

Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2026, Meeting held by Zoom

Present: Kurt Stutler, Jane McMillan, Michelle Ready, Marie Dunnam, Jane Jones, Erika Andrews, Eunice Lehmacher, Sherry Hall, Chuck Wilson, Teri Gilstrap, Michael Callahan,

Absent: Casey Johnson, Tamara Houston-Hamilton, Amy Massingill, Tory Ervin

Staff: Vicki Redding, Kevin Woods, Donna Hammond, Laura Westbrook, Julie Bird

BHDD: Deborah Blalock

Guest: Susan Von Schenk

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Mr. Stutler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Introductions and invocation were made.	
Approval of the Agenda	Agenda was approved with a motion by Chuck Wilson and seconded by Marie Dunnam. All in favor.	
Approval of the Minutes	Minutes were approved as written on a motion by Sherry Hall and seconded by Marie Dunnam. All in favor.	
Report from BHDD Deborah Blalock	Ms. Blalock discussed the following: • Ms. Blalock noted new BHDD staff roles including the Chief Financial Officer, Procurement position, Communications Director, State Facilities Director, HR Director, and the Controller. • Ms. Blalock stated that the new Office Director position is projected to be announced soon. • The Chief Medical Officer position is currently in the interview process.	Map of 5 Autism Homes across state?

	• The position overseeing state operated facilities (mental health centers, nursing homes, hospitals, regional centers, and autism homes) has been posted and is now closed. • The budget has been approved, and staff will receive a 2% increase. The budget included funds to increase Mobile Crisis staffing at four additional mental health centers and funds to assist with the rental assistance program. • There is an upcoming meeting called “All Hands On Deck” to inform staff of when the pay increases will be seen in their paychecks. • Ms. Blalock informed the board she will be retiring in January 2027. • Ms. Blalock will be visiting all mental health centers for a farewell tour and to thank the staff.	
Annual Report from Pickens Clinic Laura Westbrook	Ms. Westbrook discussed the following: • Ms. Westbrook stated that they accept all walk-in patients and the current census for Pickens is approximately 1,100 patients. • Staffing has remained stable. There are currently two positions open. • Group therapy and peer support services within the Pickens clinic have begun. • Pickens continues to see patients presenting with trauma. • Ms. Westbrook mentioned that the upcoming Employee of the Quarter will be held in October.	
Annual Report from Oconee Clinic Julie Bird	Ms. Bird discussed the following: • Ms. Bird reported that the clinic continues to grow. • The current census is approximately 700, which includes school and community-based treatments. • Over the last year the clinic has hired a new Office Manager and has a new intake staff. There is currently one new clinical position open. • The population served is split 50/50 between adults and children at the Oconee clinic. • Ms. Bird meets quarterly with Judge Singleton to review court ordered patients to ensure all their needs are met.	

	• The clinic continues to see a high volume of judicial requests and aims to have them all scheduled at the Oconee clinic. • There are two designated examiners in the Oconee clinic. • The clinic is less involved with the jail population due to a change in their medical providers. • Ms. Bird announced they will begin group sessions for self-esteem, a therapeutic role play group, and a relaxation group for obsessive compulsive disorder.	
Finance Committee Kevin Woods	Mr. Woods discussed the following: Note: Data is limited due to the new EHR system rollout. • Total billable services through July 2026. No data to report, due to an inability to capture data currently in the new electronic health record. • Total collections through July 2026 were \$46,935. Of this figure \$14,868 was Medicaid and \$24,704 was MCO. The fee collection is not a full result of data due to the EHR. • Total expenditures through July 2026 were \$1,419,019. • The current AOP operating budget loaded into SCEIS State Financial System reflects a total of \$11,263,720. • Write off for the month of July 2026. No data to report due to unable to capture data.	
Incentive Committee Jane Jones	Ms. Jones discussed the following: • The next Employee of the Quarter drop-in is scheduled for October 21, 2026 at the Pickens Clinic.	
Programs/Services Committee Sherry Hall	Ms. Hall discussed the following: • No Report.	
Policy Committee Amy Massingill	Ms. Massingill discussed the following: • No Report.	

Personnel Report Donna Hammond	Ms. Hammond discussed the following: • Reporting for June and July 2026. • Job postings on Careers.sc.gov. • Staff totals: Beginning-125; Ending-126. • Highlights of new employees: Anderson- 4, Oconee- 1, Pickens- 1 • Separations: Anderson-2, Oconee-2, Pickens -1 • Transfer: Anderson- 0, Oconee- 0, Pickens- 0. • July Progressive Turnover Rate 15%.	
Executive Director Report Vicki Redding	Ms. Redding discussed the following: • Ms. Redding shared the news about the loss of an AOP staff member. • Crisis intervention was brought in to support the staff. Ms. Blalock brought several bags of “You Are Not Alone” to the clinic. • Ginger Cash was named our Employee of the Quarter and received an outstanding number of nominations. • Ms. Redding discussed the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) event held at the Anderson County Library on August 5-6. This event focused on different sectors of behavioral health and mental health issues focusing on how to stop the cycle of individuals entering further into the criminal justice system. Two facilitators hosted the event, one from Aiken Barnwell and one from Public Research Associates (PRA). The final report is projected to be released in six months. • Several staff members were asked to participate in a BHDD welcoming video for new hires. • The Low Country Conference was held in Charleston and Ms. Redding and Ms. Patterson (CAF Manager) both attended the conference. • Mental Health Court for Anderson County held a meeting with Ms. Redding and several staff to discuss the potential Anderson County funding to continue the program. • Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mobile Crisis program has grown and continues to expand. A full-time dedicated Mobile Crisis Supervisor position has been posted. AOP has built a strong relationship with our local law enforcement regarding this program.	

Old Business/New Business/Announcements	No report.	
Next Board Meeting	September 28, 2026: In-Person, 1 Linwa Blvd. Anderson, SC 29621	
Adjournment	There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.	

Submitted by: Stephanie Perry