

Santee-Wateree CMHC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 7, 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, Virginia Lawson, Dr. Lara Kolb, Deborah Blalock, Sylvett Porter, Travis Laws, 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	March Minutes were approved.	None
Center Update Sylvett Porter, Interim Executive Director	Mrs. Sylvett Porter discussed the following: <u>Former Executive Director. Mr. Ham’s Retirement and Successor</u> On March 27, 2026, we bid adieu our former executive director Mr. Jeff Ham with a retirement party. Our Deputy Director, Mrs. Blalock attended along with former board members, former and current employees, coworkers, stakeholders, and legislation. Rep. Murrell Smith (Sumter District) graced us with his presence to present to Mr. Ham with the SC House Resolution for his many years of service with the State. It was a great send-off. I would like to segue into welcoming our new Executive Director Dr. Helene Goldsmith who will be starting with us on April 17th, 2026. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and we look forward to welcoming her aboard. I am honored to be serving as interim Executive Director upon her arrival. <u>SC Cares First Meeting</u>	Copies of the TMI Report have not been distributed to the Board and staff prior to the meeting. Information will be distributed once sent from central office.

	On March 6, 2026, Our Sumter Clinic Director, Lynn Melton spearheaded the first meeting at our Logan center with the SC Cares committee that was assembled at our Sims Mapping workshop that we hosted in January. The meeting focused on recruiting community partners and sharing resources. This is the first of many meetings to come. <u>County Request for Fund Meetings</u> In mid-March, Kershaw County Clinic Director Kim Gaines and I presented our request for funds to the Kershaw County Council. Currently they are giving us 30k and we are asking for 35K. We are grateful for their contribution. I will be presenting our request to Sumter County Council on May 4, 2026. <u>CPIP Projects</u> After a year in the making, we have finally finished having the roof replaced in our Kershaw County clinic. The actual construction only took a couple of months, but between getting the bids and other changes in processes it took a while to get it done. In that same vein, we are awaiting a quote from the vendor for the mold remediation process for the building located in Sumter on Guinyard street, dubbed the ROI building. All indications are that it will be around 60K, but we don't know until we get the final quote from the vendor who was at the location last week to do a walk through. We will keep you abreast of any developments. <u>Go- Live Preparation</u> In anticipation and to get ready for our 'go-live" for the new EHR system on Monday April 13, 2025, the superuser team, comprised of Belinda Caudle, Africa Josey, Crystal Guess and I conducted a series of end user trainings throughout the month of March. Although there are angsts when a new system is introduced and implemented, I have to say, the feedback and interaction with the end users during the training was largely positive with staff. <u>Mental Health Awareness Month/Mayfest</u> With May being Mental Health Awareness month, we will be having our Mayfest events in all 4 catchment areas- ROI April 15, (12-4 PM), Lee Count May 1, (11-2 PM), Clarendon County May 1, (2-4 PM), Sumter May 22, (11-2PM) and Kershaw County May 29th (12-3 PM). Of course, you are all invited to attend, we would love to see you, Belinda will send you all the save date flyers.	
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Deputy Director SCDMH Report: Deborah Blalock, OMH Deputy Director	Mrs. Deborah Blalock discussed the following: • Budget meetings scheduled for May. • Detention center clinicians are expected to see adults and juveniles in detention centers and the mental health center. • First Episode Psychosis (FEP) - There are eight FEP programs across the state, I would like to see this program across the state. FEP is costly because it must meet fidelity models. • MDFT growth – centers must hire MDFT clinicians if have vacancies. Natalie Guenther will help with resources. All centers were given money to support MDFT. • School Mental Health – be aware some school districts are using a private provider, and they aren't providing the same services as OMH. The Greenville School District is cancelling SMH services. GGMHC has the largest school mental health program. • We must recruit licensed staff. All new hires are required to obtain licensure withing 3 years of employment.	
Financial Update: Sylvett Porter, Business/Center Administrator	Mrs. Sylvett Porter discussed the following: • Mrs. Porter shared the budget forecast on the screen for the board to review. • Overall, we are at 71% of expenditure and 72% of revenue, that I am happy about. • We are doing well.	Information was sent to participants prior to the meeting.
Patient Care Hours: Sylvett Porter, Executive Director	Mrs. Sylvett Porter discussed the following on productivity: • I am happy to announce that we have made PCH for the month of March 2026.	

Core Report: Travis Laws, Lee County Clinic Director/Patient Advocacy Officer	Mr. Travis Laws discussed the following: <u>Lee County Mental Health Clinic:</u> • The Lee County Team currently comprises (2 Full-time Admins, with one currently on FMLA) 2 Full-time Adult Clinicians, 3 Full-Time CAF Clinicians (2 school based/1 office based) and 1 Full-Time Law Embedded serving LCSD and BPD on M/W/F (Tues and Thurs- assist Sumter Main Clinic). <u>2025-2026 School Year Projection</u> • There is 1 CAF clinician assigned to the elementary school / 1 CAF clinician assigned to the middle school and high school/ 1 CAF (BA) assigned to handle all BMOD, PRS etc. (all schools) and 1 CAF clinician assigned in the office setting. • Mr. Ham, Lee County Clinic Director, Ms. Sylvett Porter, and Mr. Mark Bellemy met with Lee County School District Superintendent, Mr. McDaniels and its Board Chair, Mr. Brunson on 2/10/2025. Santee Wateree Mental Health Center proposed the use (with other local partners, i.e., medical provider, youth program, state agencies) of the soon to be vacant (July/August 2025) facility at the Dennis Elementary School (321 Roland Street, Bishopville, SC 29010). This facility would be used to house Lee County Mental Health. Key objectives are to increase mental health services, enhance infrastructure, provide public awareness, training, and to foster partnerships while providing the community with a “ONE-STOP SHOP” option: SWCMHC and the partners will present to the entire School Board on Thursday, April 23, 2026. As of Feb 2026, Lee County Clinic Director, Travis Laws met with Representative Keshawn Scott (House #50) and discussed the project. Rep. Scott stated his agreement and spoke with the school district on plans for moving forward. • Continued increase in community partnerships/ referral sources (Care south, Lee Center, Law enforcement, local churches, <i>most recently</i> Lee County	
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	Homeless Shelter and Calvary Food Pantry etc.). Lee County Mental Health is also part of the Lee County Inter-Agency Council that meets monthly. This platform allows the involved agencies to share community resources, events, grants, and funding sources. Ms. Kenya Dennis- Therapist current serves on the board of directors for Lee County Council on Aging. Lee County regularly partners with community events. Most recently on February 21, 2026, the RV was at the 1st Community Business Expo in Lynchburg, SC. Clinic Director Travis Laws has asked by Superintendent, Mr. McDaniel to serve on a district advisory board. Santee Lynches RTA asked Mr. Laws to serve on the RTA Board and City Council has asked that Mr. Laws serve on the County Zoning Board. • 1 FT Law-Embedded Position (Lee County Sheriff and Bishopville Police Department). This position continues to level the process for committals, judicial etc. This partnership has aided in a decrease in mobile crisis calls (Mon-Fri/ 8:30am-5:00pm). Law enforcement has access to inside training by a mental health professional. • Increased collaborations with the faith-based community (presentations to congregations, presentations at church community events, etc.) Lee County Council on Aging-Quarterly, Lynchburg Seniors Gathering-Monthly (Peer-Support was undertaking this group- Clinic Director will replace peer support in May of 2026) • The Santee Wateree Patient Advisory Board (SWPAB) continues to meet. The Board consists of Lee County Clinic Director (Patient Advocate), Santee Wateree ACT Team Peer Support (Facilitator), one client from each of the 4-catchment areas (Sumter, Kershaw, Clarendon, Lee). This board meets quarterly (1st 3rd Tuesday of each quarter). • As morale boosters for Lee County Staff, we celebrate everyone's birthday together, we go out to dinner after work, we go bowling, attend sporting events. Quarterly Employee of the month voted amongst the staff, Monthly productivity awards are presented to those that meet productivity, and under the leadership of Kenya Dennis (adult therapist) we participate in a monthly Chat and Chew. <i>This in-house group focuses on promoting self-care,</i>	
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	<i>hearing about and verbalizing concerns, as well as sharing potential solutions.</i> Lee County Mental Health Awareness Community Event will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 121 East College Street, Bishopville, SC 29010.	
Unfinished Business:	No report currently.	
Council Reports	No report currently.	
New Business:	No report currently.	
Community Update:	- Pathway to Healing, formally Sexual Trauma Services, “Annual Walk a Mile in Our Shoes”, will be held in Columbia on Tuesday, April 21st @ 6:00pm. - 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. - It was great to see Mr. Mixon attending the board meeting and welcome him back. - Mrs. Belinda Caudle will be sending the Mayfest Flyers, TMI report and Senate/House information from Mrs. Deborah Blalock.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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 May 5 th , 2026.

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____