

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Administration Bldg., 2125 Charlie Hall Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
February 23, 2026

Attendance: Douglas Wurster (Chair), Joyce Brown, Linda Lucas, Jorgia Hazelwood, 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: Malinda Terry, Dr. Roxane Scott, Brooklyn Milner and Kendra Stewart

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 January 26, 2026, were approved as written on a motion by Douglas Wurster and seconded by Joyce Brown. All in favor.	
CDMHC Executive Director Report.	Jennifer Brush reported: - Information shared of Programs with detailed services provided at the center and FY25 Annual CDMHC Outcomes. - Community calendar of events for February was distributed for review. Will send March once it is completed. - Admin, Medical and clinical staff are doing a great job checking all demographic, financial and insurance information with patients on each visit to ensure everything is up to date. This helps with billing services correctly and improves customer service. - Along with Taryn met with Governor's office and Dept. Of Administration and shared information and look at administrative duties in IT, HR, Finance to better understand and learn more about the center. - ACT is short staffed. Posted to backfill vacant positions. Nurse Patty is currently serving 19 patients in the community. - 988 served 37,000 people and shared information and resources about the program. - Al Cannon Detention Jail Restoration program and staff embedded at the jail is working with Columbia forensic team to help get patients' services. Have identified the first 5 patients to be a part of the program. The goal is to prevent people from having a long wait to go to Columbia. - Received a grant for Charleston Financial Empowerment Center to provide free financial counseling to the staff and patients. - CARF is coming March 18-20, 2026, to survey how we deliver care, document services, and ensure safety and quality for re-accreditation of the center.	
Medical Director Report	Dr. Friedrich provided the following: - The Nurse Practitioner will go to the St. George location once a month to provide services. - Dr. Caroline Sam returned from FMLA. - Lindsay Lawing, Nursing Director last day is March 6, 2026. Will backfill her position.	
Dorchester Clinic Report	Gerri reported:	

	- Along with Taryn, worked on MOU contract for EMS to work with staff to provide service to patients in Dorchester County via telehealth to divert them from going to the ER. - Attended the Ribbon cutting ceremony at new St. George location. Staff will be there 2 days a week to provide services to those in the rural area unable to get to the clinic for services. Will share space with Drug and Alcohol program 3 days a week. - Continue to interview for several vacant positions to serve people in the community.	
Budget Report	Taryn Reed, Administrator, reported on the FY26 budget update as of January 2026. A copy was distributed for review: - Budget shows a deficit of \$1.9 million dollars. Shared report of breakdown separating Mobile Call center, TCSC and 988 programs which shows a surplus of \$233,000 dollars. Extended \$355,000 grant for TCSC which will help the budget.	
Community events, grant updates, etc.	Stacy Mathis provided the following updates: - Continue to get all staff trained on the new AVATAR (EHR) system. It will go LIVE on April 13. - 8 new residents have started and hope to get them onboard into permanent employment.	
Deputy Director report	Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director, reported the following updates for SCOMH: - The organizational structure of the SC Office of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities structure was shared with the board. Still waiting for a director to be assigned. - Centers did a great job presenting to the DOA on the administrative structure. - Seeking to combine care across the state for all to be able to walk into any agency for service.	
MH HEROES Report	Stacy Mathis, Chief of Staff reported: - All presenters are lined up for the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference. Stephanie Turner, Autism Division Director of the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, will present and do a pre-conference session.	Reach out to Stacy.mathis@scdmh.org to register.
NAMI Report	Stacy reported: - NAMI stopped the family support group in Mt. Pleasant because of low attendance. - Festival of Hope to raise awareness about mental illness and substance abuse will be held on July 18, 2026 - NAMI walk will be held at Palmetto Park, Mt. Pleasant SC on October 3, 2026.	Reach out to and Tia.Lewis@sscdmh.org for information
Announcement	<i>Populations to be served at this Mental Health Center</i> policy will be reviewed for revision and presented later for approval. Joann Monnin-Debevec submitted her letter of resignation effective February 2, 2026.	Will need to fill vice-chair position.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Douglas Wurster and seconded by Jorgia Hazelwood. All in favor.	
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026, virtually		