



# Mental Health Matters

News and Events at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health

October 6, 2011

## TERRY VILLAGE OPENS IN ORANGEBURG

By Connie Mancari, Office of the State Director

On September 1, 2011, Mental Health America and Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center held the grand opening of Terry Village, Inc., in Orangeburg, SC. Terry Village is named in honor of Frances Wells Terry, mother of Mental Health Commissioner, James Buxton Terry.

The reception and grand opening was attended by James Buxton Terry, along with other members of the Mental Health Commission.

Mrs. Terry believed in volunteerism and giving back to her community. Mr. Terry honors her memory by continuing to serve his community in giving time, energy and a giving spirit to the mental health community.



Buck and Susan Terry at Terry Village Apartments

Terry Village was built in this spirit and comes with a vision to provide not just shelter, but a neighborhood. Residents should succeed in their personal goals and it is felt that Terry Village will provide an environment for that to occur.

## CHARLESTON DORCHESTER MOBILE CRISIS UNIT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By Ann Dwyer, DMH Office of General Counsel

On Monday, July 11, the Mobile Crisis Unit had the opportunity to serve its community once again. A veteran who had been deployed to Afghanistan had barricaded himself in his home.

The City of Charleston Police Department had been called to the home in response to a warrant regarding a dispute between the man and his girlfriend. The police negotiators had been working for several hours trying to talk the subject out of the home to no avail.

Esther Hennessee, Director of the Mobile Crisis Unit, was contacted to help. She in turn called the VA and was able to obtain relevant facts about the man's history that allowed her to assist the police

negotiators. The information enabled the negotiators to connect on a more personal level with the subject.

That, along with Hennessee's actual coaching of the negotiators, resulted in the subject coming out of the house peacefully within 30 minutes.

Hennessee credits the VA staff (specifically Dr. John Cusack and Dr. Lauren Yarrow) with respectively procuring and relaying information vital to resolution of the crisis.

The entire episode embodied the spirit of community agencies coming together to help a citizen in need.

## IMPROVING SERVICE, INCREASING EFFICIENCY: THE SALUDA CONSOLIDATION PLAN

By Katherine Roberts, MPH, Director, Client Affairs

The Beckman Center for Mental Health Services (BCMHS) has always been committed to providing quality care for the persons they serve. Since opening for service in January of 1963, Beckman has always been the Department's largest mental health center in terms of geographic size serving seven counties; Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda.

In these tough economic times operating and staffing some of the smaller clinics is becoming increasingly difficult. The Saluda Clinic is a prime example. The clinic serves 139 of Beckman's 2,500+ clients. Beckman used this opportunity to explore the possibility of consolidating client services at the Saluda Clinic with the goal of increasing the quality services provided and improving efficiency. The consolidation plan has two key components:

- To offer Saluda clients services in a location other than the Saluda Clinic by a more diverse and qualified staff.
- To accomplish this without any reduction in force by staff having relocate to other service homes under good clinical leadership.

Clients will be served in the Greenwood, Edgefield or Newberry Clinics depending on their preferences and the majority of the staff will be relocated to the neighboring Newberry Clinic. All three clinics have appropriate staff to serve the clients and better availability of psychiatric services. Their transportation needs will be covered through the existing Medicaid transportation system or through a client driver employed by BCMHS.

In addition, a bridge service will be put into place in Saluda County through a partnership with the Carolina Health Centers, the Federally Qualified Healthcare Center serving the Beckman area. The bridge service will locate a Mental Health

Professional (MHP) contracted to provide services at a Carolina Health Center location into their Saluda location, Saluda Family Practice. The amount of time that this MHP spends at the Saluda Family Practice will be based on client volume.

What makes this opportunity even more exciting is that partnership with Lexington County Community Mental Health Center (LCCMHC) is also being developed. This partnership allows the two mental health centers to work together to offer quality services to clients from Saluda County, Western Lexington County, and Eastern Aiken County in a Rehabilitative Psychosocial Services (RPS) model.

WHAT MAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY EVEN MORE EXCITING IS THAT PARTNERSHIP WITH LEXINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER IS ALSO BEING DEVELOPED.

The services will be provided in an existing location of LCCMHC in Batesburg-Leesville, SC, located only fifteen miles from the current Saluda clinic. Beckman will place a clinical counselor and an MHP in this location to provide RPS services to clients from these three areas five days per week. In addition, Beckman will provide some nursing services and support staff services as needed, and

Lexington will provide a psychiatrist to serve the clients. Transportation will be provided through the Lexington contracted transportation system.

Beckman anticipates that this plan will yield a net savings of \$150,000 per year by eliminating the cost of the Saluda Clinic lease while continuing to provide as well as expand the service options for the clients of Eastern Aiken and Western Lexington Counties at no additional cost. The project launched September 6, 2011.

BCMHS is under the direction of Melanie Gambrell LPC; LCCMHC and the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center are under the direction of Rick Acton, ACSW.

## DMH HOLDS LEGISLATIVE BOARD TRAINING

By Tracy LaPointe, Office of Public Affairs

DMH held a Board Training Thursday, August 25, at its Central Administration Building in Columbia.

Designed to give the Department’s board members an opportunity to discuss issues related to raising awareness of funding issues at a local level, the training also sought to enhance board members’ knowledge of DMH, the Agency’s budget, and board roles and responsibilities.

The day included a variety of sessions, including a presentation by Senator Wes Hayes, Jr., Chair of the Senate Ethics Committee: Making Your Voice Heard at the Legislature. Hayes, an active member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), discussed the importance of reaching out to representatives at a local level, particularly as competition increases for limited funds. He reminded the audience that all districts comprise people who receive mental health services, their family members, and residents who work in the mental health field.

Hayes encouraged board members to seek ways to do more with less; to educate their local delegations on mental health issues; to discuss specific mental health legislation with legislators; and to put faces with issues – share personal stories and show the impact of cuts. He urged attendees: “Don’t be afraid to reach out.” Hayes concluded his talk by taking questions from the audience.

Bonnie Pate, executive director of SC SHARE, Joy Jay, executive director of Mental Health America – SC, Diane Flashnick, executive director of the Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health – SC, Gloria Prevost, executive director of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc., and Bill Lindsey, executive director of NAMI–SC, took part in a mental health advocates’ panel, Banding Together for the Mentally Ill, highlighting successes and strategies they have employed to educate lawmakers about mental health issues.

Brenda Hart, deputy director of Administrative Services, gave an overview of the SCDMH’s recent budget history and a budget update, and Geoff Mason, deputy director of Community Mental

Health Services and Mark Binkley, SCDMH General Counsel, discussed board member roles and responsibilities.

The day ended with breakout sessions, in which board members held discussions with members of the Mental Health Commission as well as representatives from other boards in their area.

More than 50 board members, including several chairs, vice chairs, and new members, took part in the training, and provided excellent feedback, including valuable suggestions for future trainings.

## GET ACTIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH!

### Upcoming Events

- **Columbia, Spartanburg, Charleston, Bluffton/Hilton Head & Myrtle Beach - October & November**

### Out of the Darkness Community Walks

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – SC will hold 5 community walks to prevent suicide.

Here are this year’s dates, save them and spread the word!

- Spartanburg - October 9
- Columbia - October 16
- Myrtle Beach - October 22
- Bluffton/Hilton Head - October 9
- Charleston - November 6

If you’d like to learn more visit [outofthedarkness.org](http://outofthedarkness.org). To register for a walk near you, click here: [SC AFSP 2011 Walks](http://SCAFSP2011Walks).

DO YOU WANT TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT A MENTAL HEALTH EVENT? SEND IT IN: TLL06@SCDMH.ORG!