

THE WACCAMAW CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026
The meeting was held via Zoom

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Amy Jo Kyle, Jacob Lee, Teresa Robinette

Topic	Discussion	Comments/ Follow-Up
Welcome	Mr. Tisdale called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.	
Approval of the Minutes	Approval of minutes January 20 th minutes Ms. Debbie Heller made a motion to approve, Ms. Carolyn Hickman Williams seconds.	
Clinic Report Winferd Pendergrass	- Welcome all. - Highlighted: - There were a lot of activities between October and December, and we are still on the move. - Had a luncheon during that time for the staff, as well as Black History Month. - There have been several deaths in Williamsburg County – reaching out to schools asking if staff can help with grief counseling. - Showed items that a client of 25 years provided to show appreciation. Will be highlighting another patient next month. - Getting prepared for our graduation in May for Mental Health Month, as well as Mental Health Conference in Georgetown.	
Executive Director Jackie Brown	- Mentioned her report is in the packet and if there were any questions, there were none. - SIM Event: next week on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Train Depot, and we're going to be doing a map of what's going on with our homeless population in Horry County. Everyone is invited to attend.	
Corporate Compliance Officer Pearl Calhoun	Report in packet as well, there were no questions.	

Administrator Jay Ragin	• Mentioned it was a good month for us. We did have good collections; we are headed in the right direction. • We are looking at our FY27 budget.	
Medical Director Jackie Brown for Dr. Shetty	• Not present, report in the packet. • We have an FTE posted; we are hoping that one of our contract doctors apply.	
Chief of Staff Kisha Guess-Black	• Jan: PCH: 870.79 CSN: 96% Access: 100% Intakes: 185. • Save the date of May 13th, our Annual Client Advocacy Conference here in Georgetown. • She has been working with our peer support staff to expand peer support services to Georgetown and Kingstree.	
Director of Ancillary Services Linda Wright	• IPS program – 52 enrolled, 32 gainfully employed. This program has been a part of the Center for many years, and staff has done a really good job in making sure that we work with our clients who want to be employed.	
SCDMH Deputy Director Deb Blalock	• SIM: So, it's Sequential Intercept Mapping, and we picked 12 of the 16 mental health centers to do a SIM event. We're paying a company out of SAMHSA money. We were awarded enough money to bring in a company called Policy Research Associates, they have a lot of experience and history in helping communities see where they have gaps in services and where they are strong in services, and what opportunities are available for the communities to pool some of their resources. We picked 4 centers to focus on homelessness. Horry County was one of those counties where we wanted to focus on homelessness specifically because of the high rate of homelessness in the county. • We were told that the position for the State Facility Director that'll be over the hospitals, the mental health centers, the regional centers currently run by the Office of Developmental Disabilities and the autism homes, the nursing home, the CRCFs, community residential care facilities. That position has not been posted. We were told on January 16th it would be posted in 7 to 10 days. • We were also told that the Medical Director for the new agency, BHDD, would be posted in that same timeframe, 7 to 10 days from the 16th. That has also not been posted. • The positions that are posted are: ○ Chief Financial Officer ○ Chief Human Resource Officer ○ Chief Information Officer (IT Director)	

	○ General Counsel (attorney) ○ Communications Director • We have been informed by our liaison to the governor's office that centers will not be keeping their surpluses, if they generate one. The surpluses belong to BHDD, not to the center. This is a departure from the way we've operated ever since we've been in existence. • We haven't presented to the Senate yet; we don't have a date for that yet. • Every center received money (out of my budget) to create a position to serve those individuals who live with a developmental disability or intellectual disability, to include autism. We currently have 2,200 across the system of individuals who live with a developmental disability and a mental illness. • Our settlement with the DOJ has been signed, sealed, and delivered on January 18th. As a result, within 3 years, every mental health center will have two teams of mobile crisis staff; two teams of two who can be deployed simultaneously if there are simultaneous crisis. • We also received money and agreed to make sure every center that has an assertive community treatment team we'll have at least 3 peer support specialist positions. WCMH is one of those centers that will have, or is in process of developing its team, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). • Every, every center will have a full-time housing coordinator position, we received money to support those positions. • The DOJ settlement was challenging with constant negotiation; it did help us get more money to support programs that we would like to expand. We settled that agreement with a settlement, not a consent decree, so that means that there are no court monitors, there's no court involvement at all. It's just a signed agreement between the State of South Carolina and the Department of Justice.	
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.	