

**SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH
COASTAL EMPIRE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
BOD MINUTES
3/19/2026**

Board of Director Meeting Attendance:

NAME	Position	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT
Deborah Blalock	Deputy Director	X		
Melanie Gambrell	Assistant Deputy Director		X	
Angie Salley	Executive Director	X		
Jennifer Cobb-Hayes	Director of Administration		X	
Frances Moody	Director of Clinical Operations	X		
Brittany Sauerborn	Medical Chief		X	
Andrea Miley	Clinic Director		X	
Yokina Williams	Clinic Director		X	
Omega Smalls-Frances	Clinic Director		X	
Narlea Scott	Clinic Director	X		
Karen Williams	Clinic Director	X		
Nina Bilder	Nurse Manager		X	
Touray Beaton	Mobile Crisis Supervisor	X		
Tiffany Swinton	Executive Admin Assistant		X	
Jeremy Tanner	Administrative Coordinator II	X		
Dr. Tom Miller	Board Member	X		
Genora Kennedy	Board Member	X-V		
Henry Hiott	Board Member			X
Korey Williams	Board Member	X-V		
LeeAnne Smith	Board Member			X
Linus Wright	Board Member	X-Tele		

TOPIC	DETAILS/ACTIONS
Welcome	- The following are notes taken from the Board of Directors meeting. It does not detail all the intricate discussions but is intended to give an overview and action items from the Meeting. - Dr. Tom Miller called the meeting into order and provided a brief description of the agenda items. - Minutes from previous meetings (11/20/25, 1/15/26, 2/19/26) were approved without objection. Minutes approved by vote. A quorum of 4.
Initial Presentation – Narlea Scott	PowerPoint presentation displayed on the screen: - Narlea Scott, Clinic Director and Licensed Professional Counselor, has held her current role since October 2025. - She coordinates the FEP (First Episode Psychosis) program (currently ~16 participants) and manages the ICT program, supervising three clinicians and three support staff.

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	○ Works closely with CAF Director - Lindsey Davies, Emergency & Community Services Director Touray Beaton, and Med Chief, Dr. Brittany Sauerborn. ○ Emphasized a recovery-oriented approach: Recovery is ongoing, individualized, and non-linear, focusing on symptom management, support networks, meaning, purpose, and quality of life. ○ Services offered: Adult and youth case management, therapy, school-based mental health, medical/psychiatric services, emergency/crisis services, evidence-based therapies (CBT, trauma-focused CBT, DBT, etc.), vocational support (IPS), peer support, medication management, and in-community outreach. ○ Special programs: young adult transition services, Navigate FEP program (for first-episode psychosis), school-based health, and walk-in assessments. ○ FY25 admissions: 683; current FY26 admissions: 396 (about 80% of previous year at this point). Aggressive recruitment/backfilling planned to exceed prior numbers. ○ Outcome measures (last fiscal year): 7,616 unduplicated and 15,178 duplicated contacts; FY26 so far: 4,923 unduplicated, 9,235 duplicated contacts. 831 active cases (adults, children, young students). ○ Community engagement continues to be a focus for outreach, education, partnership-building, and strengthening relationships for client resources. ○ Strategic goals: Expand group therapy for early intervention, increase community engagement, recruit and retain quality staff, build team resilience, and increase training and client engagement.
Administrators' Report - Jeremy Tanner	Staffing and Recruitment: ● Open positions: Currently 8-11 vacancies, including three school mental health, two adult, and one crisis position in Beaufort. Prioritized filling these roles. ● Recent interviews with contract providers yielded promising candidates; noted that applicants are more likely to use platforms like Indeed and ZipRecruiter than the state website. The agency has lost visibility since merging and losing Indeed contract. ● Some roles are being filled on 13- or 26-week contracts, with potential for permanent hiring. ● School/university partnerships: Engagement with USCB nursing students and outreach to Savannah State University's MSW

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	program. Plans to increase participation in job fairs and career events. Budget Update: • The budget is healthy, with a projected \$400,000 surplus (expecting to return some funds; final surplus estimate ~\$150,000). • Ongoing/planned capital projects: Beaufort parking lot and bath/kitchen renovations expected to be approved this month, with project starts targeted for August/September (90-day bid process). • Other facility improvements include landscaping, electrical, and lighting upgrades. • Work has begun on FY27 budget, to be presented: May 21st (state), and June (board).
Clinical Ops. Report – Frances Moody	Clinical Update: reports displayed on screen and within agenda • Admissions are down, attributed to staffing shortages—services can't be provided without sufficient clinicians. • Admissions: Feb. 2025/2026 ○ Bft: 61/43 ○ Colleton: 27/34 ○ Hampton 32/28 ○ Ridgeland: 15/13 ○ HHI: 29/18 • C20's: 96% • COLLABORATIVE DOCUMENTATION: 90% • PATIENT CARE HOURS: 884.28 – met expectations for the center and state • Major upcoming change: Rollout of new electronic health record system ("Avatar") in April, with staggered training sessions to minimize disruption. • Emphasis on recruiting and onboarding staff to maintain access to services. • Four "super users" leading the Avatar EHR rollout; quality assurance initiatives being integrated into training and ongoing operations.
Medical Director's Report - Angie Salley, Executive Director	Medical & Psychiatric Staffing:

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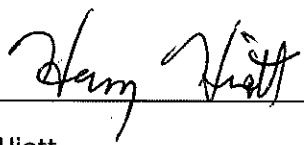
	- Continued search for a full-time psychiatrist; interim coverage provided by recently onboarded part-time and full-time MDs and PMHNPs, primarily via telehealth. - Dr. Ishmael Major (child/adolescent psychiatrist) was on leave for March, covered by Dr. Roberson. Dr. Thorne also provides temporary coverage. - Efforts are ongoing to recruit contract and permanent psychiatric staff. Preference for onsite coverage to assist county judicials and other needs. - Caroljane Roberson, MD (primarily seeing adults, tele full time). - Adela Montalvo, PMHNP (primarily seeing adults, in person at 4 clinics, bilingual. Did her clinical training with us). - Ebele Compean, MD (covering CAF and adult PMA while Dr. Ish on leave this month) - Gearing up for Avatar launch - I am a superuser and will personally train the MD/NPs on the system. - I have volunteered for reboot of EHR med chief subcommittee to give feedback and make edits to optimize our new system - I will incorporate QA feedback and goals into our Avatar training in hopes of maintaining our quality of care - Will have more to report in April after we've gone live (will attend the April BOD meeting)
Executive Director Report - Angie Salley, Executive Director	- New Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed with Nexus Care (substance use center), integrating services and enabling colocated staff and joint outreach. - New MOA: Meeting with Beaufort City PD to obtain signatures for the LE Embedded Clinician. - Meetings ongoing with superintendents to renew school mental health contracts in Jasper, Colleton, Hampton, Allendale, and Beaufort counties. Allendale contract expiring soon; Beaufort contract renewal pending. - Hybrid service models in schools (public-private partnerships) noted, but Coastal Empire's comprehensive in-person model is a competitive advantage. - Current estimates suggest Coastal Empire provides mental health services in about 30-33% of area schools, with higher penetration in some counties (e.g., 100% in Colleton). No current waiting lists for children's services. - Housing Coordinator does have a caseload and licensed to see patients.

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	• Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) event scheduled for May at the Beaufort City Police Department, with law enforcement and mental health collaboration. May 5–6 – Beaufort BOD members are invited. • Program Services Guide will be included in staff orientation and displayed in clinics – included in the agenda.
Deputy Director Report Deputy Debbie Blalock	State & Policy Updates: • No permanent director is expected until after the gubernatorial election; possible changes after primaries. • State budget: House Ways & Means recommended \$21 million for BHDD for FY27 (down from \$31-35M last year for DMH). Breakdown: \$9M technology, \$6M OIDD, \$3.9M OMH, \$4M Substance Use Services. • Senate recommendations expected in April, with final conference committee before Sine Die (early May). • Organizational restructuring: Administrative functions (IT, HR, finance) being separated from clinical, reporting up to a new BHDD administrator. Clinical/programmatic positions will remain center-based, with center directors retaining budgetary influence. • Surplus funds may no longer be retained by individual centers, pending further clarification from the governor's office. • Noted recognition for Jennifer (Administrator) as one of the state's best by Dept. of Administration. • HR processes and programmatic hiring are improving; no programmatic positions have been denied.
Additional Remarks / Topics	• Next Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2026 – Spotlight Presenter – Andrea Miley (Walterboro Clinic Director)
Adjournment	• Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

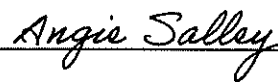
Scribe for Today's Meeting: Tiffany Swinton

Scribe for April 16, 2026:



Henry Hiott

CECMHC Board of Directors Chairman (Interim)



Angie B. Salley

CECMHC Executive Director