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October 10, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Bryan P. Stirling, Director
Department of Corrections
Post Office Box 21787
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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

Dear Director Stirling and Director Binkley:

On behalf of the Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee and the Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee, we thank you and your respective teams for continued cooperation in the oversight process. As a follow-up to the September 16, 2019, joint meeting with the Department of Corrections (SCDC) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH), please provide a timeline for implementing or exploring implementation of the following areas of collaboration presented during the meeting. Additionally, please briefly describe how the responsibilities for each item are divided between the two agencies.

- Establish continuity of care automation of patient information for admission to and upon discharge from SCDC;
- Develop memorandum of agreement between agencies for release planning of inmates;
- Increase amount of medication provided by SCDC to inmates upon release to a 30-day supply;
- Increase the state's ability to gain access to inpatient and nursing home beds, particularly for women, during time of incarceration and upon release;

- Enhance Medicaid access upon release/discharge through the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) "Community Engagement" 1115 Waiver, which includes justice-involved individuals as a target population;
- Fund discharge planning positions within SCDC for community reintegration (DMH, SCDC, DHHS, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services [DAODAS])
- Conduct quarterly multi-agency meetings including DMH; SCDC; Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (PPP); DAODAS; and Department of Juvenile Justice;
- Offer joint multi-agency professional training;
- Expand community diversion efforts, (e.g., increase number of mental health courts; increase number of mental health professionals embedded with law enforcement, detention centers and PPP); and
- Continue participation with the South Carolina Behavioral Health Coalition and the Justice-Involved Population Subcommittee in its initiatives.

Other Potential Areas of Collaboration for Consideration

In addition to the presented opportunities for collaboration, members requested consideration of other potential areas of collaboration. Please work together to determine the feasibility. Include an implementation timeline and division of responsibilities if the collaboration is feasible; if not, please include the reasons why the collaboration is not feasible.

- Explore whether SCDC and DMH electronic medical records can communicate;
- Determine if DMH's automated medication dispensing system could be a model for a similar system at SCDC; and
- Explore ways to leverage DMH's contract for operating the sexually violent predator program, currently with WellPath, to include provision of parole-required training to sex offenders in SCDC custody.

Please provide a joint response to these questions by October 23, 2019. Thank you for your service to the citizens of South Carolina and for your continued cooperation with the legislative oversight process.

Sincerely,



Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair



Jay West
Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee Chair

cc: Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members
Healthcare and Regulatory Subcommittee Members