

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026
Virtual

Attendance: Douglas Wurster (Chair), Joyce Brown, Linda Lucas, Jorgia Hazelwood, Malinda Terry, Dr. Roxane Scott, Brooklyn Milner, Margaret “Beth” Tufts (new member). Taryn Reed (Administrator), Jennifer Brush (Executive Director), Stacy Mathis (Chief of Staff), Dr. David Friedrich (Medical Director), and Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director (SC OMH).

Absent: 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. All welcomed new board member Margaret Beth Tufts who was appointed by Charleston County Delegation Legislative Office. Beth served on the board in 2004.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of February 23, 2026, were approved as written on a motion by Malinda Terry and seconded by Joyce Brown. All in favor.	
CDMHC Executive Director Report.	Jennifer Brush reported: - CARF survey went well. Interviewed patients and staff, reviewed policy and procedures, documentation, and safety for re-accreditation of the center. 5 recommendations out of 1.445 items. They were really impressed with staff longevity, services, professional development and resources offered at the center. - Cooper River Bridge run is Saturday, March 28. Dorchester walking group will participate. MH HEROES purchased T-shirts and paid the registration fee. 988 will have a booth at the expo to share resources and swags. - St. George opened a space with MUSC and Dorchester Drug & Alcohol center. A nurse and clinician will provide services 2 days weekly to people unable to come to the clinic. Received 3 referrals within the first week. - HR is getting more vacant positions approved. Currently we have up to 275 FTE employees. - CDMHC will participate in the Charleston County Mental Health Forum with Live Oak, NAMI, MUSC, Navigation Center, CCSO, etc., Friday, March 27, 2026, at 1:00pm-3:30pm, MUSC downtown. Will discuss challenges, gaps in care, crisis response, mental health services and overview of a Clubhouse model to support the community. The Clubhouse will be run by peers with the opportunity to have a place to go for support, resources, etc. - Position posted to hire someone to provide therapy services for adults and kids with disability.	
Medical Director Report	Dr. Friedrich provided the following: - The Medical staff is scheduled for trainings to prepare for AVATAR new E.H.R. next week. - Nursing Director resigned on March 6. The team is working hard to keep things functioning. We serve many MMO patients. 20% of the caseloads are covered by the nurses.	- Will backfill her position.

Budget Report	Taryn Reed, Administrator, reported on the FY26 budget update as of February 2026. A copy was distributed for review: - Budget shows a deficit of \$2.1 million dollars. Shared report of breakdown separating Mobile Call center, TCSC and 988 programs. Working on the FY27 budget due next month. Meeting with Columbia monthly to review all budgets. PCH number went up this month. The focus is on coaching staff to be successful. - Billing department has a temp helping to post payments and process billing. - Jennifer is meeting with managers 1.1 to focus on getting correct information. Campaign patient update for Admin/clinical to verify information to ensure everything is current.	
Community events, grant updates, etc.	Stacy Mathis provided the following updates: - Reapplied for a VOCA Grant to place therapist in City of Charleston, North Charleston and Dorchester County Police department and Sheriff Offices. - CARF visit was very successful. Staff did a great to prepare for the visit. Some recommendations were around plans for strategic goals, documentation, and safety plan, etc. - Strategic plan meeting with managers to be held in June to review the center's goals for next fiscal year and training opportunity.	- Looking for someone to present on leadership to help staff morale.
Deputy Director report	Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director, reported the following updates for SCOMH: - Clubhouse International is looking to start a clubhouse in Charleston to provide a space for adults with mental illness to go during the day. Gateway Clubhouse is in Greenville. - Shared updates on the organizational structure of the SC Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities with the board. Still have not appointed a director. - Eric Manning was hired as the new Facilities Director over physical plant started March 2. - Col. Jason Edwards hired as the new Human Resources Director starts April 13, 2026. - FY27 budget request was made to the Senate. House recommendations were \$21 million dollars for BHDD. Requested funds to support 988 because the grant expires September 30.	- Will share the organizational chart for all 3 agencies once updated.
MH HEROES Report	Stacy Mathis, Chief of Staff reported: - Working on Continuing Education applications for the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference.	www.lowcountrymhconference.com/2026-conference-schedule for more info.
NAMI Report	Stacy reported: - NAMI of Charleston and Lantern Residences will host the Festival of Hope on July 25th, in Summerville. A free community event centered around MH and substance abuse recovery. - NAMI was awarded a grant to help with medications. - Looking for someone who has dealt with tardive dyskinesia to share their story. - 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 was reviewed and some changes were made. Presented to the Governor's office and waiting for it to be returned.	.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Dr. Roxane Scott and seconded by Brooklyn Milner. All in favor.	
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2026		