

**Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026, Meeting Held by In Person & Via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Caroline Dibattisto, M.D. Chair; Mr. Bill Lindsey, Secretary Treasurer/Past Chair; Mr. Gene Green; Ms. Yolanda Faraj; Ms. Linda Jefferson; Mr. Jim Mullen; Mr. Jerry Pate

Board Members Absent: Alexis Scurry; Chair-Elect; Ms. Margaret Scott; Mr. Curtis Singleton

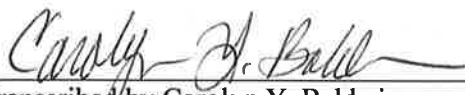
Staff Present: Ms. Kathy Hugg, Executive Director; Ms. Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chief of Staff; Ms. Blaire Foutz; Ms. Carolyn Baldwin, Administrative Coordinator

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 May 27th board meeting were approved as written.	
Deputy Director Report <i>Deborah Blalock</i>	The position of Office Director for the Office of Mental Health (OMH) was posted and closed last week. The other two positions that were posted and closed last week were the Medical Chief for the agency of BHDD and the State Program Director position which is the position that is over the mental health centers, the hospitals, the regional centers, community residential care facilities and the autism homes. That is where the mental health centers will have their line of report. The budget has not been approved yet by the new CFO and it is uncertain what will happen with the center's budget and the center's carryforward. Ms. Blalock said she will be in an all-day meeting on Thursday, June 25th with a company called Envoy which is a consulting firm that was engaged by the Department of Administration (DOA) and BHDD to meet with leadership of various offices of BHDD. Discussion will focus on things that could be going better and the vision for the agency. The moves have been made partially for administrative staff. The administrators, Human resources, Finance and IT staff are no longer reporting to center directors.	

Director's Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	Beginning July 1st, the center is moving to new PCH standards which are higher than it is currently. Starting July 1st, we are supposed to start receiving a new PCH report and will be able to track PCH. All clinicians will have to give four hours every working day that they are here. Doctors and nurse practitioners, if they are employees, will need to give five hours and contract providers will need to give six hours per day which is substantially higher than it was before. Our LRADAC embedded staff, Lindsay Clark, started this month in Adult Clinic Services. Our new Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD) staff, Jason Deussenberry starts next week. He is one of our internal staff who has a great deal of experience with this population. There has been a lot of staff turnover in our school mental health program. There are six vacancies and we are trying to get those positions filled. This is the most vacancies that we have had in this program. The water leak that was reported at the last board meeting, which was costing the center approximately \$1400 per month, has been fixed. Currently having some challenges with the lease of our Fairfield building.	
Financial Report <i>Blaire Foutz</i>	Ms. Foutz reviewed the Financial Report as of May 31, 2026. We are working hard to balance everything so the Center does not end the year in a deficit. General discussion was held.	
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. Green and seconded by Mr. Lindsey the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.	
Board Bylaws	The board bylaws were accepted as is with no changes.	
FY2027 Board Meeting Schedule	The FY2027 Board Meeting schedule was approved. The September meeting will be held at the Fairfield Clinic, and the April meeting will be held at the Lower Richland Clinic. All other meetings will be held at 2715 Colonial Drive, Suite 100B, Columbia, SC	
FY2027 Committee Membership	Ms. Yolanda Faraj was added to the Client Services Committee.	
Committee Reports	No reports at this time.	

Other Business	Mr. Lindsey announced that the NAMI SC Annual conference will be held on Thursday, September 3 rd at the Richland School District II complex in Sandhills. Ms. Hannah Wesolowski, who is the head policy person at the federal level, will be one of the guest speakers. Sheriff Leon Lott is also a guest speaker and will do a personal testimony about his involvement with mental illness.	
Adjournment	There being no further business, Dr. Dibattisto adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting of the CAMHC Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, August 25, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at 2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC.	



Transcribed by Carolyn Y. Baldwin
Administrative Coordinator to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors