

Santee-Wateree CMHC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 5, 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, Dr. Helene Guess-Goldsmith, Deborah Blalock, Sylvett Porter, Kimberly Gaines, Christina Miller, 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	April Minutes were approved.	None
Center Update Dr. Helene Guess-Goldsmith, Executive Director	Dr. Helene Guess-Goldsmith discussed the following: Dr. Goldsmith thanked and expressed her sincere appreciation to the board for giving her the opportunity for being the Executive Director for Santee Wateree. I am honored to serve in this role. Since stepping into this role, I have hit the ground running. I am learning about the 4 clinics and the programs, community and processes to make our center work well. Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to go to each clinic to speak with the clinic directors and their staff, their strengths, to ask about the needs for growth, engagement and future collaborations for the community. On April 29th, I attended my first Center Directors meeting in Cayce, SC and met with the other 16 center directors in the other counties.	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.

	<u>Mayfest</u> On May 1st, I attended the Lee County Mayfest in Bishopville and collaborated with the vendors, the clinic director, the community and the staff. They did a phenomenal celebration for mental health awareness and their engagement with the community. <u>County Request for Fund Meetings</u> I attended my first Sumter County Council Meeting with financial manager, Mrs. Sylvett Porter and Sumter Clinic Director, Lynn Melton. Mrs. Porter did a phenomenal job presenting to the council. Mr. Graham responded via email to welcome Dr. Goldsmith and wish her well!	
Deputy Director SCDMH Report: Deborah Blalock, OMH Deputy Director	Mrs. Deborah Blalock discussed the following: • Dr. Bank is retiring on June 1st. No one has been named as his replacement for the mental health office. • The Senate reported their recommendations. The House recommendations are 21 million for all BHDD. OMH received 31 million last year. • I have been spending time with Dr. Goldsmith over the past week, on Wednesday and Friday. I'm excited for her joining us and looking forward to working with her to have a great ride. • I attended the Lee County Mayfest and it was phenomenal, and I have challenged the other centers across the state to go against Lee County. Jasper County Clinic Director has accepted the challenge for a healthy competition. Mr. Massey thanked Mrs. Blalock for attending our meetings and her report.	
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. • We are in the 9th month of the fiscal year. • Overall, we are at 74.68% • We are projected at a surplus of 112,000.00. Mr. Massey thanked Mrs. Porter for serving as interim Executive Director before Mrs. Goldsmith stepped in for the position. We appreciate your time and assistance along with your other job duties.	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: • Due to our new implanted electronic health record, I will not be able to give you the accurate number for our patient care hours at this time.	
Core Report: Kimberly Gaines, Kershaw County Clinic Director Christina Miller, Law Enforcement Embedded Clinician	Mrs. Kimberly Gaines discussed the following: <u>Kershaw County Mental Health Clinic:</u> • We are doing well in Kershaw County. We are maintaining while we are getting adjusted to the new Electronic Health Record. • Kershaw County Mayfest will be held on May 29th from 12-3pm in Camden. Mrs. Gaines introduced Mrs. Christina Miller, Law Enforcement Embedded Clinician for Kershaw County. Mrs. Miller has served in this role since October 2022. She stated that she is very passionate about bridging the gap between law enforcement and mental health. She is available for walk-ins. There are over 100 consultations with law enforcement officers monthly, I connect with 40 to 50 patients a month. Mrs. Miller stated that she is grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position. Via email by Mr. Graham due to technical difficulties-Mr. Graham stated that in 2022, Christina Miller was on DMH payroll and with cuts this changed to Kershaw County paying her through the Sheriff's budget. The collaboration is so successful, all involved are very pleased with the arrangement.	
Unfinished Business:	• No report currently.	
Council Reports	• No report currently.	
New Business:	• No report currently.	
Community Update:	• Clarendon County Mayfest will be held on May 15, 2026, 2-4 pm, Sumter County Mayfest will be held on May 22, 2026, from 11-2 pm, and Kershaw County Mayfest will be held on May 29, 2026, from 12-3pm. • The Iris Festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend in Sumter. • 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 6:30 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 June 2, 2026.

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____