

Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes January 28, 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; Ms. Yolanda Faraj; Ms. Linda Jefferson; Mr. Jim Mullen; Mr. Jerry Pate; Ms. Margaret Scott, Mr. Curtis Singleton

Board Members Absent: Mr. Gene Green

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 December 3rd board meeting were approved as written.	
Deputy Director Report <i>Deborah Blalock</i>	Ms. Blalock reported that the Budget hearing was held at the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tuesday, January 20th. The Senate meeting will be held next, but we don't have a date for that meeting yet. The Office of Mental Health (OMH) leadership was presented with the new programmatic integration organizational design for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) on Friday, January 16th. There were three meetings held that day; one with the office directors, the second meeting was with office directors and their direct reports, and the third meeting was held with the center directors. Ms. Blalock reviewed the new organizational design and shared the objectives for the agency. Currently BHDD is divided into three divisions: OMH, the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD), and the Office of Substance Use Services (OSUS). With the new structure BHDD will be divided into six divisions: OMH, OIDD, OSUS, State Facilities, Medical Oversight, and Central Administration.	

Director's Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	Ms. Hugg reported that a Town Hall meeting was held for the entire center on January 14th. We reviewed the positives for 2025 and 2026. Some of the concerns from the recent staff satisfaction survey were also addressed. A physician has been hired to do our judicial exams. Richland County has more judicial exams than any other county in the state and we are booked through March. We received our CARF accreditation and are accredited for another three years. The Electronic Health Record (EHR) go live is Monday, February 2nd. Ms. Wilkinson is one of our superuser trainers. The trainers have done an outstanding job getting staff trained on the new system.	
Financial Report <i>Blair Foutz</i>	Ms. Foutz reviewed the Financial Report dated December 31, 2025, which showed a \$671,000 carryforward. CAMHC was erroneously awarded \$200,000 for mobile crisis which will be coming back out of the budget in the month of January. This change will be reflected in next month's financial report. We have successfully transferred funding to support three projects; the expansion joints on the building, the boiler and chiller will be replaced, and we are replacing our obsolete fire system.	
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>Mr. Lindsey</i>	Mental Health Advocacy Day will be held on Wednesday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the State House. Training will be held at 8:00 a.m. and attendees will go to the State House at 10:00 a.m. and will have an opportunity to speak to their representatives about specific legislation involving mental health. A legislative breakfast will be held prior to the training and over 100 legislators have attended this event in the past. Ms. Pam Eyring was elected as the new President of the Board of Directors for NAMI in November. She has been on our board for seven years. A brief interview will be held on WIS TV on Wednesday, February 4th around 12:45 p.m.	

<i>Ms. Baldwin</i>	The Richland County Delegation nominated a new board member at their January 12th meeting. The nomination has been forwarded to the Governor's Office.	
Adjournment	There being no further business, Dr. Dibattisto adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting of the CAMHC Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 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