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April 11, 2019

Mark W. Binkley, Interim Director  
South Carolina Department of Mental Health  
Post Office Box 485  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Director Binkley:

On behalf of the Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee, thank you, and your staff for your recent presentation to the Subcommittee relating to the Department of Mental Health's community mental health services. As a follow-up to the meeting, please respond to the following, either in writing or in an upcoming agency presentation:

- How should community mental health services in South Carolina be structured to best serve the state's population and to maximize currently available human and financial resources?
- Has there been a needs assessment for community mental health services statewide, including placement of facilities and distribution of services? If so, please provide it.
- Please provide the expenses that correlate with the budget figures presented during the April 2, 2019, meeting.
- Provide a list of therapeutic models and programs available at each community mental health center.
  - Is our workforce adequately trained and certified to deliver the evidence-based treatment protocols that are typically indicated in treating mental health patients in South Carolina with fidelity? How is that determined?
  - How does our current system of licensing and educating service providers impact workforce readiness to provide the most state of the art treatment?

### *Community Knowledge of Community Mental Health Centers*

- What methods are used to educate the community about mental health center services?
- What is the service capacity of each of the centers, and please note how close each center is to meeting that capacity?
- What are the agency's policies on detecting drug shopping?

### *Screening Procedures*

- How often does the agency review the screening/clinical evaluation tool to determine if it is an accurate method of triaging patients?
- When a potential patient's evaluation indicates either a need for emergency services or urgent services, and other non mental health needs, is there follow up after the emergency or urgent episode is resolved to refer to care coordination?
- Where are the significant vulnerabilities in this system?

### *Innovations*

- What innovations have happened at the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center in the last decade?
- Explain more about peer-support services.
- Explain more about the work program that would allow Social Security SSI (Supplemental Security Income) beneficiaries to work and maintain their benefits.
- What percentage of rural communities utilize telehealth?
- What is the difference between the dialectical behavior therapy and moral reconnection therapy models?
- Quantify the decrease in hospitalizations related to the young adult injectable medication program at Columbia Area Mental Health Center.

### *Staffing*

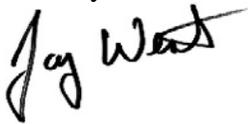
- What is the reason for the recent center executive director turnover across the system?
- What are the baseline educational and certification requirements to be an executive director?

### *School-based Mental Health Services*

- What are the funding mechanisms for school mental health services?
- How does the potential raise for school psychologists included in the FY 2020 appropriations legislation impact funding for mental health services in schools? See Provisos 1.3 and 1.89 of H.4000, as passed by the House of Representatives.
- What school mental health services models exist?

If these questions would yield responses that are not an accurate reflection of the agency or if additional time is needed to respond, please contact Committee staff. The Subcommittee looks forward to our next meeting, on April 23, 2019. Thank you for your service to the citizens of South Carolina and for your continued cooperation with the legislative oversight process.

Sincerely,



Jay West  
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Robert L. Ridgeway, III  
The Honorable Bill Taylor  
The Honorable Chris Wooten