

**Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2026, Meeting Held by In Person & Via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Caroline Dibattisto, M.D. Chair; Mr. Gene Green; Ms. Ms. Yolanda Faraj; Ms. Linda Jefferson; Mr. Jim Mullen; Mr. Jerry Pate; Ms. Margaret Scott; Mr. Curtis Singleton

Board Members Absent: Alexis Scurry; Chair-Elect; Mr. Bill Lindsey, Secretary Treasurer/Past Chair

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 April 22 nd board meeting were approved as written.	
Deputy Director Report <i>Deborah Blalock</i>	Dr. Bank will be retiring, and his last day is May 29th. A retirement celebration was held for him on Tuesday, May 19th at the Office of Mental Health (OMH). On Friday, May 22nd, Governor McMaster presented him with the Order of the Palmetto. Ms. Janie Shuster Godfrey recommended that Dr. Bank be bestowed this honor. Dr. Kimberly Rudd, who currently serves as chief executive officer and medical director of Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, has been named Acting Office Director for OMH. OMH Leadership was informed on May 26th that the position for the State Operations Director was posted. This position will oversee the hospitals, the mental health centers, the regional centers operated by the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD), the autism homes operated by OIDD and the community residential care facilities (CRCFs) operated by OMH. The position for the Medical Director of BHDD was posted last Friday and both positions will close in two weeks. The interim office director position for OMH was also posted.	

	Regarding the budget, the House and Senate will reconvene in mid-June. The Senate recommended 23 million dollars and the House recommended 21 million dollars. There is no funding in the budget for 988 call centers. OMH Leadership was informed again by SAMHSA that a grant is going to drop to fund 988 on May 29, 2026. Mental Health Centers continue to work on the No Wrong Door efforts.	
Director's Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	A selection was made for the new IDD position. Hopefully the salary will be approved quickly so we can get them on board. LRADAC has embedded a staff at CAMHC who will be starting the first week of June in the Adult Clinic. They may have a second candidate to embed here who will be located at the Lower Richland Clinic. A meeting was held with Fairfield Behavioral Health to discuss the possibility of doing some embedding within their agency or at CAMHC. Ms. Hugg and Ms. Foutz presented next fiscal year's budget to Deputy Blalock and other staff at the state office and a representative from the Department of Administration (DOA). A presentation was also made to Richland County Council of our FY27 budget requests, which is a requirement of all mileage agencies. Ms. Wilkinson and the new director at the Fairfield Clinic made a presentation to Fairfield County Council to request funds for the upcoming fiscal year. Efforts are underway to try and locate a water leak that is resulting in a water bill of \$14,000 per month.	
Financial Report <i>Blair Foutz</i>	Ms. Foutz reviewed the Financial Report as of April 30, 2026, which reflects a carryforward of \$1.4 million. 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. Pate and seconded by Mr. Mullen the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.	
Board Bylaws Review	Dr. DiBattisto asked board members to review the board bylaws and if there is anything that needs to be changed, it can be done at the June meeting.	

Draft FY2027 Meeting Dates	The draft board meeting schedule for FY27 was reviewed.	
FY2027 Committee Membership	Dr. Dibattisto reviewed the Committee membership for FY2027. The board will resume committee membership as it was in the past year. If anyone desires to sign up for a committee or be on a different committee, they can do so.	
Committee Reports	No reports at this time.	
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, June 24, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at 2715 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC. This will be the annual Business meeting.	



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