

Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

Meeting held in person and by Zoom

Attendance:

Board Members: Mekeshia Bates, Terrance Dawkins, Brooke Henderson, Jane McCall, Jennie S. Montgomery, Jennifer Parker, Vanessa Thompson, Robert Usry

Members Excused: Cecilia Cogdell

Members Unexcused: Wendy Cox, Erica Savage-Jeter, Gayle Singletary

Staff Members: Tamer Elshennawy; Ebony Gaffney, M.D.; Carrie Pettit; Deb Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services.

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Rob called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.	None.
Approval of the Minutes	The minutes of the January 8, 2026, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.	None.
Board Orientation:	No Program updates at this time.	None.
Finance/Budget/Building & Grounds Tamer Elshennawy	Tamer discussed the following: - Budget Forecast for December shows \$450,000 Surplus - PHC for December was 711.0, did not meet 780 requirements. - PCH for January will be affected by our Hazardous Weather. - Building & Grounds: Contacted engineering group about roof to start assessment.	Continue to follow.
School Based Services: Jamie Wardlaw	- We are in approximately 14 schools in Spartanburg County - Treatment Services are provided in the schools	Continue to follow.

Quality Assurance Coordinator Carrie Pettit	- First quarter 2026 audit at 85% - Medicaid and Medicare down. - Plans to do mandatory training with staff after avatar rolls out.	None.
Legislative Cecilia Cogdell	Contacted the Legislative Delegation Office to inquire about when and how the agenda for the missed meeting would be handled and was told that it would be included in the business at the May 4, 2026, meeting. Our Mental Health Center Board candidate will be reviewed at that meeting.	Continue to follow.
Nominating Brook Henderson	Brook discussed the following: May have 2 more candidates interested in our 2 vacancies for Cherokee County.	Continue to follow.
Personnel Ebony Gaffney, M.D.	No discussion. <u>New hires:</u> NONE <u>Resignations:</u> Fantasia Pereira 2/27/26, Lucinda Kennedy 3/6/26, Elaisha Gibson 3/27/26, Lacy Teal 3/26/26. <u>Retirees:</u> NONE	Continues. New Hires, Resignations, and Retirees are also listed on agenda.
Executive/Medical Director's Report Ebony Gaffney, M.D.	Dr. Gaffney discussed the following: (Power Point attached to original copy of minutes) - Executive Summary - Program Highlights – Service Delivery - Integrated Care Data - Program Highlights for New Services - Community Impact - BHDD Programmatic Integration - Strategic plan overview - Community Centered Outreach - Implementation Roadmap - Next stakeholder meeting April 9, 2026, 12:00-12:45 pm	Continue to follow.
Community Events	- City of Spartanburg Healthcare Fair - Milliken Plant Health Fair – Cherokee	None.
Comments from Central Office Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Services	Deb discussed the following: - BHDD addressing patient challenges. - Budget has been presented to the House and Ways \$11 million going to IT.	Continue to follow.

	• A Consolidated budget with Office of Mental Health, Office of Substance Use Disorders, and Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will not allow centers to keep surplus.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.	Next meeting – March 5, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Spartanburg Area MHC.

Respectfully submitted,
Deana M. Kerr, Human Resources Manager