



SC Legislative News

January 29 – February 2, 2024

This update is prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) to keep you informed of state legislative updates that may affect the Agency, mental health, healthcare, budget information, and other issues of interest. This publication is also available to employees on the SCDMH intranet site. Contact Robin Crawford, SCDMH Director of Governmental Affairs, for more information at robin.crawford@scdmh.org.

On Wednesday, the Senate Medical Affairs Committee met to discuss [S.915](#), a bill that restructures the state's healthcare agencies, creates the Executive Office of Health and Policy, and creates a new Secretary position to lead that office. The committee adopted recommendations that include adding an Olmstead plan and departmental nomenclature changes. The bill was amended and approved, and staff will continue to work on suggested amendments to report to the Senate. The House will hold their first hearing on the House version of the legislation, [H.4927](#), on Tuesday next week.

On Thursday the Senate Medical Affairs Committee met to consider some statewide appointments and legislation. Dr. Crystal Maxwell was reappointed to the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, where she serves on behalf of South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District. The Committee also passed [S.408](#), a bill that would require one hour of suicide prevention training as a portion of the total continuing education requirement for counselors. The Committee amended the bill to add licensed social workers to the group of professionals who will be required to do the training.

[H.4159](#), the Telehealth and Telemedicine Modernization Act was enrolled for ratification this week and will be sent to the Governor's office where he is expected to sign the legislation to be enacted into law in the coming weeks.

Wednesday, March 6th, will be Mental Health Advocacy Day at the SC State House from 9am to 12pm. Remarks will begin at 10am on the south side State House steps. Join us as we connect with legislators and community champions to advocate for mental health and suicide prevention!

Visit the SC State House [website](#) to read any legislation of interest, [find out who represents you in the SC House and SC Senate](#), or to contact your legislators.