

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Board of Trustees was held on Friday, May 12, 2023, in-person and virtual.

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Donna Foster welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Roll Call was conducted:

BOT Members Present:

Kim Boswell, Commissioner (In-Person)
Dave White, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor, representing
Governor Kay Ivey (In-Person)
Donna Foster (Virtual)
Dr. Cynthia Bisbee (Virtual)
Larry Bailey (Virtual)
Rodney Barnes (In-Person)
William Pete Cobb (Virtual)
Judge Christopher Hughes (Virtual)
Dennis Stripling (Virtual)
Dr. Sandra Parker (Virtual)

BOT Members Absent:

Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth
Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter
Judge Sheri Friday
Leslie Sanders

Others Present:

Kathy Sawyer, Associate Commissioner for DD
Natasha Jackson, Associate Commissioner for Administration
Nicole Walden, Associate Commissioner for MH/SU
Tommy Klinner, Chief Legal Counsel
Malissa Valdes, Director of Public Information
Ada Katherine van Wyhe, Chief of Staff
Beverly Johnson, Director, Prevention Services
Berenice Artis, Executive Assistant
Cline Smith, (Intern- Dave White, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor)
Jackson Walters, (Intern- Dave White, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor)

Review and Approval of Agenda

Ms. Foster asked if there were additions to the agenda and for approval. Mr. Cobb moved to accept the agenda and Mr. Barnes seconded. Approved by acclamation without additions.

Review and Approval of February 10, 2023 Minutes

Ms. Foster asked if there were any additions to the minutes. Mr. Cobb moved to approve the February minutes and Mr. Barnes seconded. Approved by acclamation without additions.

Commissioner's Report:

Following Roll Call, where a Quorum was established, Commissioner Boswell opened the meeting with a reminder that since the last BOT meeting, the Department had been gearing up for budget hearings, which went really well, and responding to ongoing discussions regarding Searcy. The Mobile/Baldwin County delegation was concerned about services in the Mobile/Baldwin County area; and kudos to Ada Katherine van Wyhe, Chief of Staff and other team members for the work they did in responding to these issues.

The Commissioner also commented on a constituent issue brought to the attention of the Department by Representative Jackson. The constituent was incarcerated in the Clarke County Jail. Actions facilitated by the Department resulted in getting the young man removed to Bay Pointe at AltaPointe where he received mental health services.

Following the last 988 Study Commission Meeting, proposed legislation impacting 988 and surcharges to fund crisis services across the state are moving forward with the 988 Act. Over the last few weeks the Department engaged with the legislature and Republican and Democratic caucuses. Information ADMH shared with both stakeholders and members of the legislature consisted of data reports from state-funded Crisis Centers for the full calendar year of operation for 2022.

Noteworthy and most striking, according to Commissioner Boswell, is the number of people who showed up at a crisis center who were contemplating suicide: 412. The other category that was alarming was the number of individuals who were in psychosis: 613. Individuals who are in psychosis can be delusional, not living in reality and experiencing hallucinations. Oftentimes, they can be a danger to themselves, family members, and, if law enforcement becomes involved, the situation is dangerous for them as well. The two desired outcomes of our Crisis Centers were achieved by the decreased number of individuals with mental illness being jailed and those avoiding emergency room department admissions.

By the numbers, the data reports reflected there were 2,106 evaluations performed, 1,513 avoided emergency department admissions and 469 avoided jail admission with 140 of these individuals being dropped off by law enforcement to Crisis Centers instead of being taken to jail.

Commissioner Boswell shared information on the 9-months of data that was a significant factor to a surcharge for 988 Call Centers. Over a 9-month period, 988 Call Centers received over 34,000 contacts, which consist of calls, texts, and chats. Relevant is that these calls came in without much pre-advertisement about the availability of 988.

Fifteen of the calls were from individuals who were in active suicide attempts. These services are saving lives!

One of the discussions being addressed with the legislature, Commissioner Boswell advised, referenced funding. It was important to review operations that actually impacted mental health services specifically. In 2010, when proration hit and ADMH had to cut the budget by \$40 million. Mental health services received the biggest cut. Importunately, ADMH could not reduce funding for developmental disabilities services as this is an entitlement program, and any reduction here would have resulted in legal litigation.

Substance use services are primarily funded through block grants so there was not \$40 million available in state dollars to cut. In 2010, that \$40M cut resulted in the Department budget being down to just \$54 million for services in mental health. Even with the significant investments that happened in FY21, FY22, and FY23, ADMH budget went back to \$117 million for those services, just \$17 million over where the Department was back in 2010.

Dave White, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor, questioned total spending, federal and local funds, for all ADMH? – Commissioner responded with a total of \$1.39 billion for all programs for the department.

Commissioner Boswell added concerns about submitting a big General Fund budget request. Despite the revenues viewed in the General Fund currently, there is not a reasonable expectation for the increase to continue, so asking for \$68 million out of the General Fund to fund crisis services would be a huge funding request. All of these factors led to the conclusion to drop the 988 Act legislation with its request for a 988 surcharge.

CCBHC – Commissioner Boswell addressed updates regarding the Department's ongoing transition of the Community Mental Health Centers to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). Associate Commissioner Nicole Walden will speak further on planning grants the Department received in relation to CCBHCs. CCBHCs are the healthcare model ADMH is transitioning to, and a meeting was conducted with all 19 Community Mental Health Centers.

In the past year, ADMH has completed readiness assessments with providers to determine their readiness to implement CCBHC. Commissioner discussed Phase 2-CCBHC Readiness Assessment Review.

The 19 Community Mental Health Centers will fall into one of the three groups: Tier 1, the group affected by the planning grant from SAMSHA will have to be immediately ready to implement 2024 CCBHC this upcoming year; those in Tier 2 will be the following year; 2025 and the last group is the development group, those not ready for CCBHC, implementation with ongoing activities to support them in getting ready for CCBHC implementation in the future.

Part of ADMH's work with MTM Services, the group ADMH has been working with over the last year, was to develop a readiness assessment and evaluate all 19 Community Mental Health Centers in terms of their readiness. The cutoff score for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Readiness Groups, as determined by MTM for the 18 participating centers, was 3.2. One center was not included due to them not having completed their assessment.

The scoring process was conducted blind, so the Department did not know which Community Mental Health Center got which score and they did not wish to share their readiness scores with the Department. ADMH requested the centers do an attestation stating they were willing to participate in the readiness work, which is a tremendous amount of work for them and ADMH moving forward, between the grant and all the preparation required for this transition.

- Cynthia Bisbee questioned if there was a cutoff score for the Tier 1 versus Tier 2 groups?

Commissioner responded there was not really a cutoff score, however the Community Mental Health Centers were asked of their willingness to go into Tier 1. Commissioner advised they were given some leeway; those who were in the 4.2 range could go into Tier 1. Those in Tier 2 were advised if they did want to go in the second year; and if they wanted to, they would be allowed to defunct back into the developmental group. Those in the development group that could successfully obtain a planning grant on their own, or if they could stand up crisis services, could move up to the Tier 2 readiness group.

- After discussing the CCBHCs Phase 1 & Phase 2, Dave White, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor, inquired of why the transition was needed, advantages of CCBHCs, what the changes are going to be and costs for this transition? – Commissioner responded the main advantage is immediate access to care and same-day service. She identified several other advantages, 24/7 care available, statewide crisis services, integrated care regarding mental illness and substance use disorders as well as other health-related services.

Another advantage presented by the Commissioner involved the payment methodology. ADMH reviewed the perspective provider payment methodology, which allows providers to look forward at what the market rate is for salaries, pay, and other issues, as compared to the fee for services reimbursement model currently being used.

As this is ongoing, additional information will be provided and made available during BOT meetings. Nationwide, Commissioner Boswell added many states are transitioning to CCBHCs because they are more advantageous to the people being served with overall access to care. Outcomes in other states that transitioned to CCBHCs have been phenomenal in terms of improvements in access to care. The primary and majority of funding costs are for crisis services due to these services not being covered. The estimated statewide cost for implementation of crisis services is \$68 million.

Dave White also inquired about the 2,106 evaluations performed at three Crisis Diversion Centers. He questioned how determinations were made for those who avoided jail and emergency department admissions? Commissioner responded determinations were based on self-reporting by the individuals during the initial intake process.

The Commissioner added that leadership development work continues within the Department with facilities in Tuscaloosa participating in the same leadership development work completed by the Central Office leadership staff during the development of our strategic plan. The first session was an overall success.

A 3-hour organizational assessment of the facilities was completed by Commissioner Boswell and Associate Commissioner Walden as well as CLARUS that conducted interviews with employees and facility leadership. CLARUS also conducted focus groups which consisted of mental health workers, nursing staff, and other employees from various job classifications within the facilities.

There was a lot of honest feedback provided from the participants. They surmised there is a lot of work to be done moving forward regarding staffing, culture, and the quality of care at our facilities to get it where we really want it to be. The goal is to take this feedback and organizational assessment results and develop a plan of action to how we move forward with our state facilities in Tuscaloosa.

Commissioner Boswell advised of a great meeting with Alabama Community College Chancellor Jimmy Baker. She reported attending his budget presentation, and, from that, determined a meeting was needed with him and ADMH. A brainstorming meeting was held with the Chancellor including Holly McCorkle from the Council and Molly Broom with the Alliance.

Workforce was the topic of discussion as it affects many organizations as well as our providers. Another meeting is planned and Chief of Staff, Ada Katherine van Wyhe, commented an invitation was recently received to work on establishing the mental healthcare workforce task force. Optimism was at a high level with the belief that collaboration can be attained to move the needle in addressing the workforce issue.

Legislative & Constituent Affairs Report – Chief of Staff, Ada Katherine van Wyhe

In the February 2023 BOT meeting the Chief of Staff recalled that an overview of the Commissioner's budget request and our legislative priorities was provided, and she will follow up with the same format in today's report to show where the department is in progress of that report.

- Governor's recommended budget for the Alabama Department of Mental Health is very strong and we support that budget. It is now moving through the legislative process.
- Providers have seen increases in both the General Fund and the Education Trust Fund budget; this includes provider rate increases for our Community Mental Health Centers, substance use disorder service providers, and our developmental disabilities providers.
- In the supplemental budget, ADMH's main priority request was for the Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility, which is included in the Governor's recommended budget for ongoing construction projects.
- The Department is excited about the 988 Act, the Alabama Crisis System of Care Act, HB389, which was filed by the General Fund Budget Chairman, Representative Rex Reynolds on April 25, 2023. Support includes 17 bipartisan co-sponsors. ADMH has also been working closely with the bill's sponsor and several of our partners, the Alabama 911 Board, the Department of Revenue, telecom providers, specifically, the Alabama/Mississippi Broadband Association. ADMH also received suggested amendments from the Alabama Association of County Commissions geared towards making the bill stronger.
- Commissioner Boswell spoke at a public hearing on the need and purpose behind the 988 Act, which will create a secure and sustainable funding stream for crisis services to expand statewide. Support for the Act was also received from positive media reports as well as the Director of the Alabama 911 Board, Associate Commissioner Department of

Veterans Affairs, Director of the Alabama Chapter for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Mrs. Holly McCorkle with the Council for Behavioral Healthcare.

- Senator Gudger is the Senate sponsor for the bill, and he is very excited moving forward with the bill.
- Passage of this bill will position Alabama to be a gamechanger for crisis services. The 988 Act would ensure that 988 and its related services are funding in an identical funding mechanism as 911. Support from the 911 Board has been phenomenal and they've also agreed to collect the fee for 988 services.

MH/SA Division Report – Associate Commissioner Nicole Walden

- Associate Commissioner Walden opened her report commenting on the Crisis Centers. Carastar in Montgomery had their official (and last) ribbon cutting on April 5, 2023 in their newly remodeled facility and officially welcomed their first patient on April 6th. There's also been an increase in the number of referrals. This increase may be due to media coverage and support from law enforcement now that they have a permanent location to drop people off.
- Indian Rivers in Tuscaloosa, the next center scheduled to be open in late June/July 2023, is currently deciding on whether to gut or renovate the building site they selected.
- SpectraCare, in Dothan, is moving forward with building renovations with an anticipated opening later this year.

- CCBHCs

- ADMH was awarded a one-year planning grant that began in March, and we have hit the ground running, identifying a project director. Additionally, a meeting with executive directors of the Community Mental Health Centers was held where the transition plans to CCBHCs were detailed with the next steps going forward.
- ADMH staff attended a conference regarding CCBHCs and work has begun establishing work and steering committees. ADMH has partnered with MTM Services and communication with consultants began discussing readiness assessments and grant planning.

- Prevention

- ADMH is participating with AlaHA (Alabama Hospital Association) and several of their partners in a media campaign, "*Odds Are Alabama*," focused on raising awareness of fentanyl usage and knowing the signs of an overdose. The first press conference was held in the middle of March.
- Implementation of active statewide marketing and communication regarding 988 is underway.
- Health disparity training statewide for our provider networks has resulted in 19 agencies participating and completing the training.
- CDR (Central Data Repository) is an important issue to share with the BOT. MH/SA has entered into a data sharing agreement with the Bureau of Pardons & Paroles. This is a huge and important collaboration as there are times when legalities can arise from

sharing data, so our legal departments are working closely and actively involved in this agreement.

- Substance Abuse treatment update

Narcan (Naloxone) will now be accessed over-the-counter. Emergent BioSolutions, the company that produces Narcan, is working on distribution procedures, cost, etc., and should be ready by the end of this summer.

- PEER Program

- We have increased training for our PEER Program which is reflected in more than 500+ participants at our Mental Health Conference at Shocco Springs and increased numbers in our Consumer Conference. We also have a new PEER Director on board.

- **Facilities**

We've had an interim facility director at Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility (THSMF) for an extended period, and now we have a permanent facility director coming aboard around May 16th. Daphne Kendrick comes from Hillcrest Hospital with a wealth of knowledge and experience and will make a big difference for our state hospital.

Donna Foster questioned the change with the Indian Rivers Crisis Center location.

AC Walden responded that due to issues with the original site, Indian Rivers decided on another location, which happened to be a building adjacent to their current location. Decisions are being made on whether to gut this building or renovate it. The location is in downtown Tuscaloosa and central to almost everything, making for a more ideal site than the Northport location.

Ms. Foster also inquired of the incoming facility director for THSMF.

AC Walden advised the incoming facility director, Daphne Kendrick, formerly of Hillcrest Hospital comes with both hospital and community mental health experience.

Dennis Stripling commented on the Crisis Center destined for downtown Tuscaloosa and planned renovations for the building.

AC Walden responded that Indian Rivers decided the original site for the Crisis Center was not adequate and determined the adjacent building was more suited for the center. Mr. Stripling offered his excitement and community support for Indian Rivers at this location. He responded that architects had examined the building and deduced it would be costly to renovate to meet the required standards for a crisis center. He advised work is in progress and they're looking forward to a soft opening and ribbon cutting soon.

Dave White inquired if there have been increased usage of the fentanyl mixture with xylazine, the horse tranquilizer?

AC Walden advised the increased use of this dangerous drug mixture began to be noticeable in Jefferson County a year ago. Since then, usage has escalated with nearly all of the opioid usage now containing xylazine as it augments the effect of opioids. Narcan is ineffective against xylazine. Even if one encounters someone who may be experiencing an overdose, recommendations are to still use the Narcan, which may save them with enough time to allow medical professionals to respond.

Dave White also inquired if there is a way to get the word out to users of the fatality of using this drug mixture? AC Walden advised they are looking into how to best get the public educated on the danger of this drug mixture. Jefferson County officials are investigating how to get the word out to the

communities to prevent usage and overdoses. Media campaigns are the best resource so far and public health has been distributing preventive message and using social media messaging. There are currently no test strips to test for this horse tranquilizer, however, it will show up in a drug test.

Division of Administration Report – Natasha Jackson

- Associate Commissioner Jackson commented on the status of the GQR Contract which will expire July 2023.
- ARPA-\$5 million for MH/SA providers through December 2024 using the same method as HRSA, CRF funds distribution.
- Commissioner advised of the \$11 million from ARPA, Round 1 equated to \$6 million for the hospital diversion unit of 30 beds and \$5 million for provider relief. She added that Bryce will resume admissions next month, June 2023.

DDD – Associate Commissioner Kathy Sawyer

- Associate Commissioner Sawyer advised that Glenwood and The Learning Tree, two of the department's largest providers, rescinded their offer for providing services as they are unable to accommodate a larger population due to a workforce shortage.
- AC Sawyer commented on DDD working with DHR and other state officials regarding the various issues and concerns of individuals and children with special attention and commitment to serving DHR complex cases.
- DDD is exploring increased funding to recruit and retain specialized providers. Negotiations with three national providers, Benchmark, Project Transitions, and Project Star, are being considered.
- Since July 2021, Associate Commissioner Sawyer reported 140 settings have closed with 40 fewer providers and approximately 1,012 people impacted by these closures.

Office of Public Information – Malissa Valdes

- Malissa presented updates on the Alabama System of Care and progress of the 988 Act, which was introduced by the legislature on April 25th.
- She advised the Annual Report is in the progressive stage for review with various stories and art being finalized with an expected completion date in May/June.
- Enthusiasm and appreciation was received for the ADMH rollout of the logo. Items that include table cloths, resource cards and folder have been ordered to reflect the ADMH for usage at conferences and other events.
- Under the System of Care and Partnership Priorities of the strategic plan, the HCBS Education and Advocacy Workgroup is collaboratively working together to spread the rules and programs related to HCBS families and individuals through regional training, social media postings, and partnership promotion.
- Mental Health Awareness Month will be recognized through creative and specific task to share each day/week with stakeholders. ADMH and its partners have planned several events, such as the Strike Out Stigma Baseball Game on May 5th.

Stakeholder Discussion

No discussion

Other Business

No other business

Adjournment

There being no further business before the group, the meeting adjourned at 11:43AM. The next BOT meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:

_____ Date: _____
Kimberly G. Boswell
Secretary of the Board and Commissioner

_____ Date: _____
Donna Foster, Vice-Chair of the Board

Office of Public Information
August 11, 2023

Supporting the ADMH Strategic Plan

System of Care & Partnerships; Knowledge & Awareness

Alabama Crisis System of Care

Indian Rivers plans to open their temporary center in October. We have begun planning the event with a zoom/training with CMHC staff. We created a Crisis Center Opening Communication Plan to ensure all events are smooth and similar in scope and promoted heavily. New, Updated Crisis Center Progress reports are online now!
<https://mh.alabama.gov/crisis-center-report-card/>

Knowledge & Awareness

988

We celebrated and promoted the One Year Anniversary of 988, a news release and interviews. A new 988 progress report was created to show one year of data.

Knowledge & Awareness

Annual Report

The annual report is out! Also, an intranet folder has been created to actively solicit points of interest stories from Dept staff, in order to have all stories written by Dec. 31

Knowledge & Awareness

New Logo and Graphics for ADMH

We continue to promote the new branding and creating new graphics to mirror the brand on all ADMH documents and digital spaces.

System of Care & Partnerships

- Working with all CCBHC teams, managing the CCBHC Comm team (added one new member).
- Preparing for the new ADMH Children and Family Services office/unit and will help to create messaging internally, to providers and externally.
- Helping to facilitate speakers and promote the 36th annual NPN/NASADAD Conference

Professional Workforce

Paid Advertising and Promotion – Workforce

We have updated and created new promotional materials to increase recruitment.

Internal Workforce Communication. We have created and made Live an ADMH Intranet site for all staff, with easy to access information that includes onboarding documents, letterheads, etc. Unlike our X: on ADMH servers, this can be accessed anywhere at any time.

Knowledge & Awareness

Proclamations and Communication plans have been created for Recovery month, Suicide Prevention Month, DSP Week

Outlook (semi-monthly) Newsletter goes out this week!

Legislative Update on the Opioid Settlement Funds

The Alabama Legislature recognizes that priorities for the investment of opioid settlement funds should include evidence-based programs and services for the treatment and prevention of opioid use and addiction. Recognizing that judicious investment of the opioid settlement funds on behalf of Alabama taxpayers and those impacted by the opioid crisis is critical, and requires collaborative effort between the legislature, executive branch, experts, and stakeholders, the legislature passed two corresponding bills in the 2023 Regular Legislative Session: Act 2023-383, establishing the Oversight Commission on Alabama Opioid Settlement Funds, and Act 2023-384, appropriating \$10 million from the Opioid Treatment and Abatement Fund (opioid settlement funds). The state's total opioid settlement amount is \$249 million.

The Department will provide the framework and structure for the Oversight Commission, of which the Commissioner serves as a member, based on the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council's 2022 Annual Report to the Governor with the recommended strategies for the state's approved use of abatement funds. The Commission will meet at the call of the chair, House General Fund Budget Chairman Rex Reynolds, and is charged with developing a statewide plan for the investment and use of opioid settlement funds. The Commission will also review the expenditure of funds appropriated to state agencies and other entities. Of the \$10 million appropriated from the Opioid Treatment and Abatement Fund, the Department is allocated \$8.5 million to be distributed through a competitive grant program for community providers.

Hospital Discharge and Transition Planning for Complex Cases

Beginning in July 2022, the Department began meeting monthly with Children's of Alabama to organize hospital discharge and transition planning with the hospital's Patient and Family Support and Behavioral Health Sciences teams. This initiative came out of an ongoing inter-agency partnership with the Department of Human Resources to collaboratively review and identify solutions for complex cases (individuals involved with both agencies) awaiting hospital discharge and/or awaiting service enrollment and placement. Due to the high number of children represented in these complex cases, both agencies agreed working directly with hospitals would be more effective and efficient. Starting with Children's, the Department now holds monthly discharge and transition planning meetings with UAB, Ascension St. Vincent's, and Mobile Infirmiry. Through these ongoing meetings with multiple hospital partners, we've developed and implemented a comprehensive planning process and defined workflow for each patient requiring ADMH services or referrals to providers to ensure a successful transition from the hospital to the community. This includes a Transition Checklist, created by our DD Statewide Placement Coordinator and DD Community Waiver Program Placement Coordinator, which positively impacts both a patient's successful discharge and transition into the community as well as our hospital relationships. We have seen a decrease in the number of hospital patients discharged through this comprehensive transition planning process who are then re-admitted back to the hospital. The Department is continually reviewing and improving this workflow with feedback from hospitals and community providers.

In May 2023, the Department partnered with the Alabama Hospital Association for five "Regional Mental Health Meetings" across the state for all hospitals providing behavioral health services. These meetings served to familiarize hospital leadership with the Department's services (specifically DD Waiver Services), programs, role in discharge and transition planning, and coordination of services in the community. This included an overview and discussion of each of the following: Substance Use Disorder Services; MI Community Programs – Child/Adolescent & Juvenile Court Outreach; MI Community Programs – Adult & State Hospitals; Autism Services; Dually Diagnosed & Co-Occurring Conditions; and DD Waiver Services including DD Psychological and Behavioral Services. All nineteen Community Mental Health Centers, DD Regional Community Services Directors, and 310 Board Support Coordination Agencies participated based on their respective region.

**Developmental Disabilities Division
(As of August 2023)**

Waiver Waiting List: 1607

Waiver Enrollments	Counties	No. Enrolled
Intellectual Disability	All 67 Counties	4439
Living at Home	All 67 Counties	524
Community Waiver Program	Region 1: Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Region 2: Tuscaloosa, Walker Region 3: Baldwin, Mobile Region 4: Elmore, Houston, and Montgomery Region 5: Jefferson	321

HCBS Compliance Update

HCBS Compliance Group	# Of Providers	# Of Settings	# Individuals
Providers/Settings Compliant	166	728	2245
Providers/Settings Non-compliant	10	22	58

- **CMS approved Alabama’s Corrective Action Plan (CAP) June 30, 2023**

Other Initiatives

- **Interagency Initiatives:** As of this report, a total of eleven (11) children in DHR custody have been placed by DDD in special residential services; five (5) are pending application and eligibility determinations. In addition, five (5) adults have been placed since May 2023.
- **Rate Increases:** With increased appropriations for FY24, DDD will grant rate increases for Direct Support Staff in the following services: Residential; Personal Care; Day Services; Respite Care; Adult Companion, Personal Care Services and Support Coordination. The increases will yield average Direct Support wages of \$14.51/hr. and Support Coordination wages of \$23.43/hr.

MHSA BOT Report August 2023

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) CCBHC infrastructure planning activities focused on ensuring all providers receive education and technical assistance related to the six Program Requirements of the CCBHC Criteria. To date, 14 Learning Communities and Listening Sessions have been provided to ADMH providers to help develop understanding of the CCBHC criteria. Additionally, 5 TA calls have been held with ADMH staff to facilitate learning of CCBHC requirements, payments, and statewide certification. ADMH participated in a SAMHSA State Technical Assistance Crisis Continuum of Care Learning Collaborative along with seven other states in June which provided Alabama with an opportunity to complete a SWOT Analysis of the current Crisis Continuum of Care. Additional follow up sessions are being held to ensure collaborative work. (System of Care & Partnerships, Professional Workforce).

Crisis Centers During the first 6 months of the year, the four existing Crisis Centers have completed 2321 evaluations, which resulted in 1745 admissions. Indian Rivers continue to buildout their temporary location with a projected completion 9/2023. They have received approval to open temporary extended observation beds as part of this process. SpectraCare has acquired a permanent location. They have signed construction contracts and are currently in buildout phase with a project completion tentatively scheduled for 7 months. (System of Care & Partnerships, Knowledge & Awareness)

Mobile Crisis Services (MCS) ADMH, AMA, and VitAL completed the (11) site visits with providers who have mobile crisis services (MCS) to review their individual reports. We are currently in the process of sending out hardcopies of the MCS State Report along with sharing the report state-wide. Medicaid, along with ADMH, are in the final stages of completing a state plan amendment (SPA) for MCS which will establish a rate of pay for the eligible services. (System of Care & Partnerships, Knowledge & Awareness)

ODS This quarter, the Office of Deaf Services is providing services to more than 1,740 deaf or hard of hearing people with mental illness or substance use disorders. Various outreach efforts reached 4,792 people over the past three months. This includes the annual Deafness and Clinical Training, which was held April 20 - 21. Dr. Jaime Wilson a neuropsychologist addressed co-morbidity among deaf people with mental illness. The training was attended by over 180 people spread over the two days. ODS was able to fill an interpreter position in Tuscaloosa, expanding hours of interpreter coverage at the state hospitals to 12 hours a day. ODS also had three interpreter interns successfully complete their programs. (System of Care & Partnerships, Peer & Family Engagement)

Naloxone Update Overall, AMDH, in partnership with ADPH and other partners, has distributed 14,402 kits of Narcan across the state. ADMH is working with local and State EMA to ensure all first responders are aware of grant-funded programs and ensure those who qualify have access to Narcan at no cost to them. To date, ADMH has supplied Narcan to 61 of 67 counties within the State of Alabama. (System of Care & Partnerships, Knowledge & Awareness)

Prevention ADMH participated in the DEA *Prevention Profiles: Take 5* podcast in May 2023 featuring topics such as engaging state agency support with college students; supporting local communities, especially communities of color and fentanyl awareness. ADMH presented at the SAMHSA & NASADAD Annual Meeting held June 2023 current prevention efforts with Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. ADMH presented at the Annual MEGA Conference “*Let’s Talk: Teenage Suicide*”. Statewide Health Disparities Training for the provider network continues. The most recent statewide trainings, July, yielded 306 participants. (System of Care & Partnerships; Knowledge & Awareness)

Substance Use Treatment Under the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, Alabama is number one in the nation as it relates to maintaining contact with individuals who enrolled in the grant for treatment services. Under the Alabama Covid Response Unit (ACRU) grant, Alabama had the highest rates in enrolling health care providers thanks to the efforts of the University of Alabama and their medical and nursing students. Four agencies were recently awarded funding to open outpatient clinics in counties where ADMH certified treatment centers were not located. The affected counties are Coosa (Altapointe), Bullock (East Alabama MHC), Lawrence (Marwin Counseling), and Conecuh (Franklin Primary). This brings us to a total of 62 out of 67 counties with certified substance use treatment services. (System of Care & Partnerships, Knowledge & Awareness)

The **Division of Administration** provides vital support to the Alabama Department of Mental Health’s facilities, Central and Regional Offices.

BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES (*PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE*)

- Staffing levels for contract workers through Wynden Stark LLC (d/b/a GQR Global Markets) as of June 30, 2023, are as follows: Harper Center 8 contract staff, Taylor Hardin 62 contract staff and Bryce Hospital 47 for a total of 117 contract workers (the original contract was for 135 workers). The GQR contract ended July 31st. The replacement vendor, Maxim Healthcare Staffing, has begun providing temporary staffing as of August 1st.
- Recruitment Highlight for Essential Leadership Roles: Hardin Personnel Manager started April 17th, Taylor Hardin Facility Director started May 16th, and Central Office Chief Information Officer started June 1st.

BUREAU OF FINANCE (*ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH*)

- The Examiners of Public Accounts have successfully completed the FY 2022 Statewide Single Audit of Federal Award Programs and plan to release the results effective July 28, 2023. There are no findings to report!

LAND AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE (*ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH*)

- Life Safety has conducted 3,456 inspections for FY 2023. Land Sales/Leases income produced through the management of Oil/Gas/Mineral/hunting leases, timber sales, and other real estate leases, has generated \$1,050,235 for FY 2023.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (*ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH*)

- BITS has successfully filled the vacated Chief Information Officer Position. Mr. Ram Kandula is a welcomed addition to the BITS Team!
- BITS is currently working to upgrade its servers to Server 2022. This will give the agency increased security to identify and mitigate data breaches, zero-day threats, and network-based attacks.
- Network Infrastructure is implementing 10-digit dialing. The Alabama’s Public Service Commission has required that anyone in the 251-area code move from 7-digit numbers to 10-digit numbers. In addition, the FCC has required all providers to implement 10-digit dialing to ensure calls to 988 reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

OFFICE OF OBRA PASSR (*SYSTEM OF CARE & PARTNERSHIPS*)

- The OBRA Office processed 632 significant change applications to determine continued eligibility for nursing home placement.
- The PASRR Program processed 2,178 Level II Screening Applications. They also support the goal of an enhanced quality of life for all Medicaid-certified residents.

NURSE DELEGATION PROGRAM (NDP) (*PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE*)

- The Office of NDP trained 38 Nurses on Becoming a Delegating Nurse, updated 40 existing MAS Nurses on program changes, and educated 8 case managers on TB requirements for ADMH-DD.

OFFICE OF POLICY AND PLANNING (*PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE and KNOWLEDGE & AWARENESS*)

- The Office of Certification Administration (OCA) will conduct August interviews for the Certification Director position this month.

OCA is diligently working with Empyra (myOneFlow vendor) and ADMH teams to complete the demonstration and development phases of the Certification