

Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes March 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. 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 February 25th board meeting were approved as written.	
Deputy Director Report <i>Deborah Blalock</i>	Ms. Blalock said she met with the Department of Administration (DOA) on Tuesday, March 17th regarding structure of the centers and what they will look like when the administrative functions are pulled out from the centers. The organizational structure for the administrative service line has not been designed yet and we were told that we should have it in April. In the future, the centers will not be supervising their human resources, billing, budget, IT or physical plant services staff. The South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) received budget recommendations from the House Ways & Means Subcommittee. There is a total of \$21 million for BHDD as follows; \$9 million for Technology and Security Measures for the agency; \$5 million for the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD); \$3.8 million for the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and \$4 million for the Office of Substance Use Services (OSUS). There is no new funding in the budget for 988. The grants that support 988 will end on September 30th and are critical to the current operation of the 988 call centers. BHDD has selected a new Facilities Director, Eric Manning, and a new Human Resources Director, Colonel Jason Edwards. OMH is currently down to one attorney to support the entire agency, which is of great concern. The Governor's Office and the DOA have been made aware of this issue.	

	No director has been named for the agency yet.	
Director's Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	Ms. Hugg said she recently attended a Homeless Response Mapping Systems event on March 24th. She partnered with United Way of the Midlands and the City of Columbia to collaborate on the event. There was a total of 40 people in attendance, and discussion centered around the homeless situation in Richland County. The top three topics/concerns from the meeting were more affordable housing, more access to behavioral health treatments and better coordination of discharge from corrections, detention centers and the local hospitals. We assigned people to work on those needs and worked on making some action items. Ms. Dianetta Reddenburg -Newton has been hired as the new director for our Fairfield Clinic effective April 2nd. She is one of our school mental health supervisors and has experience with both adults and children. The April board meeting will be held at the Metropolitan Children's Advocacy Center (MetCAC). Three applications have been received for the IDD position. We continue to work on our new Electronic Health Record (EHR) and are still in the learning curve.	
Financial Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	Ms. Hugg reviewed the Financial Report dated February 28, 2026. February's billing has not gone out yet as there are still some issues being worked out with our new EHR system. Ms. Blalock added that centers will not be allowed to carry forward their surpluses which will be combined for the entire OMH agency.	
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. Mullen, the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.	
Other Business	None.	

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, April 22, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. at the Metropolitan Children's Advocacy Center, Columbia, SC	



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