

Santee-Wateree CMHC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 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, Lawrence Graham, Mark Champagne, Virginia Lawson, Dr. Lara Kolb, Melanie Gambrell, Jeffery Ham, Rebekah Kruszeski, Lynn Melton, Dr. Marian Dehlinger, Sylvett Porter, Rodney Conyers, Travis Laws, Kim Gaines, Mark Bellamy, Dr. Andrea Darden 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	February Minutes were approved.	None
Center Update Mr. Jeffery L. Ham, Executive Director	Mr. Jeffery Ham discussed the following: After a total of 36 years working with the Department of Mental Health, with 8 years serving as the Executive Director for Santee Wateree Community Mental Health Center, Mr. Ham's effective retirement date will be April 1, 2026. Mr. Ham invited his Executive staff members to attend this meeting to give them their accolades for a job well done serving in their positions. He appreciates all the staff's hard work and the collaborations with several partnering agencies across the catchment area. We have had three successful CARF Accreditations and several staff promoted to higher positions in my tenure. I am proud of the great networking, partnerships, and relationships with law enforcement, the school district, our local county representatives and several others that we have made over the past few years.	Copies of the TMI Report have not been distributed to the Board and staff prior to the meeting.

	Thank you so much to the Santee Wateree Board for allowing me to serve as the Executive Director. Thank you to the staff for all that you have done and will continue to do. I love and will miss you all dearly!	
Deputy Director SCDMH Report: Melanie Gambrell, OMH Assistant Deputy Director	Mrs. Melanie Gambrell discussed the following: • Last meeting, Debbie Blalock shared the organizational chart with the board members. Mrs. Gambrell stated as an update, positions have been advertised to be filled. • An Office Directors meeting is held every Wednesday with Dr. Bank, Constance Holloway, Sarah Goldsby with Jamie Shuester from the Governor's office. Debbie and I, along with a few others, have been invited to attend this meeting to share our collaborative efforts. It is neat to see how everything is coming together amongst the agencies. • Region A has gone "live" for their Electronic Health record in February. There have been some bumps in the road, but we are meeting weekly with Region A Center Directors and IT to discuss issues. • I have been to 5 SIM events, and I have 7 more to go. Great job, Jeff on your SIM event at Santee Wateree. • Agencies will not be able to keep their surplus funds. We are working with the Department of Administration on our budgets; those surplus funds will likely go to the greater good of the agency but have not been finalized yet.	
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 62% of expenditure and 63% of revenue, that I am happy about. • We are doing well.	Information was sent to participants prior to the meeting.
Patient Care Hours: Jeffery L. Ham, Executive Director	Mr. Jeffery Ham discussed the following on productivity: • Report has not been dispersed, will be dispersed to the board members and executive staff when given.	

Core Report: Dr. Andrea Darden, ROI/CAF Director	Dr. Andrea Darden discussed the following: <u>ROI MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT:</u> The ROI Mental Health Matters: Faith as Support, Not Silence summit. As previously mentioned, this faith and mental health themed summit was held on the campus of Morris College in the Neal Jones Auditorium on February 18th and 19th from 9am-4pm both days. We had over 50 partners that participated with vendor tables and information. This was focused towards getting our young people more engaged about mental health and their faith. It was a very good turn out and we are planning to have this event again next year. Belinda Caudle shared the pictures from the event with the board to review. Morris College has agreed to allow us to use one of their houses on campus and the number has increased of students receiving services. We are very proud of that. • Our Zero Suicide Initiative, Kershaw County has the highest incident of suicidal rates in the state. We met with our leadership this past month to brainstorm and target educating them on suicide prevention, 988, work with the community and give information in the schools to take home. We have one person from each county as a Zero Suicide Champion that we meet monthly to focus on their area about educating suicide prevention. We welcome any feedback and participation to assist with the engagement of suicide prevention. • For CAF services, we have our school-based counselor and APRN providing tele-health services to our middle and high school students to our North Central students. • We have a conference scheduled in April for our CAF counselors. We have one of our Clarendon County school-based counselors who will be attending. Mr. Massey replied that he attended the first day of the ROI Summit and it had a lot of great resources from the partners.	
Unfinished Business:	• Mr. Jason Massey, Board chair, thanked each of the board members who agreed and participated in being on the sub-committee for the interviewing of the next SW Executive Director. Out of our interview process, we chose the	

	top candidates to move forward to the final interview with the executive leadership. Mr. Massey opened the floor for the attending board members and staff for best regards to Mr. Ham on his retirement. In conclusion, of all staff and members that spoke, he will be greatly missed.	
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. - Mrs. Belinda Caudle will be sending Mr. Ham’s Retirement Drop-In Invitation to everyone tomorrow. Also, she informed everyone that Mr. Mixon, Board Secretary, broke his femur and is currently in rehab in Hartsville. He is in good spirits and thanked everyone for their prayers.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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 April 7th, 2026.

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____