

Santee-Wateree CMHC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2026, Meeting held by ZOOM.

Mission of Santee-Wateree Community Mental Health Center

"To support the recovery of people with mental illnesses within our communities of Sumter, Clarendon, Kershaw and Lee Counties."

Attendance: Jason Massey, Lawrence Graham, Mark Champagne, Douglas Mixon, Dr. Lara Kolb, Dr. Helene Guess-Goldsmith, Melanie Gambrell, Sylvett Porter, and Belinda Caudle

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Our Board Chair, Mr. Jason Massey, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone. The meeting was held via Zoom. Mr. Jason Massey gave the invocation.	
Approval of the Minutes	June Minutes were approved.	None
Center Update Dr. Helene Guess-Goldsmith, Executive Director	Dr. Helene Guess-Goldsmith discussed the following: • The 3rd quarter audit exit meeting was held today. We had a total of 65 charts audited, 47 adults and 18 children. We had a great deal of strengths that were noted and in the notation were several colleagues that did phenomenal work from the audit reports. Some areas were noted for improvement and will make sure that our clinical documentation meets the building standards. • Workforce development with our local HR to make progress of addressing to backfill for positions that need to be filled to provide efficient clinical services and other gaps to be filled. The approval process has been streamlined and getting more movement. • A preliminary approval of a grant funding for rural transformation initiative will be awarded to Santee Wateree in the amount of \$204,548.65. The funding has not been finalized.	Copies of the TMI Report have been distributed to the Board and staff prior to the meeting.

	• Sumter County Council has awarded Santee Wateree with \$50,00.00 for our FY27. Recognition is given to Mrs. Sylvett Porter, Lynn Melton and I presenting it to the Sumter County Council. • Due to the organizational changes, we will be restructuring our executive leadership meetings with a few updates. • I look forward to community engagement. Our next event will be Suicide Prevention Awareness in September. • As we expect challenges, I would like to see Santee Wateree clinics across the board strengthen in collaboration, planning and transparency.	
Asst. Deputy Director SCDMH Report: Deborah Blalock, OMH Deputy Director	Mrs. Deborah Blalock discussed the following: • With the merge of the three agencies in April 2025, we are called the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. (BHDD). • Finance, Human Resources IT, Facilities Maintenance and Communications have been centralized in core positions. There will be more executive leadership positions hired, and these positions have been advertised. • The Mobile Crisis grant through the Rural Health Transformation Initiative is final. We work with a company called Envoy that does a lot of work with SLED, and they will help us to utilize the services. This grant was given to every mental health center. • The latest conference agreement from legislatures, the joint agreement of 7-22, as follows will affect the mental health centers. We received over \$800,000 that will be given to Santee Wateree Catawba, Coastal and Waccamaw mental health centers to expand mobile crisis. Mr. Massey asked Mrs. Gambrell, “are we in risk of any current grants or funding being cut this year apart from the new grants?” Mrs. Gambrell replied, not that she is aware of.	

Financial Update: Sylvett Porter, Center Administrator	Mrs. Sylvett Porter discussed the following: • Mrs. Porter shared the budget forecast on the screen for the board to review. • Our fiscal year ended on June 30, 2026. I projected 345,00 and we brought in 338,000.00. • Since our go-live date of 04/13/2026 we have not received any revenue to date. • Overall, we are at 98% of revenue. • We are projected at a surplus of 53,393.00 • We spent \$9,000.00 less on utilities than last year due to ROI no longer in use at this time.	Information was sent to participants prior to the meeting.
Patient Care Hours: Dr. Helene Goldsmith, Executive Director	Dr. Helene Goldsmith discussed the following on productivity: • Report will be given at our next meeting.	
Core Report:	• No report for this month.	
Unfinished Business:	• No report currently.	
Council Reports	• No report currently.	
New Business:	• No report currently.	
Community Update:	• Kershaw County NAMI meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Grace Episcopal Church in Camden.	
Announcements:	• The NAMI conference will be held on September 3rd in Columbia. • Mr. Massey announced that school will start this week, please be mindful of your driving, school zones and pedestrians. Keep their mental health in mind as they are back with their peers.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mark Champagne, seconded by Mr. Larry Graham.	The next Board Meeting will be held via Zoom @ 6:00pm on September 1 st , 2026.

NOTES/COMMENTS: Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by Belinda Caudle.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____