

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2026
Virtual

Attendance: Douglas Wurster (Chair), Jorgia Hazelwood, Malinda Terry, Dr. Roxane Scott, Margaret "Beth" Tufts, Molly Edwards (new member), Taryn Reed (Administrator), Jennifer Brush (Executive Director), Dr. David Friedrich (Medical Director), and Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director (SC OMH).

Absent: Kendra Stewart, Joyce Brown, Linda Lucas, Brooklyn Milner, and Xiomara Sosa (new member)

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 April 27, 2026, were approved as written on a motion by Malinda Terry and seconded by Dr. Roxane Scott. All in favor.	
CDMHC Executive Director Report.	Jennifer Brush reported: - HR is getting more positions approved. Continue to lose staff which is causing a problem with coverage of large caseloads. - Mobile has an uptick in intakes and looking at ways to improve the way they are being completed for workflow. The plan is for SMH staff to assist in the clinic at TCSC, Mobile Crisis, etc. during the summer. Restructuring teams to continue providing services to patients. - Offer exit interviews to staff leaving to get insights, information or suggestions on how to improve. Some are leaving for private practice, higher salaries, to work in hospitals and school system, one retired because of the new AVATAR System. - Tripp Patterson, Highway to Hope driver has retired and we are in the process of looking for someone to drive the RV to continue providing services to people unable to come to the clinic. - Offering lots of training to new hires. - Offer dual employment for people to work at the Call Center, 988, and TCSC. - TCSC census increased in April & May due to the partnership with Police Assist Care Team (PACT) as part of Diversion and Deflection, new pilot program with Charleston County Sheriff to transport people for services. Looking at a way to track data. - The center has been working with some special needs people with the assistance of Office of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. (OIDD). - Awarded 3 years accreditations by CARF. Need to do performance improvement for things noted around health and safety plan. - Selected Employee of the Year/Hassenplug winners for CDMHC. Plan to have a small celebration at the clinic with dessert and will invite their family and friends to attend as they are presented with an Award.	
Medical Director Report	Dr. Friedrich provided the following: - Interviewed first choice candidate for the nursing position.	

	- Posted to hire a Nurse Practitioner to cover both clinics. - The medical staff is looking at ways to ensure people are getting medication, appointments scheduled on AVATAR. All medications were entered in the patient's chart on AVATAR. - Meeting with Medical Directors to look at notes to make sure they are completed properly and signed to help staff be successful.	
Budget Report	Taryn Reed, Administrator, reported on the FY26 budget update as of April 2026. A copy was distributed for review: - Budget shows a deficit of \$658,000 dollars. Staff were moved into federal block grant funds. 25% will go towards FY27 budget to cover 988 Call Center. FY27 budget was presented to Andrew Fowler and Debbie Blalock. Changes with MCO to use real numbers. Will present FY27 budget to the board once it has been approved. - Reached out to other centers for assistance with back billing at the center. - Managers are working with staff to help them be successful in meeting their PCH. Not able to bill for April, May and June because of the new AVATAR. Reviewing reports to correct problems in preparation for billing.	
Community events, grant updates, etc.	Jennifer Brush provided the following updates: - Annual Unity Health and Wellness Fair with CDMHC and community partners will be held Saturday May 30, 2026, from 10am-2pm at Mall Park. Will share resources for mental health services, medical care, housing and entitlement assistance, etc. Trident Technical College Nutritionist will do a cooking demonstration around how to cook healthy meals. - Charleston RiverDogs hosted Mental Health Awareness Night Friday, May 15, 2026, at Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park. - Schizophrenia Awareness Walk: CDMHC Staff will walk in the community Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at Charleston Clinic. - Community Wellness & Health Fair hosted by Edisto District Health Ministry on May 2nd - 9 am to 1 pm - Blood Drive/Mental Health Awareness Event hosted by North Charleston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on May 2nd - Staff wellness community has a calendar of events including twinning day, ice cream social, wear purple for Schizophrenia Day, etc. in recognition of mental health awareness. - Strategic plan meeting with managers to be held in June to review the center's goals for next fiscal year and training opportunity.	
Deputy Director report	Debbie Blalock, Deputy Director, reported the following updates for SCOMH: - Discussion around budget recommendations from the house and 988 SAMSHA grant. - Dr. Banks last day is June 1, 2026. Celebration for him is scheduled on Tuesday May 19 at 2pm in Columbia. - Director of Public Health vacated his position May 14th - Brandon Koehler joined (BHDD) as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) effective May 18. - Eric Manning was hired as the new Facilities Director over physical plant. - Jason Edwards was hired as new Human Resource Director.	

MH HEROES Report	Jennifer reported: - Preparing for the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference on July 29 -31, 2026 at the Gaillard Auditorium. Visit www.lowcountrymhconference.com/2026-conference-schedule for more information about the speakers.	- Debbie T. will send the updated flyers.
NAMI Report	No report	Reach out to and Tia.Lewis@sscdmh.org for information
Nominating Committee	Dr Roxane Scott will reach out to members to create a slate of officers to vote on for the upcoming fiscal year.	.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Dr. Roxane Scott and seconded by Malinda Terry. All in favor.	
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2026, virtual.		