

In the Know

Issue 14

June 2025

Director's Message

Fiscal Year-end Updates

Hello SCDMH,

As another fiscal year comes to an end, our agency has undergone many changes with more to come! I want to ensure that you are as up to date as possible.

Reorganization

Following the passage of Senate Bill 2, Senior Leadership is working closely with the Governor's Office and Department of Administration as the Cabinet-level Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities takes shape. The Office of Mental Health is dedicated to working alongside our colleagues at the offices of Substance Use Services and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to ensure services for people in need in our state are more accessible, effective, and efficient. As this vital work continues, Leadership and I will keep you informed.

FY 26 Budget

The General Assembly has adjourned for the year, and the FY 25-26 budget has passed, with the exception of several vetoes by the Governor that must be considered by the Legislature. These vetoes do not concern the portions related to the FY 25-26 Office of Mental Health budget.



OMH InterimDirector: **Robert Bank, M.D.**

Director's Message *(Continued)*

Fiscal Year-end Updates

FY 26 Budget *(Continued)*

The OMH budget for the next fiscal year includes \$2 million dollars for community hospital bed days; \$800,000 for community-based jail programs in Berkeley and Orangeburg counties; \$6 million for state mandated programs; \$4.5 million for the Alternative Transportation Program; \$3,054,000 for community programs; \$8 million for inpatient services; and \$9.3 million for capital needs.

In addition, the Legislature allocated funds for pay-band based increases for state workers. Further details regarding these increases are forthcoming from OMH Human Resource Services.

Central Administration Move

The movement of the administrative staff of the South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Public Health to Otarre Parkway in Cayce is complete. The move has been a huge undertaking for our agency, requiring a great deal of planning and partnership between multiple components within our Division of Administrative Services (DOAS) and the SC Department of Administration, which coordinated the project. Thanks to our DOAS and central administration staff's hard work, more than 200 employees moved to new workspaces in a different county with limited to no interruption of support services to the agency's service array.

Though OMH's staff relocated in mid-May, our division of Physical Plant Services will continue to move additional furniture, equipment, and supplies for several more weeks, and some functional systems will evolve as staff adapt to a different workspace. Please also note, while the physical address of the Office of Mental Health's central administration is in Cayce, we ask that you continue to use PO Box 485, Columbia, 29202, for non-interoffice mail until further notice. Thank you for your patience during the move and as we adjust to our new location.

Director's Message *(Continued)*

Fiscal Year-end Updates

Transfer of State Veterans Nursing Homes

As you will likely recall from a previous update, in accordance with legislation signed by Governor McMaster in 2023, effective July 1, 2024, operation of South Carolina's contracted state veterans nursing homes transferred from OMH to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs in the first of a two-phase move. This included: Veterans' Victory House, Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home, Veteran Village, and Palmetto Patriots Home. Phase two of the transfer is now underway; effective July 1, Stone Veterans Pavilion at C M Tucker Nursing Care Center will fall under the purview of SCDVA, completing the transfer of South Carolina's state veterans nursing homes.

Thank you to all the staff in multiple divisions of Central Administration who have been working closely with SCDVA for more than two years to ensure this complex process would be as smooth as possible, and to assist Stone staff as they chose whether to remain with Mental Health in new inpatient positions or transfer their employment to Veterans Affairs.

C.M. Tucker's Roddey Pavilion, which opened in Columbia in 1983, will remain part of Mental Health's service array. The community nursing home provides intermediate and skilled nursing care to individuals in need of a nursing home level of care.

The facility, which comprises T-shaped units, called neighborhoods, each with a nursing station at its center, provides residents with a complete living environment, including medical care, nursing care, psychiatric services, rehabilitative therapy, pharmacy services, recreational and therapeutic activities, social services, pastoral care, and dietary services.

Currently, the Roddey Pavilion carries a Four-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

As OMH prepares to begin a new fiscal year, I am proud of the dedication of our staff. This newsletter highlights examples of the commitment to our mission that we will continue to meet no matter what changes the future brings.



Robert Bank, M.D.
Interim Director, Office of Mental Health

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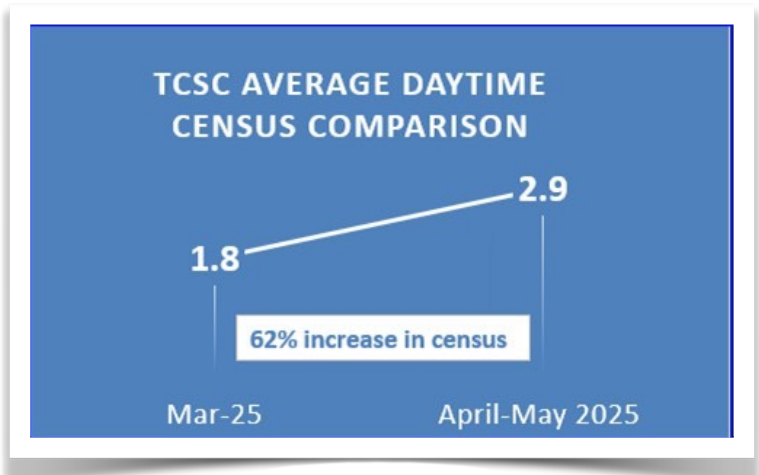
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CMHS Spotlight

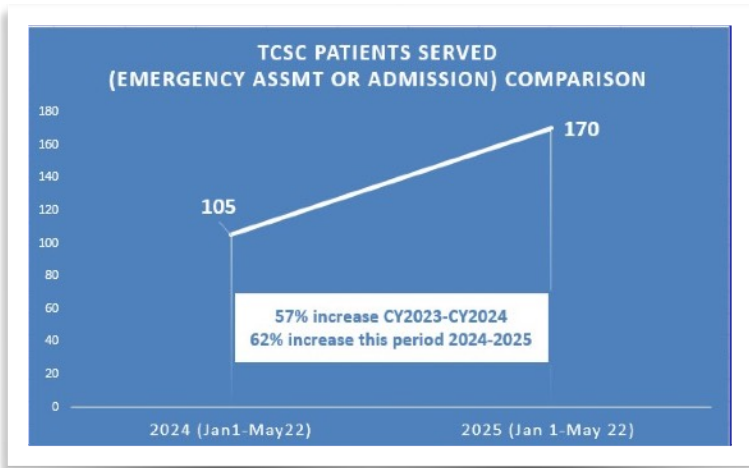
The Tricounty Crisis Stabilization Center

The Tricounty Crisis Stabilization Center (TCSC) is a 10-bed, voluntary, short-term facility for adults 18 and older, with the primary focus of stabilizing psychiatric symptoms. Located in North Charleston, the Center’s target population is people who are experiencing symptoms significant enough that they need more than outpatient services can provide, but whose symptoms are not quite at the level of requiring inpatient treatment. The program, staffed by 15 Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center employees, is designed to route these patients to a more appropriate level of care, when possible. The average length of stay at the TCSC is three to five days, with a maximum of two weeks.

At TCSC, each patient’s crisis intervention starts the moment they enter the unit – they do not wait to be treated. Discharge planning also starts immediately upon admission, to ensure patients are linked to aftercare services with an appropriate outpatient treatment provider when they are discharged.



The TCSC census continues to increase.



The TCSC census continues to increase.

Currently, the TCSC accepts police drop-offs, community referrals, Mobile Crisis referrals, and walk-ins, embodying the philosophy of there being “No Wrong Door” for individuals in need of treatment to be connected to mental health services. As part of this philosophy, the center accepts patients in crisis at any time of the day or night.

CMHS Spotlight (Continued)

The Tricounty Crisis Stabilization Center

In addition to its crisis work, the center also assists the Charleston and Dorchester clinics with walk-in intakes, as needed. TCSC is critical to the local community as a clinically and legally appropriate diversion from unnecessary emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and incarceration.

TCSC Inclusion Criteria:

1. In psychiatric crisis - suicidal, homicidal, psychotic, manic, depressed, etc.
2. Agrees to voluntary admission and is clinically appropriate for admission.
3. Medically stable (able to take care of medical needs without assistance).
4. Can perform activities of daily of living (ADLs), e.g., walking, eating, dressing, bathing, etc.
5. Can be dually diagnosed with mental illness/substance misuse.
6. 18 years or older.

TCSC Inclusion Criteria:

1. Meets criteria for involuntary treatment.
2. Medically unstable (requires IV, oxygen, etc.).
3. Only in need of housing.
4. Cannot independently perform ADLs.
5. In need of medical detoxification.
6. Recent violent behavior.
7. Under 18 years old.



The great room of the TCSC

Employee Spotlight

Carrying On A Legacy Of Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS!

South Carolina Department of Mental Health

2025 Palmetto Gold Nurse Award Winners



Jakara Hodges, BSN, RN-BC
Registered Nurse II / ACT Nurse
Berkeley Community Mental Health Center



Nicole Jennings, ADN, RN
Nurse Manager
G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital

Join Our Team

OMH Celebrates Employee of the Year and Louise Hassenplug Clinician of the Year

On Tuesday, June 10, OMH Interim Director Robert Bank, MD, announced the winners of the 2025 Louise R. Hassenplug Clinician of the Year and the 2024 SCDMH Employee of the Year awards.

The Louise R. Hassenplug Award, presented by the Mental Health Commission, was established in honor of Louise R. Hassenplug, who served on the Commission from 1987 to 1994. It recognizes dedicated clinicians who are deeply committed to helping others and creating healthier communities. As part of its final meeting in April, in one of its last official duties, the Mental Health Commission selected **Billie Stroud**, director of Intensive and Community-based Rehabilitative Services at the Lexington County Community Mental Health Center, as the winner of the Hassenplug award.

Ms. Stroud began her tenure at the center as part of the Intensive Community Treatment team, enthusiastically taking some of the most challenging patients onto her caseload, showing that therapy can be beneficial to all patients, even those who are more severely impaired. Working closely with the medical team, she helped individuals who struggled with adherence staying out of the hospital to achieve and maintain stability in the community. Billie uses multiple evidence-based treatment modalities, adding a bit of irreverence and humor, to encourage patients to pursue a new life of stability with improved self-esteem and a sense of purpose. Stroud became the director of Intensive and Community-based Rehabilitative Services, which oversees Assertive Community Treatment and four other programs. Her dedication to her patients, the LCCMHC, and to her profession does not stop there: over the past year alone, she received her LPCS license and became one of five professionals in South Carolina to hold Dialectical Behavioral Therapy -Linehan Board Certification.

To learn more about Billie and all of the nominees for this prestigious award, visit the OMH Human Resource Services intranet site or click on the following link: https://youtu.be/UZHU_QNcu-E.



Billie Stroud, Lexington County CMHC

Join Our Team *(Continued)*

OMH Celebrates Employee of the Year and Louise Hassenplug Clinician of the Year

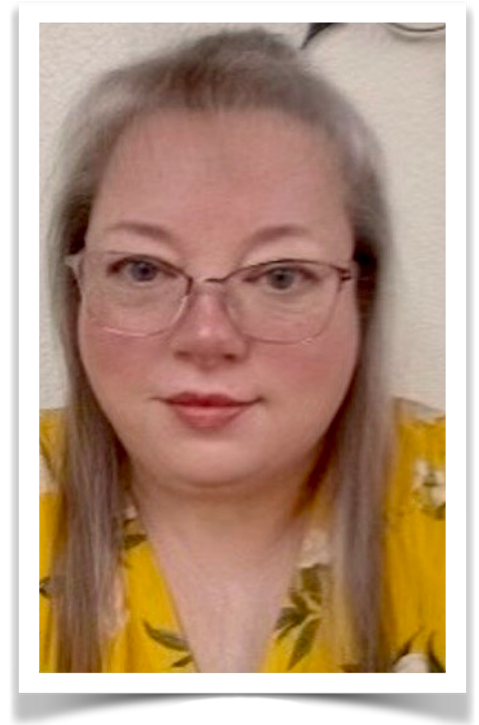
The agency's Employee of the Year is selected from a pool comprising each center, hospital, and division's Outstanding Employee winners. Congratulations to the 2024 OMH Outstanding Employee of the Year, **Peggy Fulton**, Environmental Health/Safety Compliance manager of Bryan Psychiatric Hospital and Morris Village Treatment Center.

Ms. Fulton began her career with Mental Health in 1986 as a clerical specialist at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. Her professionalism, dedication, and work ethic led her to obtain Healthcare Safety and Healthcare Emergency Professional certifications on her own. In her present position, she assists facilities with accreditation standards for Joint Commission (JC), Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the South Carolina Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS). In addition, Peggy serves as the hospitals' incident commander during drills and emergencies, communicating with agency leadership and community officials to ensure staff are informed.

To learn more about Peggy and the Outstanding Employees of the Year from each center, facility, and division, visit the OMH Human Resource Services intranet site or the following URL:

<https://youtu.be/zpUL7hSxR-Q>.


Do you know someone amazing who should join our OMH team? Share the link to our job openings at [OMH Careers](#).



Peggy Fulton
Bryan Psychiatric Hospital,
Morris Village Treatment Center

OCA Update

Upcoming Training Opportunities

<p>SCDMH OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS</p> <h2>JUNE 2025 FEED YOUR MIND PRESENTATION</h2>	
<p><i>Improving Communication Around Serious Mental Illness & Serious Emotional Disturbance</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance Communication Skills• Story-Driven Communication• Build Trust & Influence• Engagement Through Empathy <p>PRESENTER: ODELL A. BIZZELL, II, M.S.</p> <p>JUNE 18, 2025 @ 12:00 PM</p>	<p>USE THE QR CODE BELOW OR CLICK HERE TO JOIN</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>CEU HOURS AVAILABLE .125 CEUS 1.25 CONTACT HOURS</p>
<p>THE VIEWS AND INFORMATION EXPRESSED DURING THIS EVENT IN ANY FORMS - WRITTEN, SPOKEN, OR SIGNED- ARE 1) THOSE OF THE PRESENTER(S); 2) DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POLICY OR POSITION OF SCDMH; AND 3) ARE NOT INTENDED TO MALIGN ANY RELIGION OR MEMBERS THEREIN. ETHNIC GROUP, CLUB, ORGANIZATION, AGENCY, COMPANY, ENTITY, INDIVIDUAL, ANYONE OR ANYTHING.</p>	<p>SPECIAL REQUEST: PLEASE REGISTER USING YOUR DMH EMAIL ADDRESS ONLY.</p>

OCA Update (Continued)

Upcoming Training Opportunities



WHO NEEDS TO KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

- Employers.
- Police officers.
- Hospital staff.
- First responders.
- Caring individuals.

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

On average,
130
people die by
suicide every day.

Source: American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2019,
841,000
people died from
drug overdoses.

Source: Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Nearly
1 IN 5
in the U.S. lives
with a mental illness.

Source: National Institute
of Mental Health

Sources

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (n.d.). Suicide statistics. <https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Drug overdose deaths. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (n.d.). Mental illness. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

REGISTER TODAY!

Delivery Format:

Virtual

Date and Time:

8:30-5:00 PM on June 24, 2025

Location:

Virtual

Where to Register:

Go to SCEIS and look for DMH Mental Health First Aid Adults.

The course will teach you how to apply the MHFA Action Plan (ALGEE):

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **G**ive reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

OCA Update (Continued)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

SCDMH OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DISABILITY CULTURE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND RECOVERY

PRESENTER:
MANDY HALLORAN, BA

July 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM

Learning Topics:

1. Define Disability
2. Disability Rights Laws
3. Barriers to Health Access
4. Language and Identity
5. Medical Ableism
6. Dignity & Respect
7. Learn Better, Do Better

CEU HOURS AVAILABLE
.15 CEUS
1.5 CONTACT HOURS



USE THE QR CODE BELOW OR CLICK HERE TO JOIN



SPECIAL REQUEST: PLEASE REGISTER USING YOUR DMH EMAIL ADDRESS ONLY.

THE VIEWS AND INFORMATION EXPRESSED DURING THIS EVENT IN ANY FORMS – WRITTEN, SPOKEN, OR SIGNED – ARE 1) THOSE OF THE PRESENTER(S); 2) DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POLICY OR POSITION OF SCDMH; AND 3) ARE NOT INTENDED TO MALIGN ANY RELIGION OR MEMBERS THEREIN, ETHNIC GROUP, CLUB, ORGANIZATION, AGENCY, COMPANY, ENTITY, INDIVIDUAL, ANYONE OR ANYTHING.

OCA Update (Continued)

Upcoming Training Opportunities



Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

WHO SHOULD KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

- Teachers.
- School Staff.
- Coaches.
- Camp Counselors.
- Youth Group Leaders.
- Parents.
- Adults who Work with Youth.

WHY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18.

10.2%
of youth will be diagnosed with a substance use disorder in their lifetime.
*Source: Youth Mental Health First Aid***

1 IN 5
teens and young adults lives with a mental health condition.
*Source: National Alliance for Mental Illness**

50%
of all mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75% by the mid-20s.
*Source: Archives of General Psychiatry****

Sources
* National Alliance on Mental Illness. (n.d.). Kids. <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults/Kids>
** Mental Health First Aid. (2020). Mental Health First Aid USA for adults assisting children and youth. National Council for Mental Wellbeing.
*** Kessler, R., Berglund, P., Demler, O., Jin, R., Merikangas, K.R., Walters, E.E. (2005, June). Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 62(6); 593-602. doi.10.1001/archpsyc.62.6.593

REGISTER TODAY!

Delivery Format:

Virtual

Date and Time:

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on August 26, 2025 and October 7, 2025

Location:

Virtual

Where to Register:

Go to SCEIS and look for DMH Mental Health First Aid Youth.

The course will teach you how to apply the MHFA Action Plan (ALGEE):

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **G**ive reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

Events and Resources

2025 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference - July 30 - August 1, 2025

The 2025 Lowcountry Mental Health Conference is being held July 30 - August 1, 2025 and offers in-person and virtual viewing options. **SCDMH employs receive 50% off** and may receive up to **16 CEU/CME** credits! Visit www.lowcountrymhconference.com for more details.

LOWCOUNTRY
MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

July 30 - August 1, 2025
lowcountrymhconference.com

The Gaillard Performance Center
95 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC

Join Us This Summer!
The Lowcountry Mental Health Conference is a unique educational and networking event offering talks from leading experts in the field and beyond.

- 20+ Unique Talks
- Up to 16 CEs & CMEs
- Preconference Workshops
- Multiple Lunch Session Choices
- Buxton Bookstore
- 95+ Exhibitors
- And much more!

In-Person and Virtual Viewing Options

lowcountrymhconference.com

Other News

Central Administration Leaves Bull Street

Effective May 19, all staff of OMH's central administration had moved from 2414 Bull Street in Columbia to a new location at Otarre Parkway in Lexington County.

The Bull Street location, the first central administration building of the agency, opened June 1, 1969. Prior to its construction, the administrative services for the entire South Carolina Department of Mental Health were spread across five individual locations on the South Carolina State Hospital campus. The building's location was chosen due to its proximity to the campus and, according to the *SCDMH Sixth Annual Report*, was designed for 20 years of growth and expansion by the agency.



OMH center directors posed for a photo prior to their April meeting.

Other News *(Continued)*

Central Administration Leaves Bull Street

2414 Bull Street, for many years known informally as “The Palace”, served as headquarters for the agency’s state-level leadership and support services divisions for more than 55 years. To commemorate their departure from the building, staff held a brief “Goodbye, Bull Street” event in early May, where they posed for a group photo and reflected on the fact that while their workspaces may change, their dedication to supporting the recovery of individuals living with mental illness does not.



Staff of OMH central administration pose for a goodbye photo May 2, 2025.

Other News (Continued)

Mental Health Employees Receive Certified Public Manager Credentials

Office of Mental Health employees Koshay Arnold, who serves as chief of staff of the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services, and Logan Royals, OMH assistant general counsel, were credentialed as Certified Public Managers at the 2025 South Carolina Certified Public Manager Credential Ceremony May 22 at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center.

The South Carolina Certified Public Manager Program, a nationally accredited management development program for managers and supervisors in South Carolina state government, was initially accredited by the National CPM Consortium in 1996 and was reaccredited in 2022. Its goal is to encourage innovative management practices and high ethical standards, with a mission to provide quality training for public administrators, assist agencies in developing future leaders, and recognize management as a profession in the public sector. The Program promotes on-the-job application of learning and gives participants experience in solving agency problems.

Participants must successfully complete a rigorous program requiring 300 hours of coursework spanning a year and half, comprising learning assignments, group projects, passage of a written examination, and completion of a project related to their respective agencies to receive credentials.

Congratulations to Ms. Arnold and Mr. Royals!



LR Beckman CMHS Chief of Staff Koshay Arnold,
OMH Human Resource Services Director Gwen Watson,
and OMH Assistant General Counsel Logan Royals.

Other News (Continued)

Berkeley MHC embedded clinician recognized as “Civilian of the Year” by Local Police Department

Berkeley Mental Health Center Embedded Clinician and Mobile Crisis Team Member Erin Starnes, MSCP, LPC-A, has been selected as Civilian of the Year by the Hanahan Police Department.

Starnes, who has been embedded with the Hanahan’s team since the summer of 2023, was honored by the Department for handling more than 100 referrals and providing hundreds of hours of mental health treatment in the community.

In addition to her clinical work, Starnes was recognized for working with Department employees and community partners to provide more than 80 hours of outreach throughout the year, and developing a collaborative newsletter geared toward law enforcement personnel to help educate them about mental health, available resources, and physical and mental wellness in general.

Hanahan Police Department Deputy Chief Ted Davis said of Barnes in his nomination for the award, “I cannot say enough about the incredible positive impact our embedded clinician has had. Our community is safer. Those in need of professional counseling have a local, available option, Agency personnel have an internal, trusted team member in {whom} they confide. We, the Hanahan Police Department, are very grateful for Erin and I’m proud to nominate her for Civilian of the Year.”

Congratulations, Erin!



LR Erin Starnes and Hanahan Police Department
Chief of Police Rick Gebhardt.

Submit Content Ideas and Feedback!

Do you have an idea for an article or topic for, or feedback about, *In the Know*?

Contact the OMH newsletter team by sending an email to: newsletter@scdmh.org.

Help us improve our newsletter and highlight the excellent work you are doing on behalf of South Carolina!