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February 20, 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 inpatient services. As a follow-up to the meeting, please respond to the following:

### *Inpatient Services Planning*

- Does the agency have a schedule by which policies related to inpatient services are reviewed and updated?
- What methods are used to estimate capacity needs?
- What are the methods by which the agency receives public or patient feedback about inpatient services?

### *Inpatient Services Human Resources*

- How did the agency correlate the staffing pilot with reduced turnover and increased employee morale?
- What are the onboarding and continuous training strategies for front line employees in inpatient services? How does the agency measure the effectiveness of these strategies?

### *Patient Discharge Practices*

- What is the daily cost of services for people that are being prepared to return to the community in the pilot program at G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital?
- Does DMH ever transfer a person to a local hospital with a psychiatric ward to provide continuing services?

- How many Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) patients are there? How many have been admitted in the last three fiscal years?
- What percentage of NGRI patients are returned to the community unmonitored by the Outreach Clinic? What percentage require ongoing monitoring?

*Joint Commission Accreditation Process*

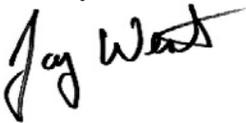
- What is the cost of the Joint Commission accreditation process?
- Are there other accreditation services that might be more cost effective?
- How was the Joint Commission, a private non-profit organization, selected as the accrediting entity?
- Does certification by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) serve the same purpose as Joint Commission accreditation?

*Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program (SVPTP)*

- Since anyone qualifying for the SVPTP is in prison for a qualifying sexual offense, at what point during the person's prison sentence does the Department of Corrections begin to offer treatment options?
- Once a person is adjudicated into the program, is there a prediction made on the likelihood of the treatment reducing the person's risk to society enough for him to reenter society?

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 March 5, 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