

Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2026, Meeting held by TEAMS

Attendance:

Board Members:

Dr. Rosa Ishmal	Present	Janie Key	Present	Terry Lee	Absent
Marion Gary	Present	Barry Head	Present	Shandra Drayton-Bryant	Present
Dereck Bush	Present				

DMH Staff and Guest:

Tamara Smith	Present
Deb Blalock	Present
Jeanna Judy	Present
Lowell Koppett	Present
Dale Reeves	Present

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Call to Order	Dr. Ishmal called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.	None needed
Acceptance of Agenda	Motion to accept agenda- Berry Head made a motion and second by Janie Key. All Approved	None needed
Approval of the Minutes	Board members reviewed the June 23rd minutes. Janie Key motioned and seconded by Dereck Bush and Marion Gary, all in favor to approve the minutes.	None needed.
Board of Directors Presentation. by Board Members	Dr. Ishmal thanked Mrs. Key for helping to get the gifts for our former Board Members. Dr. Ishmal also thanked the Board members for coming together to recognize our former Members. Mrs. Key presented the gifts in recognition of their time with ABMHC Board of Directors and their dedication to ABMHC during their time on the BOD. Rev. Reeves and Lowell Thanked the Board for their recognition and Lowell. Dr. Ishmal thanked both Rev. Reeves and Lowell for their commitment and dedication to Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center. Tamara Smith thanked all of the Board Members for their dedication to ABMHC.	
Old Business	Dr. Ishmal welcomed Dereck Bush. Mr. Bush introduced himself to Dr. Ishmal.	
New Business		None needed.
Executive Director's Report by: Tamara Smith	Tamara discussed her report, in addition to the following: - Recruitment, Retention, Restructuring - Tamara advised of the current positions. - Integrative Care – Training Kick off will be 9/11 and will start in October. - Embedded positions for Aiken Center and ACDC have been hired.	

	• Increased volume in intakes and Crisis calls. • Christine Leonard is the New Program Manager for North Augusta. • Living Room Program has done a soft opening and started seeing internal patients. • ABRF has been busy supporting our clients. Tamara advised of the different items ABRF has been assisting with. • Jeanna advised of the Grant Award for the Highway to Hope Program of over \$302K. • Tamara recognized Jeanna for her hard work working on the Grant. • Tamara gave a shout out to the Barnwell Staff for all of their work.	
Finance Report: Jeanna Judy	• Budget for FY27 is still pending. • Recruitment, Retention and Reorganization • Living Room Bids will be opening up next week. • ABRD will be presenting at Women of Woodside for the Women of Woodside Enrichment Session on September 28. • Front Line Standardized Operations Manuals are being reviewed to be published for all locations. • Facilities Manager is being Reorganized. Jeanna is meeting with him weekly. • Billing Reorganization • IT Updates and Inventory.	
State DMH Report by: Deb Blalock	Deb Blalock discussed the following: • Budget has been approved. Staff pay raises will be paid out on Sept. 16. • Projects that need to be funded in the next budget. (988, Mobile Crisis, etc.) • Discussed new hires in HR Director, Chief Financial Officer, Procurement Director, Communications Director, and New Controller. • New OMH Acting Director- Dr. Kimberly Rudd. • OMH Director, State Operations Director, State Medical Chief position posted and closed. • Deb announced her retirement effective Jan 2027. • The Board Congratulated and Thanked Deb for all of her work over the last 34 years.	None needed.

	Marion Gary Motions, Dereck Bush seconded, All approved.	
Board Development/ Policy Committee Report	Marion Gary advised of the Dr. Charlene Moore-Peterson has been recommended. And Roselin Kenner in Barnwell County.	None needed.
Programs/Services Committee Report	No Report	None needed.
Community Action Items by: Dr. Ishmal	Mrs. Shandara Drayton-Bryant attended the ASSIST training at ABMHC. Mrs. Drayton also attends the MH/SU Consortium and sits on the ABRF Board.	None needed.
Adjournment	Janie Key Motion for adjournment seconded by Berry Head. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm	None needed.