

OAMHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2026

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
CALL TO ORDER	The March 26, 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 Conference Room at the Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center, 2319 Saint Matthews Road, Orangeburg, South Carolina. The meeting was also available via Zoom.	
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	There were no additions to the agenda.	
ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES	The minutes of February 25, 2026, board meeting was approved on a motion Sadie Jarvis. The motion was seconded by William Green and carried.	
Presentation – Spotlight (Bamberg County)	Dia Kennerly, Clinic Director of Bamberg Clinic, briefed the Board on the programs and staff that are operating in the Bamberg Clinic.	

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Mr. Bryant Williams greeted and welcomed the Board. Addressed Dr. Ransom's comment concerning reinstatement for Board members.	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)	<u>Recruitment and Retention</u> • The Center is still working to fill all ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) position. One of the positions the Center is waiting to be reposted is that of the Addiction Counselor. This position was filled at one point but became vacant and it has been a task to backfill it since then. • We are currently working to fill the ACT Peer Support position as well. The Center is required to have three (3) Peer Support staff members, but one recently left and that has left the center with no Peer Support staff as required. Mr. Williams stated that the good news is we have created a Peer Support Position and interviewed a candidate who has been selected and will come onboard May 2nd. • There is a position for OIDD (Office of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities). The candidate for this position is an internal candidate. Mr. Williams stated that he has reached out to OIDD to get assistance with scheduling an interview for the applicant and is awaiting	

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)	their response. • We recently hired a clinical counselor for the detention center and hopefully he will be able to start next month. • We are currently interviewing for a MHP Adult at the Calhoun County Clinic. • Interviewing for a Nurse Practitioner. This will not be contractual personnel, but an FTE. We have three (3) applicants for the position, and they will be scheduled next week. • Overall, OAMHC has seventy-five (75) full-time employees and one (1) temp. • OAMHC is currently serving 2,281 patients collectively across all four clinics. <u>Community Involvement</u> • One of the school-based staff members at the Bamberg Clinic attended the Denmark Olar Elementary School board meeting on February 25th. She provided input on services provided for students. Mr. William emphasized the Center does not have a contract with Bamberg County School District, but they still allow us to come to the school and meet the patients where they are and they ask our staff to participate in various events. We are hoping we can change things moving forward by	

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March 26, 2026

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)	obtaining a contract. • Clinic Director, Dia Kennerly, participated in a community partnership/stakeholder meeting on 24th of February at the Bamberg County Healing Partners to discuss significant factors that affect the health and wellbeing of Bamberg County residents and how to improve access to nutritious food and high quality and care. The theme was "Healthier and Happier together". • The center's ACT supervisor conducted a presentation for the Empath (Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing) unit at MUSC Orangeburg. Mr. William explains that Empath is on the 3rd floor at MUSC and is available 24 hours for patients. It is to stabilize patients to prevent them from going into inpatient. He also stated once patients are discharged OAMHC are contacted for an aftercare appointment. <u>Board Members</u> • Mr. Williams mentioned that OAMHC had two new Board Members, but they resigned before attending a meeting. One of the newly appointed members resigned after accepting board membership with the Department of Social Services. Mr. Williams stressed the process of becoming a board member is a lengthy process. Stephanie Moorner, who was formally the director of Holly Hill, is now interested in serving on the board. Board member.	

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March 26, 2026

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONT.)	<u>Questions/Statements</u> Ms. Sadie Jarvis asked if Dia Kennerly could do her presentation to Denmark County to receive county appropriations. Mr. Williams stated that his plans are to attend the Bamberg County Council meeting to draw attention so that we may receive the financial assistance needed. Dr. Ransom wanted to know the date and Mr. Williams stated that Ms. Kennerly would get the date soon. Mr. Green asked if the positions mentioned during the last board meeting were filled. Mr. Williams informed him that one of those positions was mentioned in today's meeting and a candidate was selected. Mr. Williams explained to Mr. Green that the hiring process is very different from what it used to be. There are more steps due to the merger. Mr. William stated that the process will change at some point, but the Center must follow the protocol for hiring at this time. Dr. Ransom also added certifications are also being evaluated for new hires and he feels as though this process should have been used in the past. Mr. Williams stated that the qualifications must be met before sending them off for further review. Mr. Williams added that we are also hiring our DJJ Clinician here in Orangeburg and informed the board of what the qualifications are for that position.	

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT	Ms. Locks greeted the Board members and stated that she didn't have much to announce today. • Informed Board members as of February, the Center is forecasting a deficit of \$126,369. She mentioned the budget is always changing as operations take place daily. Ms. Locks stated that the new Avatar systems have made it hard to forecast accurately due to certain reports not being available. • Ms. Locks informed the board that her administrative team successfully adapted to the new system since going live February 3rd. Her administrative staff had various training and other centers have ask to have their staff to come out and sit with her team. <u>Budget</u> • Ms. Locks stated that we are trying to operate the normal operations and cut down on a lot of other expenses. • Informed members that we will continue to monitor the budget and keep them up to date with what's going on. <u>Billing</u> • Billing issues continue but we have a great team that's working with us and letting us know what issues we are having. <u>Projects</u> • Ms. Locks informed the board the HVAC system is still being replaced and that is the reason why the board meeting is being held in a different location within the	

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (CONT.)	Center. She assured them that the process is going smoothly and there have not been any interruptions of operations for the center. <u>Write-offs</u> - From FY24 to FY25 and amount of \$289,202.80 uncollectible have been written off. <u>Questions</u> - No Questions	
SCDMH Deputy Director Report	Deputy Director, Deborah Blalock greeted everyone and shared the following updates: - Mrs. Blalock stated that she had the opportunity to meet with the Department of Administration last week for 4 and a half (4 1/2) hours to look at positions throughout all Mental Health Centers that would go in the clinical side versus the administrative side. The intention is to split the administrative functions from that of the clinical and have the administrative report to a different line of report within the agency. - A new org structure from the Department of Administration for the administrative functions should be available mid-April. There will also be a lot of personnel actions where staff will move from one supervision to another and from one org unit to another. These actions will take place in SCIES which is a system all state agencies use to identify staff, staff positions, salaries, and etc. SCEIS is basically a fiscal recording system for	

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March 26, 2026

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SCDMH Deputy Director Report, (cont.)	the state. Staff will be hearing from the DOA sometime in May to inform them of the changes in June because the DOA must report all the savings they have discovered to the general assembly by June 30th. The administrative staff that will be reporting to central are, billing, human resources, finance and billing, procurement, and physical plant services. These are the functions that will be removed from the centers and hospitals and reporting to another line. Mr. Williams will be responsible for the clinical side. The upside is the Director can focus on the clinical side and not worry about budget, HR and etc. <u>Budget</u> • OMH presented the budget to the Governor's Executive Budget office in November and next we will be presenting to House Ways and Means subcommittee and we received the recommendations and the board should have received those recommendations. Mrs. Blalock explained that House Ways and Means is part two of a six-part process. She further explains that it starts with the Governor, the house, senate, conference committee, then back to the governor to veto and then back to the general assembly to override the veto. Ways and Means recommended a total of \$21,896.000 in new funding for BHDD. This amount includes OMH, OIDD, and OSUS. Just for contrast, Blalock mentioned that DMH received between 31M to 35M alone last year. Out of the 21M, 9M is allocated to technology, 5 million is for	

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SCDMH Deputy Director Report, (cont.)	OIDD, \$3,896,000 is for OMH and 4M is for OSUS. Blalock mentioned that the Senate is historically more generous to OMH than the House so the presentation took place last week and we should have the Senate's recommendation mid-April and we are hoping they are more generous than the House. Blalock stressed there are no recommendations for the Jail program for Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center. The program has been a line item for the last two years. Funding for the program has been 400K in the last two years in non-recurring funding. If the funding does not come through, OAMHC will not be able to continue the detention center program. OAMHC is encouraged to make sure the delegation understands what the loss of funding means. Blalock mentioned that funding for the 988 Call Center is missing. Last year the General Assembly appropriated 2M in recurring, 1M in non-recurring. This year we asked for 2.7M to replace the SAMHSA Grants which end September 30th, 2026. This will serve as replacement funds to keep what we have in place for the two call centers. One is run by Greenville Mental Health America and Greenville County; the other is run by BHDD at the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center. Blalock explained how the call center works and the importance of keeping the funding. • BHDD have a new HR Director. His name is Colonel Jason Edwards and he starts April 13th. He previously worked at Fort Jackson.	

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SCDMH Deputy Director Report, (cont.)	Eric Manning is new to the agency, and he is over maintenance which covers all the buildings for BHDD and OIDD. He has stressed to Mrs. Blalock that his value system is customer service, and he wants all the facilities to be clean and run effectively. Blalock added there is currently no Agency Director, General Counsel, Medical Chief, CFO or Communications Director. The agency will also lose two lawyers, Logan Royals and Alex Pate. This will leave the agency with only one and this is concerning due to the many lawsuits we encounter and forensics. The Department of Administration and the Governor's Office are working together to bring in support by either hiring FTE or contracting with law firms.	
OTHER		
ADJOURMENT	<u>Board Members Present at Meeting:</u> Judy Harrold William Green Nancy Harrison <u>Board Members Present at Meeting (Zoom):</u> Dr. Melvin Ransom Dr. Sheridan Coleman Samella Capers Dr. Brown Guinyard	

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ATTENDANCE	Sadie Jarvis <u>Board Members Absent from Meeting:</u> <u>Staff/Guests Attending Meeting:</u> Bryant Williams Shawnta Locks <u>Staff/Guests Attending Meeting (Zoom):</u> Deborah Blalock Dia Kennerly Shaunette Lloyd	
APPROVAL		