

**SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH
COASTAL EMPIRE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
BOD MINUTES
4/16/2026**

Board of Director Meeting Attendance:

NAME	Position	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT
Deborah Blalock	Deputy Director	X-V		
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	
Dr. Tom Miller	Board Member	X		
Genora Kennedy	Board Member			X
Henry Hiott	Board Member	X-V		
Korey Williams	Board Member			X
LeeAnne Smith	Board Member			X
Linus Wright	Board Member	X		

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. - The Board Chair called the meeting into order and provided a brief description of the agenda items. - Minutes were not approved. Quorum of 3.
Spotlight Presentation – Andrea Miley – 6:30 p.m.	PowerPoint presentation displayed on the screen: - The Walterboro office, serving Colleton County, has seen population growth (now 39,300) and is preparing for the Rice Festival (April 20–26, 2026). - Stakeholder engagement increased, with new partnerships and active collaboration with local probate court. - Since July 1, there have been 32 involuntary emergency hospitalization filings, up by 9, reflecting a higher population of residents with mental health needs. 22 court appearances for treatment compliance. - Admissions for FY25 totaled 325.

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	○ Currently treating 285 adults and 219 children/adolescents (all school-based for the first time). Summer engagement strategies led to zero dropouts and consistent medication adherence among youth. ○ The total number of patients currently being served in our Walterboro Clinic is 504. ○ The office participated in 12+ community events and sponsored families in December. ○ New team members include Nurse Lindsey Myers and Dr. Roberson. ○ Upcoming events: Mental Health Awareness activities planned for May, including a ribbon event and press coverage. ▪ 3rd Annual Ribbon Ceremony ▪ Friday, May 1, 2026 ▪ Waterfall Park ▪ Washington Street, Walterboro, SC
Clinical Ops. Report – Angie Salley	Reports displayed on screen and emailed in the BOD Packet: ● Admissions were down in Beaufort, attributed to a decrease in child and adolescent referrals, which typically drop in the Spring- Spring Break and staff vacation time. ● A new MHP contractor was mentioned but had not yet started providing direct services due to pending credentialing. ● Adult services remained busy, with ongoing outreach to collaborative partners for referrals. ● A partnership with Hopeful Horizons was highlighted, with discussion of a new memorandum of agreement for trauma-focused care and improved referral pathways for long-term treatment. ● Regionally, Hampton saw an increase in referrals, while Hilton Head and Colleton experienced declines in March. ● Year-to-date admissions for FY26 are close to FY25 averages, with small decrease, less than 10% decrease on average, centerwide. ● Collaborative documentation (notes completed within one day) reached 88% for March, exceeding the 80% target. ● Patient Care Hours (PCH) targets were met or exceeded (8:12 average against an 8-hour target), and the center is above the year-to-date goal of 780 hours, currently at 875. ● The new EHR rollout was noted as a challenge, but staff are adapting, with strong performance in meeting patient access targets (97% of referrals addressed on time, all emergent/urgent cases seen within standard timeframes).
Dr. Jennifer Cobb-Hayes – Director of Administration – Financial Update	● Major concerns were expressed about billing under the new EHR system and the impact on revenue, with reassurance that the agency's financial position remains positive even if revenue is delayed until the next fiscal year (July 2026). ● The FY27 budget is strong, with most new hires being backfills rather than new positions. Staffing reduced from it's highest staff total of 84

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	to 69 over the past year; the budget is projected to have a \$50,000 surplus. • Budget will be presented in Columbia on May 21st. • Several new hires and contractor onboarding are scheduled for May and June. • Capital projects, including parking lot and bathroom/kitchen renovations, are progressing. • Staff shortages remain an ongoing challenge, but morale and performance are high, with special acknowledgment of returning staff (Jeremy) and upcoming retirements (Francis Moody after 25 years).
Medical Director's Report -Dr. Sauerborn	• Since January, there have been significant staffing changes: Dr. Bishop retired in January; Dr. Wright transferred in December. • Two psychiatrist vacancies remain, with active recruitment; one applicant was not considered due to unwillingness to be on-site. • Four new contract providers started between January and February, including: ○ Dr. Thorne – contracted 2 ½ days a week ○ Adela Montalvo (PMHNP, bilingual, based primarily at Hilton Head and Beaufort) ○ Dr. Carol Jane Roberson (telepsychiatrist, started March, USC School of Medicine graduate) ○ Dr. Compean (short-term coverage while Dr. Ish was on leave, also noted for advocacy work) • EHR "My Avatar" launched this week; feedback is positive despite initial documentation and workflow challenges. Doctors are already achieving at least 80% compliance in documentation. • The new system is cloud-based with improved reliability (auto-save, enhanced scheduling, reduced errors), and onboarding/training has been extensive and well-received. • Per Interim Chairman Hiott: The crisis stabilization unit in Colleton remains closed for renovations until after May 1st, with hopes for mid-May reopening.
Executive Director Report - Angie Salley, Executive Director	• Law enforcement relations: A law enforcement embedded clinician Rashonda Boneparte, is a backup for the Colleton County team. • Board members will receive updated talking points for advocacy, reviewed by Deputy Blalock, early next week. • EHR transition was successful due to extensive preparation and training led by the super user team (Frances Moody, Nicki Nichols, Pam Sullivan, Melissa Hall) and supported by Netsmart and regional mental health offices. • County funding updates: ○ Beaufort County presentation (April 9) went well despite short notice and increased funding requests. ○ Jasper and Hampton counties also engaged for funding; Hampton paid overdue funds. ○ Plans to thank Colleton County Council for ongoing support.

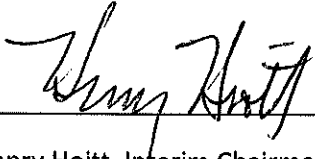
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	• SIM (Sequential Intercept Mapping) event scheduled for May 5–6 at the Beaufort City Police Department; Chief Price will provide opening remarks. Liberty partners to provide lunch. • Two mental health professional contractors have been onboarded; one is already interested in a full-time transition. • April 25th staff development day – invites were sent to BOD • The Walterboro team will be recognized at the Colleton County School District Board meeting on April 21st. • School district contracts are secure for the next year, with all expressing intent to continue except Allendale (pending meeting). • May 1st: Coastal Empire CMHC / H2H Team and partners to be honored at USC Salk Salkehatchie commencement for community contributions. • New Clinic Director in Jasper, Karen Williams, is meeting with a lot of community partners. • Will be presenting the budget in Columbia on May 21st.
Deputy Director Report Deputy Debbie Blalock	• Dr. Bank will retire June 1, 2026; awaiting Governor's appointment for replacement. • Legal staffing crisis: three of four attorneys have left or are leaving (two departing May 1); only Ellie Lister remains. Attorneys are critical for HR, litigation, forensics, contracts. • QA Director Dr. Lynelle Ravis leaving May 1 or 15; likely to be replaced with an agency-wide BHDD quality management director. • Senate budget recommendations are disappointing: only \$23 million for BHDD (compared to \$31M for DMH alone last year), with no new money for 988, DOJ settlement positions, or forensics. House recommendations are similar; conference committee is pending. • The agency is applying for the HHS Rural Transformation Grant to bolster mobile crisis resources (funding for technology, vehicles, stakeholder meetings—not for additional staff or staff salaries). • New HR director (from Fort Jackson) and new facilities director are both visiting centers to assess needs.
Additional Remarks / Topics	• Other Remarks/Key Points ○ No meeting will be held in July (regular summer break). ○ Next BOD meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st, 2026. ○ Multiple staff retirements and transitions are ongoing, but morale and adaptability remain high. ○ The meeting adjourned after announcements and acknowledgments.
Henry Hiott, Chairman of Board	• Adjourned at 7:18 PM

Scribe for Today's Meeting: Tiffany Swinton

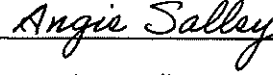
Scribe for May 21, 2026:

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Henry Hoitt, Interim Chairman

CECMHC Board of Directors Chairman



Angie B. Salley

CECMHC Executive Director