

**Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2026, Meeting Held by In Person & Via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Caroline Dibattisto, M.D. Chair; Alexis Scurry; Chair-Elect Mr. Bill Lindsey, Secretary Treasurer/Past Chair; Mr. Gene Green; Ms. Yolanda Faraj; Ms. Linda Jefferson; Mr. Jerry Pate; Ms. Margaret Scott; Mr. Curtis Singleton

Board Members Absent: Mr. Jim Mullen

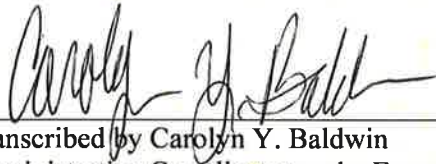
Staff Present: Ms. Kathy Hugg, Executive Director; Ms. Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chief of Staff; Ms. Blaire Foutz; Ms. Carolyn Baldwin, Administrative Coordinator

SCDMH: Ms. Deborah Blalock, Deputy Director

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Dr. DiBattisto called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the June 24th board meeting were approved as written.	
Deputy Director Report <i>Deborah Blalock</i>	The state budget has been passed. All full-time equivalent (FTE) employees will receive a 2% base pay increase on their September 16th paycheck, which will be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year. The October 1 paycheck will reflect their normal, recurring pay following the increase. BHDD leadership has hired the following new staff: Jay Edwards, Human Resources Director; Eric Manning, Facilities Director; Brandon Koehler, Chief Financial Officer and Beth Moore, Communications Director. The State Program Director position has been posted and closed. This is the position that is over the mental health centers, the hospitals, the regional centers, community residential care facilities and the autism homes. Our first BHDD All-Hands-on Deck meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27th. This is a meeting for the entire agency which will be held live four times during the day so staff working various shifts can participate and get the same information.	

	BHDD is moving toward the “No Wrong Door” and there is some movement as follows: 1) Five of the centers have hired the staff person that will work with the IDD population, and the remaining centers are in the process of hiring. Staff are being trained in that area, so they are ready to serve that population. 2) Our physicians will be getting trained on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) so they can assist with patients with substance use disorders. This training will take place on Tuesday, November 17th. 3) Several of our mental health centers including CAMHC have co-location agreements with the 301 agencies where we embed one of our clinicians in a 301 or when a 301 embeds in our center. Ms. Blalock announced that she is retiring on January 4, 2027. As part of her retirement, she is visiting all mental health centers and meeting with senior leadership to hear about the center’s needs. She met with CAMHC on Tuesday, August 25th.	
Director’s Report <i>Kathy Hugg</i>	A reduction in force occurred on June 30th and two of our Human Resources (HR) staff were let go. The HR manager, Vickie Brown, who worked for CAMHC for over 30 years has since retired. The HR suite was dedicated in her honor. We also lost our contracts staff person so we will have to replace the person that was over all the contracts. Our Staff Development Coordinator is also retiring, and her position is currently being advertised. Our Medical Director has informed us that he will be retiring prior to the end of the year. We currently share our Medical Director with the Anderson Oconee Pickens MHC; however, the new medical director will be full-time with CAMHC. The HR suite is currently empty and we’re considering various options for the use of that space. Currently working to get things consolidated so we can possibly move the Metropolitan Children’s Advocacy Center (MetCAC) into one of the locations since they are our biggest lease. The census has increased at the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and we have consistently had patients there for over two weeks which is the longest stretch we’ve had. Center leadership will be starting a Staff Advisory board and will have it up and running by October 1st. We are also starting a peer support system for staff to support each other whenever they are struggling with personal issues or lose one of their patients.	
Financial Report <i>Blair Foutz</i>	Ms. Foutz reviewed the FY26 Financial Report as of June 30, 2026, and noted that the first forecast for the year is done by central office. She also reviewed the year end close financial. General discussion was held.	

Consent Agenda <i>Dr. Dibattisto</i>	Dr. DiBattisto asked if there were any questions or comments related to the items on the consent agenda. There were no questions or comments. She called for a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. On a motion made by Mr. Pate and seconded by Mr. Green the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.	
Committee Reports	No reports at this time.	
Other Business	Mr. Lindsey announced that the NAMI SC Annual conference will be held on Thursday, September 3 rd at the Richland School District II complex in Sandhills. Chairman Bruce Bannister who is the head of Ways and Means and Senator Russell Ott will be on the legislative panel. Ms. Hannah Wesolowski, who is the head policy person at the federal level, will be one of the guest speakers. Sheriff Leon Lott is also a guest speaker and will do a personal testimony about his involvement with mental illness.	
Adjournment	There being no further business, Dr. Dibattisto adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting of the CAMHC Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at the Fairfield Clinic, 1073 US Highway 321 Bypass S., Winnsboro, SC & Via Zoom.	



Transcribed by Carolyn Y. Baldwin
Administrative Coordinator to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors