Columbia Area MHC Board Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2026, Meeting Held by In Person & Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Caroline Dibattisto, M.D. Chair; Mr. Bill Lindsey, Secretary Treasurer/Past Chair; Ms. Yolanda Faraj, Ms. Linda Jefferson, Mr. Jim Mullen, Ms. Margaret Scott

Board Members Absent: Ms. Alexis Scurry, Chair-Elect; Mr. Gene Green, Mr. Jerry Pate, Mr. Curtis Singleton

Staff Present: Ms. Dianetta Reddenburg-Newton, Program Director, Fairfield MHC; Ms. Kathy Hugg, Executive Director; Ms. Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chief of Staff; Ms. Blaire Foutz, Administrator; Ms. Carolyn Baldwin, Administrative Coordinator

BHDD/OMH: Ms. Melanie Gambrell, Director, Office of Mental Health

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 August 26th board meeting were approved as written.	
Update on the Fairfield MHC	Ms. Reddenburg-Newton provided an update on the Fairfield Mental Health Center. Currently we serve approximately 230 active patients. All positions are filled and there are no vacant positions. Clinic staff include one program director, two nurse practitioners, one registered nurse, two master's level mental health professionals (MHP) and one administrative specialist. Services and current initiatives include the following: • Outpatient Behavioral Health Services: Individual therapy, psychiatric and medication management services, nursing support, assessments, treatment planning, crisis support, care coordination, and referrals to community resources. • Women's Group: Implemented a therapeutic group for adult women focused on reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, strengthening self-esteem and coping skills, decreasing isolation, improving relationships, and increasing emotional regulation. • Support for Displaced Workers: Following the recent Fairfield County mattress plant fire, the clinic expanded outreach to displaced workers and their families. Information about available mental health services was shared, with walk-in access and therapeutic support available as needed. • Workforce Resource Initiative: The clinic is developing a Workforce Resource Fair to connect	

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	community members with employment opportunities, workforce resources, community agencies, and other support services. This initiative recognizes the connection between employment, stability, access to resources, and mental wellness. • Community Outreach & Partnerships: The clinic continues to strengthen relationships with local organizations, healthcare providers, churches, community agencies, and other stakeholders through outreach, mental health education, resource sharing, and participation in community events. Our continued focus is to increase community visibility, strengthen partnerships, reduce barriers to accessing mental health services, and ensure Fairfield County residents know that support is available.	
OMH Director Update *Melanie Gambrell*	As everyone is aware, BHDD has many changes going on now and several roles have changed since the board last met. Ms. Gambrell said her new role is the Office of Mental Health Director for BHDD. Ms. Deborah Blalock has shifted over to be a senior consultant and will be in that role until her retirement in January 2027. Dr. Kimberly Rudd is the Interim Director of State Operations. She has oversight of all our psychiatric inpatient facilities, regional centers as well as community mental health centers. In the meantime, OMH leadership will be recruiting someone to supervise the mental health center directors. Ms. Gambrell said will be co-supervising the mental health center directors along with Dr. Rudd until someone is hired in that position.	
Director's Report *Kathy Hugg*	Ms. Hugg said last month she reported that PCH expectations were increasing but since then we were told not to increase them, so we are going back to our original PCH expectations for now. BHDD leadership is taking a closer look at what is appropriate and doable and what the PCH expectations should be moving forward. Currently in the process of shifting some programs around. Our Behavior Therapy program will move into the Human Resources suite. The Clinical Support staff will move into the Business Office suite and make that more of a training area for staff. The Business Office staff will move where Clinical Support staff are currently located. The moves will take place in October. Prisma Internal Medicine residents will be coming to the center each month on a rotation to learn about mental health, behavior health and the mental health center. Met with the second group of residents yesterday. A meeting was held recently with LRADAC. They have one staff embedded in our clinic and we are looking at embedding one of our clinicians at LRADAC one day a week to assist with assessments	

	particularly with the residential program. A Mental Health court graduation will be held on October 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Main Street courthouse. Ms. Hugg said she continues to do a lot of HR functions and is receiving some assistance with HR functions from a staff member at Greenville MHC. We are awaiting seven salary approvals, and have seven positions that are either posted or in the interview process. There are three more positions that we are awaiting approvals to advertise. The Out of the Darkness Walk is coming up on Sunday, October 18th at Riverfront Park.	
Financial Report *Blaire Foutz*	Ms. Foutz reviewed the FY27 Financial Report as of August 31, 2026, and noted that there is no change in the bottom line. General discussion was held.	
Consent Agenda *Dr. Dibattisto*	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. Mullen and seconded by Mr. Lindsey the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved.	
Committee Reports	No reports at this time.	
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, October 28th at 5:15 p.m. at 2715 Colonial Drive and & Via Zoom.**	

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