

Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes February 25, 2026, Meeting Held by In Person & Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Caroline Dibattisto, M.D. Chair; Ms. Alexis Scurry; Chair-Elect; Mr. Bill Lindsey, Secretary Treasurer/Past Chair; Mr. Gene Green; Ms. Yolanda Faraj; Ms. Linda Jefferson; Mr. Jim Mullen; Mr. Jerry Pate; Ms. Margaret Scott, Mr. Curtis Singleton

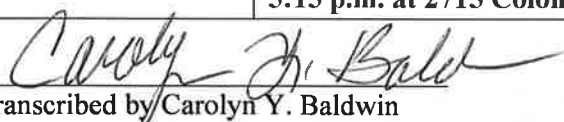
Staff Present: Ms. Kathy Hugg, Executive Director; Ms. Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chief of Staff; Ms. Blaire Foutz, Administrator; Ms. Carolyn Baldwin, Administrative Coordinator

SCDMH: Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director.

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Dr. DiBattisto called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the January 28th board meeting were approved as written.	
Deputy Director Report <i>Deborah Blalock</i>	The SC Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) annual budget presentation to the Senate is scheduled in March. Ms. Janie Shuster-Godfrey will be making the presentation. Ms. Blalock indicated that there is some movement on the No Wrong Door concept and a few things are happening now as follows: 1) Each mental health center received approximately \$89,000 to create a position to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Centers have created those positions, and the positions should be in the process of being requested and posted. 2) Discussions are being held regarding creating positions to provide ADA therapy for individuals who live with autism. The Governor's office is aware that we will need funding for this. 3) In a few counties there have been some co-locations with the 301 agency which is the alcohol and drug agency. There is co-location in St. George in Dorchester County with some staff from the mental health center and staff from the 301 agencies. We are looking at that same model in Union County, but this has not happened yet. 4) The staff at the Office of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) is offering training to BHDD in intellectual and developmental disorders and on autism.	

	5) The Office of Mental Health (OMH) has positions for psychiatrists who have been providing ED telepsych to emergency departments but over time the reliance on OMH's telepsych has been declining. One of the things that OMH is in the process of discussing is that those physicians can be identified as those that can serve the IDD population as they come into our mental health centers. The Governor's office is reviewing the statute that creates the boards for the mental health centers and has been provided with a copy of the bylaws. During a recent meeting with Governor's office, Ms. Blalock said she brought up the need to have uniform policies across BHDD, especially regarding the population served. No director has been named for the agency yet.	
Director's Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	Three applications have been received for the IDD position. We're looking at making this position more like an adjunct therapist, someone who can work with both children and adults. The Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) was closed for approximately two weeks to get some plumbing issues fixed and is now back open. Staff from Three Rivers Behavioral Health and Lexington Hospital Empath were scheduled to come out today for a tour but will have to reschedule. CAMHC's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team is up to 86 patients and is still the largest in the state. We are looking to add an LPN to the team as the nursing demands increase. An informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd with the Richland County Legislative Delegation and prospective board candidates. The State office partnered with a group called Policy Research Associates (PRA) who will come in and help provide some different events across the state. For Richland County, a homeless response system mapping will be held next month. CAMHC is partnered with the City of Columbia and the United Way of the Midlands to host this event. Fairfield County informed us that we need to submit our budget requests from them which are due next week and we will present to them in May.	

	Mr. Hugg briefly discussed the new Electronic Health Record (EHR) which rolled out on February 3 rd . CAMHC was one of the four pilot centers.	
Financial Report <i>Blaire Foutz</i>	Ms. Foutz reviewed the Financial Report dated January 31, 2026, which shows a \$1.3 million carryforward that may not happen. She discussed some of the challenges regarding billing and transferring to the new system. Funding has been successfully transferred for us to begin our three projects; the expansion joints in the administration building, total replacement of the fire systems and new boiler/chiller. We are also buying office furniture for most of the lobbies in our clinics.	
Committee Reports	No reports at this time.	
Consent Agenda <i>Dr. Dibattisto</i>	Dr. DiBattisto asked if there were any questions or comments related to the items on the consent agenda. There were no questions or comments. She called for a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. On a motion made by Mr. Lindsey and seconded by Mr. Pate, the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.	
Other Business <i>Bill Lindsey</i>	The Legislative breakfast held on February 4 th at the State House was a great event. A small advocacy day was held on Tuesday, February 24 th . Several other events will be coming up in the community.	
Adjournment	There being no further business, Dr. Dibattisto adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting of the CAMHC Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. at 2715 Colonial Drive, Suite 100B, Columbia, SC	


Transcribed by Carolyn Y. Baldwin

Administrative Coordinator to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors