

2014 Developments and Achievements

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) strives to improve and expand its services to the citizens of our state. With your support, we continue to make great strides. This document is the first of what will be a brief, yearly update of select examples of the Agency's developments, achievements, and service expansion.

- Thanks to the support of the Governor and the General Assembly, DMH is on firmer financial footing than in previous years. As a result, the Agency has been expanding access to outpatient, community-based services. In fiscal year 2012, DMH opened 23,839 new cases; in fiscal year 2014, DMH opened 26,360 cases.
- In the summer of 2014, DMH's innovative Telepsychiatry program reached the milestone of providing 20,000 psychiatric consultations in emergency departments across South Carolina. The Program was developed to meet the critical shortage of psychiatrists in South Carolina's underserved areas, and assist hospital emergency rooms by providing appropriate treatment to persons in a behavioral crisis, using real-time, state-of-the-art video-and-voice technology that connects DMH psychiatrists to hospital emergency departments throughout the state.
- DMH school-based services are now available in 460 schools across South Carolina. The Agency is in the process of adding 40 clinicians to further expand this service, and expects to have service available in more than 500 South Carolina schools by the end of fiscal year 2015.
- DMH's Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital (HPH, Harris) recently partnered with AnMed Health Medical Center (Anmed) to have private practice psychiatrists in Anderson provide psychiatric coverage for acute patients at HPH. The coverage plan includes regional hospital partners AnMed, Oconee Memorial, Cannon Memorial, Baptist-Easley, and Spartanburg Regional Hospital. Since inception, this unique public-private partnership has provided care for 385 patients, and has been so successful that HPH patient capacity has increased by 20 beds. These additional beds are the difference between patients being housed in emergency departments and receiving timely admission to appropriate inpatient psychiatric care.
- After years of effort marketing the former State Hospital campus in downtown Columbia, DMH expects to receive the first installment of the sale price for the Property within the next month.
- E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion (Stone), one of DMH's Veterans Nursing Homes, has been ranked as one of the top nursing care facilities in South Carolina and the nation by both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the *US News and World Report*, earning the facility a 5-star rating - the highest rating obtainable. Stone, which serves veterans from across the state of South Carolina, is accredited by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the Joint Commission, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- This spring, DMH's Greenville Mental Health Center received the Johnson & Johnson-Dartmouth College 2014 National Achievement Award for its Independent Individual Placement & Supported Employment program. The Johnson & Johnson-Dartmouth Community Mental Health Program works to increase access to supported, competitive employment for adults with serious mental illnesses.
- Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center held its 3rd Annual Lowcountry Mental Health Conference August 7-8. The event welcomed seven world class mental health experts and advocates and 610 attendees from across the country. Attendees were treated to a series of presentations, including one by world-renowned neuroscientist Mark George, MD, and a discussion on clinical interventions with adolescents by Dr. Michael Walsh. In addition, Heisman Trophy winner, former NFL football star and

mental health advocate Herschel Walker shared his story, struggles, and triumphs with his own mental illness as part of the program.

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. To that end, the Agency provides services through a network of 17 outpatient community mental health centers, 45 clinics, four psychiatric hospitals, one community nursing care center, and three veterans' nursing homes. A few highlights of the Agency's system are:

- Each of DMH's 17 community mental health centers is accredited by CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of human service providers. CARF credentials more than 6,500 providers in over 22,000 locations, and its accredited providers serve more than 8 million people of all ages each year. In addition, Morris Village Treatment Center, the Agency's inpatient, drug and alcohol hospital, is also accredited by CARF.
- Each of DMH's three psychiatric hospitals is accredited by the Joint Commission, which aims to improve healthcare by evaluating healthcare providers and inspiring them to excel in the provision of safe, effective care of the highest quality and value.
- Each of DMH's four nursing homes is licensed by DHEC and certified by CMS. Three of the four nursing homes (516 beds) serve veterans exclusively and are certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Tucker Nursing Care Facilities (Roddey - General Nursing Home and Stone - Veterans Nursing Home) are nationally accredited by the Joint Commission (TJC) and represent two of 10 Nursing homes in South Carolina with this distinction. **There are 195 nursing homes in the State of South Carolina.*

DMH is dedicated to hiring, supporting, and retaining excellent clinical staff, who are often recognized by professional and advocacy organizations for their outstanding performance. For example, Kimberly Rudd, MD, Division of Inpatient Services Medical Director and Director of Medical Services for Long Term Care at DMH, was selected as the National Alliance on Mental Illness – South Carolina's Psychiatrist of the Year for 2014.

We will continue to highlight select examples of DMH's system, program, and personnel achievements in future yearly updates.