

THE WACCAMAW CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026

The meeting was held via Zoom

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

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

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

Topic	Discussion	Comments/ Follow-Up
Welcome	Ms. Heller called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.	
Approval of the Minutes	Approval of minutes March 17 th minutes Ms. Carolyn Hickman Williams made a motion to approve, Ms. Katrina Reaves seconds.	
Clinic Report Katrina Pressley	• Welcome all. • Highlighted: ○ Avatar rollout is complete. ○ The center is working on preparing for the upcoming CARF survey, tentatively scheduled for August of this year. We have not received an official confirmation from CARF yet. ○ Shared patient success story: a 33-year-old married female. She came to us in 2021 after being discharged from the South Strand Behavioral IOP program, which is the Intensive Outpatient Program. She had a long history of mental health issues, mood swings, history of substance... illegal substance use. When she became symptomatic, she would pour gasoline inside and outside of her home and threaten to light her home on fire. When she was manic, she would spend a lot of money. For one weekend, she spent over \$100,000. She purchased a car and went on a shopping spree. She had auditory and visual hallucinations. She would talk to dead family members who would tell her to do things and put ideas in her head, such as her husband was, cheating on her. That caused a lot of problems within her marriage, but her... of course, her husband was aware that she	

	does have a mental illness. She also has a history of incarcerations due to, erratic behaviors. She recalls being hospitalized at least 4 times. After her last inpatient hospitalization in 2021, she came to Waccamaw and was introduced to an injectable medication, the injectable medication helped to stabilize her, but she also started therapy, which I think, saved her. Her father died when she was young, her mother was an alcoholic, so she never had a connection with anyone. She was diagnosed early on as having ADHD. But it wasn't until in her 20s they realized that she was bipolar, she wasn't medicated correctly. She is much better; she's been coming to Waccamaw since 2021. She is currently employed, at... as a marketing manager at Tropical Smoothie. She's been there for approximately 4 years. And she's on the MMO, which is the medication management-only Level of Care. She only comes in for her injection, always smiling and always singing the praises of the staff and saying that she's a totally different person since walking into our clinic. We're very happy about her success.	
Executive Director Jackie Brown	• Reminded all about May 13th our Mental Health Conference in Georgetown at the Howard Center. • Mentioned our go live for Avatar, superusers have been doing a great job.	
Corporate Compliance Officer Pearl Calhoun	• There are no corporate compliance issues. • Our 2nd quarter audit is still in progress; our score is 87%	
Administrator Jay Ragin	• We are projecting \$13.7M in revenue this year and expecting a deficit of \$833M.	
SCDMH Assistant Deputy Director Melanie Gambrell	• The EHR has gone live in all 16 community mental health centers, there are some challenges. • Our budget was presented to the House; they were not all that generous. • We did get the Senate budget recommendations this year. As you know, our budget went in as one agency. We are the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. We were recommended with \$1M recurring funds and \$1.5	

	million in non-recurring for the alternative transportation program. A little over \$7 million for our new psychiatric residential treatment facility, and that treats primarily youth involved with DJJ 12 to 18 years old. Of course, you know the House and Senate must get back together on the budget, so hopefully we'll hear a little more and get a little more money this year. • Dr. Bank, our Office Director at mental health has decided to retire on June 1st. Nobody has been named as his replacement yet and no Agency Director has been named yet. • Health and Human Services, our Medicaid agency, was awarded a large sum of money from the federal government to give out grants for rural health transformation initiatives. We are working with a company called Envoy to apply for that, to expand our mobile crisis services.	
New Business	No new business to report.	
Old Business	Mr. Tisdale wants a vote on having meeting via Zoom or in person.	
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.	