

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026
Virtual

Attendance: Douglas Wurster (Chair), Joyce Brown, Linda Lucas, Jorgia Hazelwood, Malinda Terry, Dr. Roxane Scott, Brooklyn Milner, Taryn Reed (Administrator), Jennifer Brush (Executive Director), Stacy Mathis (Chief of Staff), Dr. David Friedrich (Medical Director), Gerri Pazi (Dorchester Clinic Director), and Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director (SC OMH).

Absent:

Topic	Discussion	Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions Call to Order	The Board chair, Douglas Wurster, called the monthly meeting to order at 6:00pm, noting the presence of a quorum. Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for notification of the meeting were met.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of December 1, 2025, were approved as written on a motion by Malinda Terry and seconded by Douglas Wurster. All in favor.	
CDMHC Executive Director Report.	Jennifer Brush reported - SIMS Homeless Response System Mapping training was hosted at the DSS Bldg. Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester and other community partners joined together to review and share resources to help the homeless. Charleston Mayor Cogswell attended and is interested in working together to improve this issue. Goose Creek Mayor Habib attended and is looking at ways to be helpful. Discussion around how to increase communication between partners, housing options and creative ways to expand ER beds, - A tragic loss of one of the staff, Chris Faulk who worked for CDMHC for 6 years with the NAVIGATE program and recently TCSC. We will continue to support staff during this loss. - Taryn & Jennifer will meet with DOA to share information and review the center functions. - CARF is coming in March 2026 for re-accreditation of the center.	
Medical Director Report	Dr. Friedrich provided the following: - Discussion around reorganization of BHDD at the State Medical Directors meeting. - Gearing up for new AVATAR (E.H.R.) system. - Currently have 23 Residents to get people connected with mental health and increase access to service. 13 MUSC Residents started in January 2026.	
Dorchester Clinic Report	Gerri reported: - Two Interns was hired to help provide services to the patient. - Posted positions for SMH, Mobile Crisis and the clinic. - Expanding services to more people in St. George. Will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 23, 2026,	
Budget Report	Taryn Reed, Administrator, reported on the FY26 budget update as of December 31, 2025. A copy was distributed for review: - Budget shows a deficit of \$2.4 million dollars. Shared report of breakdown separating Mobile Call center, TCSC and 988 programs. 2	

	- Shared flyer of new campaign “Care begins with Accuracy” for checking patients’ information to ensure it is updated in the system which help improve customer service, patient’s high balance and ensure patient receive service. This plan goes into effect in February 2026.	
Community events, grant updates, etc.	Stacy Mathis provided the following updates: - Reviewed high no-show PMA rates for kids. Discussion around new process for families to attend family therapy then the kids will be scheduled for PMA effective January 2, 2026. - Superuser are in process of training staff on the new AVATAR Electronic Health Record from January 23 – March 23, 2026. Expected to roll out the week of April 13 – 16, 2026.	
Deputy Director report	Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director, reported the following updates for SCOMH: - The organizational structure of the SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities was shared with the board. Still waiting for a director to be assigned. - FY27 Budget recommendations were presented to the subcommittee House Ways & Mean for all 3 agencies. Requests were made for more forensic beds, staff in Detention center to help with patients’ diversion from jails, 988 program to extend Mobile assessment and community mental health services.	
MH HEROES Report	Stacy Mathis, Chief of Staff reported: - All presenters are lined up for the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference. Waiting for information on speakers to do the pre-conference sessions. Multiple lunch sessions are set up. Doing raffles for someone to attend in-depth talk for Q&A with Buddhist Monk Shi Heng Yi. Friday finale Tessa Spencer will share her personal experience and do a Q&A. Will open it up to the community to gain more interest in the conference. Registration is now open. MH HEROES and Board of Directors will have a box seat to attend.	Reach out to Stacy.mathis@scdmh.org to register.
NAMI Report	- No report.	Reach out to and Tia.Lewis@sscdmh.org for information
Announcement	<i>Populations to be served at this Mental Health Center</i> Policy to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the next meeting.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Malinda Terry and seconded by Dr. Roxane Scott. All in favor.	
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026, at Administration Bldg., 2125 Charlie Hall Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414		