



CCC appoints three to South Central Mental Health board

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The Coffee County Commission appointed three representatives to the South Central Alabama Mental Health Board at its regular meeting on Oct. 8.

County Administrator Rod Morgan, County Mental Health Officer Ed Hardiman and District 2 Commissioner Kim Ellis were all appointed to the board.

The commission had, earlier in the year, investigated the process it would take to change mental health providers.

“We were investigating, one, was it possible to change, because we weren’t sure,” Morgan said. “Two, what would the process be? Three, is there a reason to? We constantly look at our processes to see if there’s room for improvement.”

During this investigation, SpectraCare was found to be another option, should the commission want to change. Probate Judge Steven Blair, and Morgan agrees, that there was no need to switch mental health providers at this time.

“Frankly, at what they (SpectraCare and South Central) do, they do it very well,” Morgan said. “They both had strengths and weaknesses. It’s hard to say these guys are just head and shoulders over the other.”

He said the services SpectraCare already provides in the county were in place before the investigation started through a partnership with the county and South Central Alabama Mental Health.

“There are services that SpectraCare is providing in the county that they do very well, and we really want to continue to partner with them and continue to grow that partnership,” Morgan said. “We want them to maintain that presence. We were very careful not to alienate anybody in the process.”

Morgan stressed the council’s intention was never to switch providers, but just investigate the process.

“This, to me, was not an unusual or special situation or something of particular significance, it’s just part of what we do,” Morgan said. “How do we ensure the constituents get the best service we can? We investigate things all the time. They call it continuous improvement process in the private sector and we do the same thing in the government sector.”

The next commission meeting will be Oct. 22 at 9 a.m. in the community room at the New Brockton government complex. The meeting is open to the public.

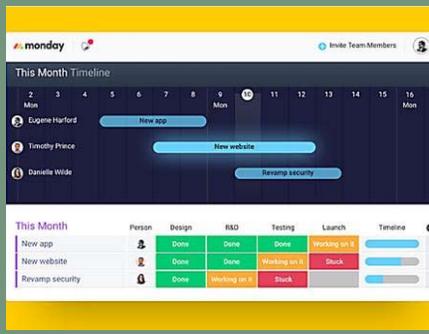
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