

# OAMHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

## April 23, 2026

| TOPIC                                            | DISCUSSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FOLLOW-UP |
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| <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>                             | The April 23, 2026, meeting of the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center Board of Directors was called to order by Dr. Melvin Ransom at 1:00 pm in the Bessie Abraham Conference Room at the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center, 2319 Saint Matthews Road, Orangeburg, South Carolina. The meeting was also available via Zoom. |           |
| <b>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</b>                    | There were no additions to the agenda.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |
| <b>ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES</b>                     | The minutes of March 2026, board meeting was approved on a motion Ms. Andria Jeffries. The motion was seconded and carried.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |           |
| <b>Presentation – Spotlight (Bamberg County)</b> | Latischa Herriott, Clinic Director of Calhoun County Clinic, briefed the Board on the programs and staff that are operating in the clinic.                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |

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| <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>         | <p>Mr. Bryant Williams greeted and welcomed the Board. Mr. Williams mentions the goal is to get board members to attend the board meetings in person but understands that due to unforeseen circumstances, members may have to attend online. He also welcomes the new Board Member, LaShonda Wright and thanks her for attending the meeting. He said there is another board member that has been accepted by the delegation and is now waiting for the Governor's approval. This potential candidate for the board is Ms. Stephanie Moorer. Mrs. served at Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center for over 30 years and retired October of 2025 as the Holly Hill Clinic Director.</p>                                                                                                                                                                             |           |
| <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)</b> | <p><u>Access Data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Williams informs the board that we are now working within AVATAR which is the new Electronic Health Record (EHR). Orangeburg Area MHC was one of the centers that went "Live" February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Staff are still working to be acclimated to the system. All sixteen (16) centers are now utilizing the new system. Mr. Williams stated that he continues to keep staff encouraged about the progress we are making within the system. He informs the board the Access Data Rate was at 91% which is not good due to the previous percentage, which was at 97% to 98%. Mr. Bryant is encouraged that the Center will get this rate up as it is an easy fix. He mentions that we saw the issue and addressed it and is waiting for the next report to come out show the</li> </ul> |           |

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| <p><b>EXECUTIVE<br/>DIRECTOR'S REPORT<br/>(CONT.)</b></p> | <p>progress made.</p> <p><b><u>Collaborative Documentation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are working to improve in this area as well. Since the new system (EHR), we averaged 84% to 83%, but the last report said 66%, which is not good. Mr. Williams stressed that at least 85% of clinical notes are supposed to be done on the same day. Mr. Williams stated that he and the Clinic Director meet with the managers and let them know what their expectations are so he is sure the percentage will increase.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Patient Care Hours (PCH)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Bryant explains patient care hours simply as providing care to patients and if we do not have this, we are not providing services. AVATAR has unfortunately prevented the centers from creating reports as they are still being built by a team. However, our center is using excel spreadsheets to keep up with the number of hours billed per day so we can have a general idea of where we are. Mr. Williams hopes to have something for the next board meeting to inform the board of where we are with PCH. An example of an employee who has full (1.00) allotment is required to make 71.6 a month, which is the highest. Most of the staff should be making this amount.</li> </ul> |           |

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| <p><b>EXECUTIVE<br/>DIRECTOR'S REPORT<br/>(CONT.)</b></p> | <p><u>Service Data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Williams stated he did not have accurate count of service data, but we do have more than 2000 patients that we are serving and this amount is unduplicated.</li> </ul> <p><u>Recruitment and Vacancies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are still in the process of hiring and have had new staff to come onboard recently. This includes Adeline Yon who is a licensed master Social Worker and is hired to be a qualified Mental Health Professional (MHP) in the ACT program. This position took a long time to fill, and it was very important for the Center to have this position filled.</li> <li>The Peer Support Specialist should be starting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.</li> <li>In the process of hiring an Adult Clinician. Ms. Herriot mentioned in her presentation there was a vacancy for this position so this will be for the Calhoun Clinic.</li> <li>Clinical Support Staff will be hired to support Mrs. Lloyd at the Holly Hill location. This candidate had their second interview yesterday.</li> <li>There are two (2) Peer Support vacancies. The goal is to have three (3) at the Center; one will be the ACT program and two will be outside of that program.</li> </ul> |           |

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|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the School Based Counselors will be leaving and going to Columbia Area Mental Health Center due to her moving closer to where she lives. This position will have to be backfilled.</li> <li>• We have one internal candidate to apply for the IDD (Intellectual Development Disabilities) position. We are waiting for OIDD to reach out to Mr. Williams to schedule the interview.</li> <li>• An APRN will also be hired. The Medical Chief had the first interview which went well, but he needs to schedule three (3) more interviews.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Community Involvement</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to have staff to go out into the community to provide education about our Center and the mental health services we provide. This involvement is done within the schools, career fairs, and even Mrs. Lloyd goes out into the community to attend events informing individuals about mental illnesses and the services provided here at our Center.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Staff Involvement</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway to Hope is one of the programs that is really starting to excel due to the increase in patients. Mr. Morris Thompson goes out into the community with the</li> </ul> |           |

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|       | <p>RV on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday allowing it to rest on Friday. Mr. Thompson will then help on Fridays with Access which entails opening charts for new patients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) SIMS (Sequential Intercept Mapping) meetings will be held at the Center Monday at 1pm. The first meeting was at the Orangeburg County Library on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Individuals from different states came to host this for community partners. Each entity has special projects they are working on and this is the purpose of the follow-up meetings are to ensure there is progress. The goal for Orangeburg Area Mental Health is to get the Respite Apartments. Mr. Williams mentioned that his supervisor wants him to go out and speak to at least two different landlords per month.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Mental Health Awareness Month (May)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calhoun Clinic's event is May 30<sup>th</sup>, Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center is May 16 from 10am to 2pm. Bamberg is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Holly Hill is during the week on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will have different vendors and agencies come out and share information with the community. Mr. Williams also mentioned that he will be graduating from the Certified Public Manager (CPM) program May 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quality Assurance</u></b></p> |           |

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|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The second quarter of FY26 state audit was just received and the score was 89%. The goal is to get 90% so this means that we are moving in the direction. Mr. Williams mentioned that he would like Ms. Green, the Quality Assurance Manager, to come next month and give information on where we scored high and areas where we can improve. Ms. Green was contacted and told they were impressed with our audit score so again, we are pleased with the direction we are going.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Additional Information</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Williams spoke on a printout that was guidance for Board Directors when speaking to Legislator. He mentions that he provided information regarding the number of services the Center has provided in fiscal year 25. Mr. Williams encouraged the board members to read it and use it as a guide when they speak with legislators.</li></ul> |           |

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| <b>ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT</b> | <p>Ms. Locks greeted the Board members and stated that she didn't have much to announce today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed Board members as of March, the Center is forecasting a deficit of \$82,130. She mentioned the budget is always changing as operations take place daily. She also mentions that she is pleased the deficit is decreasing. Ms. Locks stated that the new Avatar system has made it hard to forecast accurately due to certain reports not being available and certain billing information not converting from the old system to the new one.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Budget</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed members that we will continue to monitor the budget and keep them up to date with what's going on.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Projects</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Locks informed the board the HVAC replacement is running behind as the project should only take six (6) months. The Center is still operating as needed; finding areas for our staff to work out of until the project is over.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Questions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Question</li> </ul> |           |

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| <p><b>SCDMH</b><br/><b>Deputy Director Report</b></p> | <p>Deputy Director, Deborah Blalock could not attend due to meeting with the DOA; therefore, Jessica Kobernik, Program Manager for Suicide Prevention, announced updates from Central:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Kobernik briefs the board of the Suicide Program, which is a state program that supports all the Mental Health Centers and community partners for training, intervention and outreach around suicide efforts. They also manage three (3) federal grants to help support different initiatives around suicide work in our state and she is also the state lead for 988. She mentioned is works closely with Deputy Director, Debbie Blalock and Assistant Melanie Gambrell and is here to report the current Center recommendations for Department of Behavioral Health's Budget.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Budget</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Senate is recommending around 1 million in non-recurring funds going to the alternate transportation program with 1.5 million which includes a proviso. There is also a recommended 6 million for direct support professionals, 7.4 million of non-recurring for PRTF which is the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility, 2 million to expand recovery community organization and outreach programs. The Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD), has many provisos</li> </ul> |           |

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|              | <p>including the Greenwood Genetics Alzheimer's Initiative, \$120k for Richland County Mental Health assistance with Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, \$100k for City of Charleston Homeliness Initiative, \$100k for Aiken Barnwell Property Acquisition. All of this is currently the Senates' recommendations which will go back to the House because the House gave their recommendations a few weeks ago, so this information is not a finalized budget from the General Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also, Dr. Bank, Interim State Director for the Office of Mental Health (OMH) announced he is retiring June 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time, we do not have an identified Interim Director once he retires, but discussions are being held about when this action takes place, and updates will be shared at a later date.</li> <li>• Ms. Kobernick reiterated the New AVATAR System has been launched statewide and so Reporting is being worked through as only a few are coming out of the old system and a few out of the new system. The IT department is working hard to make sure we can get the reports needed as soon as possible as well as making sure the information is accurate.</li> </ul> <p><b>No Questions</b></p> |           |
| <b>OTHER</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |

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| <b>ADJOURNMENT</b> | <p><u><b>Board Members Present at Meeting:</b></u><br/> Dr. Melvin Ransom            Judy Harrold<br/> LaShonda Wright<br/> Nancy Harrison<br/> Andria Jeffries</p> <p><u><b>Board Members Present at Meeting (Zoom):</b></u><br/> Dr. Sheridan Coleman            Samella Capers<br/> Dr. Brown Guinyard<br/> Sadie Jarvis</p> <p><u><b>Board Members Absent from Meeting:</b></u><br/> William Green</p> <p><u><b>Staff/Guests Attending Meeting:</b></u><br/> Bryant Williams</p> <p><u><b>Staff/Guests Attending Meeting (Zoom):</b></u><br/> Jessica Kobernik            Latischa Herriott<br/> Shaunette Lloyd            Shawnta Locks<br/> Sheridan Coleman<br/> Dr. Sherral Brown Guinyard</p> |           |
| <b>ATTENDANCE</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |
| <b>APPROVAL</b>    | <hr/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |           |