

Santee-Wateree CMHC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 3, 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, Douglas Mixon, Lawrence Graham, Mark Champagne, Virginia Lawson, Dr. Lara Kolb, Deborah Blalock, Rebekah Kruszeski, Sylvett Porter, and Belinda Caudle

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Our Board Chair, Mr. Jason Massey, called the meeting to order at 6:01PM and welcomed everyone. The meeting was held via Zoom. Mr. Jason Massey gave the invocation.	
Approval of the Minutes	December Minutes were amended and approved. January Minutes were approved.	None
Center Update: Mrs. Sylvett Porter on behalf of Mr. Jeff Ham, Business/Center Administrator	Mrs. Sylvett Porter discussed the following: <u>LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!</u> - We had a few days of snow this past month. First, our Kershaw and Lee Clinics were closed on Jan.26 while the other 2 remained open. Yesterday the following County Clinics were closed due to the snow and ice, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter; the Clarendon Clinic was on a delayed schedule and will open at 1:00 PM on Monday afternoon. Today the following County Clinics operated on its regular schedule, Sumter, and Clarendon. Lee County Clinic was on a one-hour delay and Kershaw was on a two-day. Jan 26, Kershaw and Lee were closed. <u>BLACK HISTORY MONTH:</u> - The official Black History Month theme for 2026, designated by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH),	Copies of the TMI Report distributed to the Board and staff prior to the meeting.

	is "A Century of Black History Commemorations", celebrating 100 years since the first Black History Week in 1926, while also highlighting the ongoing work to integrate Black history into the national narrative. This theme focuses on the transformative impact of commemorating Black life and history, acknowledging its role in shaping American identity and challenging systemic injustices. Key Aspects of the Theme: • Centennial Celebration: It marks 100 years since Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month. • Focus on Commemoration: The theme examines how Black history and life commemorations have evolved and transformed the perception of Black people in the modern world. • Ongoing Struggle: It recognizes that 2026 coincides with challenges to democracy and civil rights, emphasizing the continuous need to defend and build upon Black history and achievements. • Broader Context: It ties into the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, linking Black history to fundamental American rights <u>48TH ANNUAL CROSS-CULTURAL CONFERENCE:</u> • This conference will be held this month beginning Feb. 26-March 1st at the Hilton Myrtle Beach SC. This is one of the longest run conferences in the state, and many of our staff take advantage of the topics, speakers, and Continuing Education Units it offers for licensure. • This year's conference is entitled, "From Awareness to Accountability". This conference is designed for persons working with diverse cultural groups including but not limited to students, social workers, nurses, professional counselors, psychologists, physicians, attorneys, law enforcement, policy	
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	makers, educators, members of the clergy, criminal justice professionals, as well as other interested personnel. One of my colleagues, Dr. Ebony Gaffney, Executive and Medical Director of Spartanburg MHC, is one of the presenters. She is addressing collaborative community mental health. Segway . . . <u>SIMS MODEL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN SUMTER:</u> • We held our Sumter County Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshop on January 29, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and on January 30, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Myrtis B. Logan Training Center, 801 N. Pike West, Sumter, S.C. 29153. We had some 40-community partner participation, including law enforcement, detention center, hospital, city and county officials, housing organizations, military veterans, alcohol and substance abuse, intellectual disabilities, and probate judges on hand. • SIM Mapping Workshops are designed to bring key local criminal justice, behavioral health, and community stakeholders to identify existing resources for responding to the needs of adults with mental and substance use disorders who are involved or at risk for involvement in the criminal justice system, as well as gaps in services and opportunities for cross-system collaboration and partnerships. • Objective: SIM Mapping Workshops result in the development of strategies for identifying and diverting individuals in the target population out of the criminal justice system and connecting them with community-based treatment providers and support services. The SIM Mapping Workshop includes the development of a local systems map that illustrates how the target population encounters and moves through the criminal justice system, as well as recommendations, local priorities for change, and action plans. • The SIM mapping workshop will be hosted and facilitated by BHDD, Office of Mental Health and Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA). PRA is known internationally for its work regarding adults with mental and substance use disorders who are involved or at risk for involvement in the criminal justice system.	
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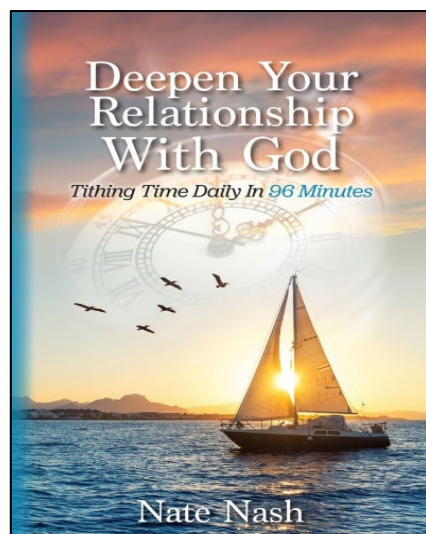
	<u>ROI MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT:</u> • Now is the time to register for the ROI Mental Health Matters: Faith as Support, Not Silence summit. As previously mentioned, this faith and mental health themed summit will be held on the campus of Morris College in the Neal Jones Auditorium on February 18th and 19th from 9am-4pm both days. Registration allows you to pick one day, if need be, but just know you will be missing out if you don't attend both days. • The presenters and panelists have a vast background and possess extensive, diverse, and deep experience within their respective fields. Our presenters and panelists are not merely familiar with the topic, but bring a wealth of knowledge, varied perspectives, and substantial professional history to the table. The Summit will include: • Educational & Informational sessions and panel discussions • Opportunities for dialogue around mental health, wellness, and faith-based coping strategies • Youth focused day and a youth led panel discussion • Over 40+ resource sharing tables from community and campus partners • Engagement opportunities for students through attendance, service, and leadership participation • Networking opportunities for all attendees • CEU's available from South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) for all therapists, counselors & social workers Please share this flyer and the registration link/QR Code with those that are in your professional and personal circles. Registration is a must for head count purposes. Registration Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRJFWJD We look forward to seeing you all. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need additional information. Hats off to Dr. Lanelle Darden and Keisha White for organizing this important event <u>ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST:</u> • The Kershaw Legislative Delegation Breakfast was held on Friday, Jan. 9 at the ALPHA Behavioral Health Center in Camden. Approximately 75 persons were in attendance, including Robin Crawford, our Legislative	
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Liaison (below right) and Board member Larry Graham (below right-white shirt). The ALHPA Center has sponsored breakfast for over 20 years.

- Legislators (seen pictured below left) in attendance included Sens. Allen Blackmon and Jeff Graham, Reps. Cody Mitchell and Brandon Newton. The legislators urged the community partners to continue working together in their efforts to make it easier for people to get services. Local city and county agencies and businesses and the public are invited to attend.

AUTHORS AT SANTEE WATEREE MHC:

- Congratulations to Kenya Dennis, Lee County MHP and Nathaniel Nash, IPS Lead, who both have published books recently. This is a shining example of staff having a balanced work life. Having a healthy work-life balance means maintaining a harmonious relationship between your work and personal life. It involves consciously managing your time and energy to meet both professional and personal commitments while prioritizing self-care and well-being. Kudos to both staff!



Nash's book, entitled, *Deepen Your Relationship with God* is designed to inspire individuals to cultivate a more meaningful and intentional connection with the Creator. In a world filled with distractions and endless tasks, it is easy to overlook the most vital relationship we have-our fellowship with God. This book emphasizes the importance of prioritizing time with Him, encouraging readers to set aside just 96 minutes each day for spiritual growth.

Through practical guidance and heartfelt insights, readers will learn how to integrate these moments into their daily lives, transforming mundane routines into sacred

	practices. Each chapter offers reflections, prayers, and actionable steps that empower individuals to engage with their faith on a deeper level. By committing to this practice, readers will not only enhance their spiritual journey but also experience a profound sense of peace and purpose. The book serves as a reminder that nurturing our relationship with God is not merely an obligation but a source of joy and fulfillment. As individuals embark on this journey, they will discover the beauty of intentionality in their spiritual lives, leading to a more vibrant and enriching experience. We are proud of our authors!	
Deputy Director SCDMH Report: Deborah Blalock, OMH Deputy Director	Mrs. Deborah Blalock discussed the following: • Mr. Mark Champagne did a great job kicking off the SIM workshop. The board will receive a report from the workshop in 6 weeks. • The BHDD budget was presented on January 21st. • Mrs. Blalock shared the screen and discussed the BHDD Programmatic Integration Organizational Design chart for the 3 merged agencies of BHDD. All administrative staff will fall under the Dept. of Administration. The current structure will stay in place until the state facility director and medical oversight person gets hired. • No wrong door plan is to have a person from each mental health center embedded in each 301 agencies.	
Financial Update: Sylvett Porter, Business Administrator	Mrs. Sylvett Porter discussed the following: • We are 50% in our fiscal year. Mrs. Porter shared the budget forecast on the screen for the board to review. • Overall, we are at 52% of expenditure. • We are doing exceptionally well.	Information was sent to participants prior to the meeting.
Patient Care Hours: Sylvett Porter, Business/Center Administrator	Mrs. Sylvett Porter on behalf of Mr. Ham discussed the following on productivity: • We are almost there; we have some notes to sign for January. Mr. Ham will report with an update in March.	

Core Report: Rebekah Kruszeski, HR Director	Mrs. Rebekah Kruszeski discussed the following: • Mrs. Kruszeski shared the screen and presented it to the board regarding human resource services. • We have special partnerships with Central Carolina, Shaw AFB, National Health Service, USC, apprenticeship programs and by attending local job fairs. • Santee Wateree's main goal is to recruit and retain staff	
Unfinished Business:	• The board discussed dates and times to meet to interview applicants for Mr. Ham's position. The conclusion came for interviews will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the Myrtis B. Logan Center.	
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.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mark Champagne.	The next Board Meeting will be held via Zoom @ 6:00pm on March 3 rd , 2026.

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____