

Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center Board Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

Meeting held in person and by Zoom

Attendance:

Board Members: Jennifer Parker, Gayle Singletary, Brooke Henderson, Vanessa Thompson, Miriam McCall, Lauren Foster, Cecilia Cogdell, Rob Usry, Terence Dawkins, Mekeshia Bates

Members Excused:

Members Unexcused:

Staff Members: Ebony Gaffney, M.D.; Melanie Gambrell Assistant Deputy Director, Nikki Compton, Tamer Elshennawy, Carrie Pettit, Carrie Hanson

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 June 4, 2026, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.	None.
Board Orientation: Nikki Compton	• Justice Involved Program • Margaret McAdams is an imbedded clinician who provides mental health assessments & treatment to inmates. • She works with IPS, Peer Support & other providers to connect individuals with substance abuse and mental illness providers following discharge.	None.
Finance/Budget/Building & Grounds Tamer Elshennawy Ebony Gaffney, MD	• We finished the FY26 budget year with \$86,232 in extra savings/surplus. • The FOCUS grant program is scheduled to officially end on August 31, 2026. • Building & Grounds: Mold presence was confirmed; remediation will begin. Zero asbestos detected.	Continue to follow.

	• Facility wide roof leaks with issues isolated to the 3rd floor. Phase I approved and temporary repairs ongoing. • Our main fire system/sprinkler is operating on a temporary third compressor: permanent fix underway. System failures are traced to the sprinkler suppression system compressor, not the main fire panel.	
Quality Assurance Coordinator Carrie Pettit	• DHHS will be doing an auditing Mobile Crisis for May 1 through December 2025. • In the process of revising our current state audit, current findings are paybacks and warnings with Medicaid. • There are areas we consistently hit and some areas for growth, Carrie Hanson and Carrie Pettit, are working with supervisors to ensure staff can make changes needed. • Staff continue to get Avatar training.	None.
Assistant Center Director Carrie Hanson	• The ACT Program is involved in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union detention centers. If needed once inmates are released, they are transferred into the ACT Program. • ACT is also facilitating another agency to get involved by doing mental health services needed for those with substance use. • An agency in Union will join us to help those with substance use.	
Legislative Cecilia Cogdell	• Cecilia Cogdell and Gayle Singletary attended the Legislative Delegation meeting. There were no applications and the agenda will be moved to next month.	Continue to follow.
Nominating Brook Henderson	Brook discussed the following: • We currently have two positions open for Spartanburg and one for Cherokee county. • If you have any recommendations, please reach out Brook.	Continue to follow.
Personnel Ebony Gaffney, M.D.	No discussion. <u>New hires</u> : Lisa Pappas 8/3 (Counselor I/Eubanks Center) <u>Resignations</u> : None	Continue to follow. New Hires, Resignations, and Retirees are also listed on agenda.

	<u>Retirees:</u> None.	
Executive/Medical Director's Report Ebony Gaffney, M.D.	Dr. Gaffney discussed the following: (Power Point attached to original copy of minutes) • Since the merge we did have a reduction in force and an individual was affected. She has found another position with our center and will return mid-August. • IT, Facilities, Building/Grounds, HR and Finance have been centralized. Tamer will now be our Financial Administrator. • Stakeholder Engagement & Public Mobilization • Community Outreach & Vulnerable Populations • Rural Satellites & Academic Scale • Case Validation & Youth Outcomes	Continue to follow. See PowerPoint.
Community Events	• SIM Mapping Workshop- September 9 & 10, 2026. • September 17, 2026: Q1 Hybrid Stakeholder Meeting & Program Spotlight (12:00 PM – 12:45 PM via Zoom) • October 2026: Deployment of Fiscal Year Strategic Planning Stakeholder Survey	None.
Comments from Central Office Melanie Gambrell, Assistant Deputy Director	Melanie discussed the following: • Over the past 16months we have merged with 3 agencies, Dept. of Mental Health, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs & Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. • We are BHDD for now. We are working across all three areas to make positive changes. • Administrative core functions have been centralized, and we are also looking at Integration services of care. We have collocated behavioral health specialists. • Training Mobile Crisis responders to better serve individuals with Intellectual developmental disabilities as well as substance issues. • We have received a grant for Mobile Crisis through Rural Health Transformation, we will not be able to hire staff, but we are working with a company to help access increased diversions and decrease response times.	Continue to follow.

	As of July 22, 2026, the legislators have agreed for our community mental health centers to receive over \$800,000, it will be dedicated to the expansion of Mobile Crisis.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.	Next meeting – September 3, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Spartanburg Area MHC.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Alverson, Accounting