

THE WACCAMAW CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026

The meeting was held via Zoom

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Arthur Tisdale, Debbie Heller, Carolyn Hickman-Williams, Sherry Buie James, Roscia Hardee, Joyce Phillips, Amy Elder

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Amy Jo Kyle, Jacob Lee, Teresa Robinette, Katrina Reaves, Katie Wise

Topic	Discussion	Comments/ Follow-Up
Welcome	Ms. Heller called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.	
Approval of the Minutes	Approval of minutes February 17 th minutes Ms. Carolyn Hickman Williams made a motion to approve, Ms. Sherry Buie James seconds.	
Clinic Report Doretha Frias	• Welcome all. • Highlighted: ○ For the self-pay report from the business office, we had a decrease in of 34%. That's just from August till February, but the front office is working extremely hard to get the patients to pay their bills. ○ Recognized Leslie Barnes, who was honored as our Employee of the Year during our winter in service, in December. ○ Recognized Rachael Hockenberry, who took on the role of becoming our avatar trainer, and she has successfully trained South Strand Nursing as well. ○ We onboarded a new Adult Therapist Malachy "Jay" Collet who comes to us from Berkley Community Mental Health Center. ○ Highlighted a patient success story of a 62-year-old female, who enrolled into services in April of last year following a discharge from Three Rivers Behavioral Health. As a result of her progress and continued stability, she has successfully met her treatment goals and is scheduled for discharge effectively April 04, 2026. Her dedication to recovery and willingness to engage fully in services reflects a meaningful and inspiring journey toward wellness.	

Executive Director Jackie Brown	• Mentioned that our SIM Event was very successful. We had over 45 folks who attended. Thanked the board members who attended.	
Corporate Compliance Officer Pearl Calhoun	• There are no corporate compliance issues. • the quality assurance overall score for our records was 89%.	
Administrator Jay Ragin	• Mentioned that we're continuing to make gradual improvements towards our budget deficit for the year. • For revenue, we're at about 70% of what we had projected, so that is good. • We're continuing to formulate our FY27 budget. • The HVAC project here in Conway is continuing to make improvements. We hope to get our substantial completion hopefully before the end of the month.	
Medical Director Dr. Shetty	• All the doctors have been training with the new EHR, go live is April 13th. • We do have a new position opened for an FTE doctor.	
Chief of Staff Kisha Guess-Black	• We have a patient advisory board that we're reactivating. Starting March 24th, they will meet to get that back on track, working with peer support to get that up and running again. • Our center wide MH Conference will be held May 13, 2026, Howard Center in Georgetown • We have requested the use of the Choppee Recreation Center for our Winter Inservice in Georgetown December 4, 2026. • Clinic Directors are working on virtual symposiums once dates are confirmed we will share this with the Board. • All Clinics recognized Employee Appreciation Day March 6, 2026, by doing special things such as lunches, gifts etc. for their staff. • Superusers are on their last round of Avatar training with staff to prepare for Go Live in April.	
SCDMH Deputy Director Deb Blalock	• Our budget was presented to the House; they were not all that generous. • The House recommended \$21 million for the entire agency, all BHDD, so that's the DDSN component. The former DOADAS, which is now OSUS Component, and OMH, are formerly DMH. • The House did not fund our suicide prevention efforts; that is important because the grants that support the two 988 suicide prevention call centers is at the end of its life on September 30th.	Will provide a copy of the breakdown of the numbers.

	Hopefully the House reconsiders their lack of funding for that, and that the Senate includes it in its funding recommendation. The Senate budget presentation was last week, that went well. • We don't have a Director yet for the agency. • We do have a new HR Director for BHDD. He is a former Colonel in the military; his name is Colonel Jason T. Edwards; he starts April 13th. • We also have a person who has been hired to be the Physical Plant Director for the large agency, and his name is Eric Manning. • There's a psychiatric residential treatment facility that we just opened a week ago. That's for children's care, different from an inpatient facility but for ones that need a longer-term stay. • SIM Event: congratulated the Center, mentioned that she was completely impressed with the stakeholder turnout, they did a really fine job of corralling all the right stakeholders, and having it fully covered.	
New Business	No new business to report.	
Old Business	No new business to report.	
Nominating Committee	No new business to report.	
Mental Health Planning	No new information to report.	
Personnel	No new information to report.	
County Council Report	No new information to report.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned.	