

**Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 22, 2026, Meeting Held by In Person & Via Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Caroline Dibattisto, M.D. Chair; Ms. Alexis Scurry; Chair-Elect; Mr. Bill Lindsey, Secretary Treasurer/Past Chair; Ms. Yolanda Faraj; Ms. Linda Jefferson; Mr. Jim Mullen; Mr. Jerry Pate; Ms. Margaret Scott

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Ken Childs, Mr. Gene Green; Mr. Curtis Singleton

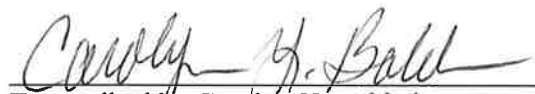
**Staff Present:** Dr. Alicia Benedetto, Program Director; Ms. Denise Blevins, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Kate Carpus, Victim Advocate; Ms. Kristen Dixon, Social Worker; Ms. Rebecca Gavin, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Ray Olszewski, Social Worker; Ms. Kathy Hugg, Executive Director; Ms. Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chief of Staff; Ms. Blaire Foutz; Ms. Carolyn Baldwin, Administrative Coordinator

**SCDMH:** Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director.

| Topic                                               | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Follow-Up |
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| Welcome and Introductions                           | Dr. DiBattisto called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Introductions were made.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |
| Approval of Minutes                                 | Minutes of the March 25 <sup>th</sup> board meeting were approved as written.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |           |
| Program Presentation<br><i>Dr. Alicia Benedetto</i> | <p>Dr. Benedetto provided an overview of the Metropolitan Children's Advocacy Center (MetCAC) and highlights are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) MetCAC is a child maltreatment evaluation clinic and forensic interviews, medical exams and victim advocacy services are provided. Children are referred by law enforcement, the Department of Social Services or both. Families cannot refer children to the clinic but will make the report to the appropriate agency.</li><li>2) MetCAC is part of the faculty for the program called Child First of SC which is a training program that all professionals who are going to have some occasion to interview children must go through to learn about what is involved. Forensic interviewers from other children's advocacy centers from around the state are required to attend the training. This is a weeklong training course and is provided four times a year in conjunction with the Children's Law Center and the SC Department of Behavioral Health &amp; Developmental Disabilities (BHDD).</li></ol> |           |

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|                                                          | <p>3) Approximately 500 to 600 interviews and medical exams are provided at the clinic each year. Currently we have one medical provider on board at the clinic one day a week and occasionally two days a week.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| <p>Deputy Director Report<br/><i>Deborah Blalock</i></p> | <p>The Senate's budget recommendation for BHDD was 23 million dollars. There was no funding recommended in the budget for 988 from the Senate or the House and no recommendation for the Department of Justice (DOJ) efforts. The big recommendation from the Senate is 7 million dollars to support the operations of the new Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) for children that was opened by the state at the beginning of March.</p> <p>Dr. Bank will be retiring, and his last day is June 1, 2026. No director has been named for the agency yet. OMH leadership was informed today that there will be a posting in approximately a month for the state facility director and the medical chief for BHDD.</p> <p>BHDD has selected a new Facilities Director, Eric Manning, and a new Human Resources Director, Colonel Jason Edwards. They are planning to visit the mental health centers to see what the needs are at the centers.</p> <p>The new Electronic Health Record (EHR) rolled out last week to the remaining 14 mental health centers. CAMHC was in the first roll out and staff assisted other centers with their roll out and the launch. We will continue to assist clinicians across the state with learning how to use the medical record. Once everyone is solid with the use of the medical record it should vastly improve billing.</p> |  |
| <p>Director's Report<br/><i>Kathy Hugg</i></p>           | <p>CAMHC is two months into the new EHR and while we are still working out the kinks on the billing side, staff are getting used to the EHR and having less issues.</p> <p>The Mental Health Court Graduation will be held on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Ms. Wilkinson and the rest of the Employee Recognition &amp; Wellness (ERW) Committee are planning some fun events for May, which is Mental Health Awareness month.</p> <p>CAMHC is still awaiting guidance on the restructuring of our administrative staff, HR, IT, billing and maintenance. It does appear that Ms. Foutz will remain in her role as Administrator and will take on some new roles.</p> <p>Leadership training has begun with all our supervisors. The first training was held at the beginning of April on the five love languages of appreciation. Next month's training will be on how to have a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |

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|                                         | difficult conversation. Every month there will be a different topic, and other senior managers will lead some of the classes as part of their growth in learning to be a leader in the center.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Financial Report<br><i>Blair Foutz</i>  | Ms. Foutz reviewed the FY26 Financial Report as of March 31, 2026. Staff have not been trained in how to extract reports from the new Avatar system, and we have not received any reports. We are still receiving money from the old system and still billing out of the old system for older claims. The training should be coming up soon and hopefully we will learn how to extract reports from the system. |  |
| Committee Reports                       | No reports at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| Consent Agenda<br><i>Dr. Dibattisto</i> | Dr. DiBattisto asked if there were any questions or comments related to the items on the consent agenda. There were no questions or comments. She called for a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. On a motion made by Mr. Pate and seconded by Mr. Lindsey the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.                                                                            |  |
| Other Business                          | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Adjournment                             | There being no further business, Dr. Dibattisto adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| Next Meeting                            | The next meeting of the CAMHC Board of Directors will be held on <b>Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at 2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |



Transcribed by Carolyn Y. Baldwin  
Administrative Coordinator to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors