center**, Anderson, SC
 - Serving Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties
- **Beckman Center for Mental Health Services**, Greenwood, SC
 - Serving Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties
- **Berkeley Community Mental Health Center**, Moncks Corner, SC
 - Serving Berkeley County
- **Catawba Community Mental Health Center**, Rock Hill, SC
 - Serving Chester, Lancaster and York counties
- **Charleston-Dorchester Community Mental Health Center**, Charleston, SC
 - Serving Charleston and Dorchester counties
- **Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center**, Beaufort, SC
 - Serving Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Jasper and Hampton counties
- **Columbia Area Mental Health Center**, Columbia, SC
 - Serving Fairfield and Richland counties
- **Greater Greenville Mental Health Center**, Greenville, SC
 - Serving Greenville County
- **Lexington County Community Mental Health Center**, Lexington, SC
 - Serving Lexington County
- **Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center**, Orangeburg, SC
 - Serving Bamberg, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties
- **Pee Dee Mental Health Center**, Florence, SC
 - Serving Darlington, Florence and Marion counties
- **Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center**, Sumter, SC
 - Serving Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter counties
- **Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center**, Spartanburg, SC
 - Serving Cherokee, Spartanburg and Union counties
- **Tri-County Community Mental Health Center**, Bennettsville, SC
 - Serving Chesterfield, Dillon and Marlboro counties
- **Waccamaw Center for Mental Health**, Conway, SC

- Serving Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties

Telehealth Services

SCDMH is the largest provider of telepsychiatry services in South Carolina, and one of the State's largest and oldest telehealth providers. The Department significantly expanded its use of telemedicine technology throughout the pandemic. SCDMH provides psychiatric consultations to hospital Emergency Departments throughout the State, and currently serves 23 participating hospitals. The agency has equipped all of its Centers and Hospitals with high definition video/audio telehealth equipment, enabling the agency to serve an increased number of patients with its limited number of psychiatrists. Prior to the pandemic, over 20% of all community mental health center patient/psychiatrist appointments are accomplished using telepsychiatry. During the pandemic that percentage has substantially increased. Also due to the pandemic -- and the authorization by the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and SC DHHS permitting Medicaid reimbursement for mental health therapy delivered virtually -- since April, 2020, all 16 community mental health centers have been offering telemental health services.

School Mental Health Services

The Department's school mental health services continue to expand and SCDMH now has clinical counselors assigned to provide mental health services in over 800 public schools. Prior to the closing of public schools in March, 2020, of the more than 90,000 patients treated by SCDMH mental health centers, over 30,000 were children and over half of the children treated were receiving some of their mental health services in their school. Expansion of these highly regarded children's services has been made possible not just with increased State funding, but as a result of financial partnerships with the school districts which host the SCDMH therapists. Depending on how each partnering school has been providing instruction during the pandemic, school mental health services are currently being provided both in school and virtually.

Nursing Care Facilities

The Department's Long Term Care Division currently operates 4 licensed nursing homes, three of which are for State veterans, comprising approximately 700 beds. Two new State veterans' nursing homes are currently under construction and due to open in mid-2021, which will add an additional combined 208 beds. The agency has recently also begun the process of seeking the necessary approvals and funding to build one or two additional State veterans nursing homes in the coming years.

- **The C. M. Tucker Nursing Care Center** in Columbia is comprised of two licensed nursing homes:
 - a. **E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion**, with a pre-pandemic capacity of 90 beds for qualified veterans; and
 - b. **Roddey Pavilion**, a general community (non-veteran) nursing home, with a pre-pandemic capacity of 175 beds.
- **The Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home**, in Anderson, with a pre-pandemic capacity of 220 beds for qualified veterans; and
- **Veterans Victory House**, in Walterboro, with a pre-pandemic capacity of 220 beds for qualified veterans.

The two facilities currently under construction are

- The **Veterans Village** in Florence, which will provide nursing care for up to 104 qualified veterans when fully occupied; and
- The **Palmetto Patriots Home** in Gaffney, which will also provide nursing care for up to 104 qualified veterans when fully occupied.

Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program

Additionally, the agency also operates the State's Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program, located on the grounds of the Department of Corrections Broad River campus. The program currently houses over 200 residents. Pursuant to the State's Sexually Violent Predator Act, the residents were involuntarily civilly committed to the Department's custody for treatment of their mental abnormalities and/or personality disorders which were determined to make them pre-disposed to commit sexually violent acts if not securely confined for treatment.

Partnerships

In addition to its own system, SCDMH collaborates with multiple organizations, including private hospitals, other state agencies, local law enforcement agencies, Colleges and Universities, Advocacy organizations, and more, to develop or increase mental health services and programs where needed and ensure an efficient and comprehensive system of care.

Revenue and Expenditures

The total operating expenditures by SCDMH in FY 20 were approximately \$489,000,000. In FY 20 the agency's revenues consisted of approximately \$256,000,000 in State appropriations, and the remaining 47% of SCDMH's operating revenue was earned by providing clinical services or awarded to the agency in the form of grants or local funds for service provision. The agencies other major sources of revenue are Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations or Medicaid Disproportionate Share, which was approximately 125,000,000; Earned revenue from the U.S. Veterans Administration was approximately \$28,000,000; Earned revenue from patient fees, Medicare and other 3rd party insurance was approximately \$33,000,000; grant revenue expended in FY 20 was approximately \$22,000,000; Funding from some counties and statutorily earmarked drug fines accounted for approximately \$4.5 million.