

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health
2100 Charlie Hall Blvd, Charleston, SC 29414
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2026

Attendance: Douglas Wurster (Chair), Joyce Brown, Linda Lucas, Jorgia Hazelwood, Kendra Stewart, Brooklyn Milner, Margaret "Beth" Tufts, Molly Edwards (new member), Dr. Roxane Scott, Gerri Pazi (Dorchester Clinic Director) 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: Malinda Terry

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 Molly Edwards who was appointed by Dorchester County Delegation Legislative Office.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of March 23, 2026, were approved as written on a motion by Dr. Roxane Scott and seconded by Kendra Stewart. All in favor.	
CDMHC Executive Director Report.	Jennifer Brush reported: - Currently we have 20 positions posted to backfill. Lot of staff left due to salary, for private practice, etc. - Collaborating with Stephanie Turner, <i>Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</i> to help people with disabilities. Position posted to hire someone to provide therapy services for adults and kids. - We are still waiting for the Patient Care Hours (PCH) report to review the numbers. Managers are doing lots of coaching to help staff overcome some of the barriers to be successful. - CDMHC went LIVE for AVATAR on Monday, April 13, 2026. Leigh Ann Chmura and Matt Dugan, Netsmart Command team was stationed at the center which was helpful for staff. - A.C.T. team is down to a doctor, Nurse and Admin. Lots of positions posted fill. There are 10 patients on the caseload to provide service in the community. - The numbers of people served at MC Call center, 988 and Mobile Crisis keep rising. - Restoration program at CCSO has started. Two patients are receiving services. The goal is to help those who are incompetent to stand trial and get restored to go back into the community once released from jail. They must agree to take psychiatric mediation while in jail. The hope is to be able to get more people out of the state hospital. - Received an obituary about Dr. Thom Hiers, former Executive Director and Children Services Director death on April 10, 2026. Share information with the family about his services and dedication to CDMHC. The family will donate to MH HEROES to support the patients. - Partnered with CCSO Police Assisted Care & Treatment (PACT) to do drop off at TCSC and Charleston Center for services.	

	- Annual Strategic Planning meeting with Managers is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, at Charleston DSS training room. Will review the center's goals for next fiscal year, training opportunities, center metrics, patient assess and share information about the merger.	
Medical Director Report	Dr. Friedrich provided the following: - Interview scheduled to backfill Nursing Director position. - Dr. Ilva Iriarte accepted promotion to become the Medical Director at Pee Dee MHC. - Plan to hire a full-time APRN to cover Dorchester clinic and expand services at WAC. - Medical staff are getting familiar with the new AVATAR system.	
Budget Report	Taryn Reed, Administrator, reported on the FY26 budget update through end of March 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 deficit of \$610,000. Working on the FY27 budget to present to DOA in Columbia on May 15th. - Still short-staffed in the Billing department. Hired a temp to post payments and process billing.	
Community events, grant updates, etc.	Stacy Mathis provided the following updates: - May is Mental Health Awareness month. Will decorate the building with balloons, banner and pinwheels along the sidewalk. - New AVATAR electronic health record started May 13, 2026. Superusers helped train staff. - Working on lots of grants for the center. Will meet to review them.	
MH HEROES Report	Stacy Mathis, Chief of Staff reported: - Working on completing information for presenters, ordering supplies, registration, etc. for the Conference. The conference is offered in person and virtual. - MH HEROES and NAMI will have a table to share resources at the RiverDog game May 15.	www.lowcountrymhcconference.com/2026-conference-schedule for more info.
NAMI Report	Stacy reported: - NAMI was awarded a \$10,000 grant to help with medications and resources for people with tardive dyskinesia.	Reach out to and Tia.Lewis@sscdmh.org for information
Dorchester Clinic Director report	Gerri reported - Working with Angie Johnson, County Paramedic on a collaboration with EMS to provide telehealth services with Mobile Crisis effective May 4th. Will be able to transport patients to the hospital and TCSC.	
Deputy Director report	Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director, reported the following updates for SCOMH: - Legislative services wrapped up on May 4th. The house FY27 budget recommendation is \$21 million dollars from the senate and \$27 million dollars from the house. 988 was not funded and the grant ends September 20th. Discussion around news with Forensic. - New Facilities Director is Eric Manning effective March 2, 2026. - New Human Resources Director is Jason Edwards effective April 13, 2026. - Dr. Bank is retiring effective June 1st. Retirement celebration is May 19th from 2:00-4:00pm. - We are still waiting for a director to be named for BHDD. - Shared two new Mission statements with the board. Waiting for guidelines about the mission statements.	- Will share the organizational chart for all 3 agencies once updated.

	- New email address effective April 25, 2026, to ExistingUsername@omh.bhdd.sc.gov .	
Announcement	Ms. Lucas shared she attended an event at the Rock Church on Rivers Avenue and was really impressed with the team and how organized it was. She met with Ms. Dilligard and provided supplies for school-based program to support middle school students. Encouraged all to attend some of the events scheduled.	.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Dr. Roxane Scott and seconded by Margaret "Beth" Tufts. All in favor.	
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026		