

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
06/22/2026
Virtual

Attendance: Douglas Wurster (Chair), Joyce Brown, Linda Lucas, Jorgia Hazelwood, Malinda Terry, Dr. Roxane Scott, Margaret “Beth” Tufts, Xiomara Sosa (new member), Jennifer Brush (Executive Director), Gerri Pazi (Dorchester Clinic Director). Taryn Reed (Administrator), Stacy Mathis (Chief of Staff) and Melanie Gambrell, Asst. Deputy Director (SC OMH).

Absent: Kendra Stewart, Molly Edwards (new member), and Brooklyn Milner (resigned).

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 Xiomara Sosa who was appointed by Dorchester County Delegation Legislative Office.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of May 18, 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: - Staff are getting comfortable using the new AVATAR system. - The center is still down in a lot of positions. Have approximately 300 more patients this yar. School Mental Health staff are assisting in the clinic, TCSC and Mobile Crisis during the summer. Continue to see kids in the community, home, etc. - HR is getting more positions approved. Continue to lose staff to the school system, private practice and other agencies. Looking at ways to help staff be successful and motivated. Focus on what’s happening with new managers and Admin. IT, HR, maintenance and Billing have been centralized and is reporting to someone in Columbia. - TCSC is tracking data for people brought to the unit. - Working with managers and front-line staff to change the way intake is completed. - St. George is getting lots of referrals from MUSC. - ACT team is down to a nurse, Admin and doctor. Looking at ways to build the team. - MH Court numbers have increased of people seen. They are in the process of getting a contract to expand court assistant treatment program for	

	people to come in for treatment. Mental health will be a part of helping engage people for services. - 988 exceeded 3,000 calls in one month. 45,689 people have been served. Doing lots of marketing around it. - Mobile Crisis Call handled 3600 call last month. 100 people were diverted from the hospital and ER. Average approximately 60 discharges a month. - The jail is working with Forensic to help get people out of jail into treatment and housing.	
Medical Director Report	Jennifer provided the following updates: - Still in the process of filling the nursing position and hiring a Nurse Practitioner to cover both clinics. - Nine new Residents starting in July 2026.	.
Budget Report	Taryn Reed, Administrator, reported on the FY26 budget update as of April 13, 2026. A copy was distributed for review: - The billing team is working on the aging report and rejections. Behind in Medicaid billing collection. - Working with Dorchester District II on receiving school payment. - Budget shows a deficit of \$1.1 million dollars. - Waiting for approval on FY27 budget then will be presented at the next meeting. - The billing department has been centralized and will report to someone in Columbia.	
Community events, grant updates, etc.	Stacy Mathis provided the following updates: - Staff participated in several community events in June & July i.e., Men's Health Awareness Forum- Tabling Event at Knightsville Elementary School, Unity Day, Roundtable Alliance Meeting, Oak St. Health and Festival of Hope. - Annual Strategic Planning meeting with Managers, Thursday, June 25 in Charleston DSS training room. Offer education training and review FY27 goals for the center. The theme is "Defiant Joy" to look at ways to find joy behind the work we do.	.
Deputy Director report	Melanie Gambrell, Assistant Deputy Director, reported the following updates for SCOMH: - Meeting with staff at USC for collaboration with SMH services - New Communication Director - Beth Moore	

	- OMH is working on being more standardized, starting with creating Standard Operating Procedures and Standardized Position Description for the many different programs - SAMSHA Grant: Currently working on 988 and Mobile Crisis Grant	
MH HEROES Report	Stacy reported: - Preparing for the Lowcountry Mental Health Conference on July 29 -31, 2026 at the Gaillard Auditorium. Still advertising to increase attendance. Continuing Education applications are completed. Met to review the platform for registration. Looking for volunteers. Box seats are available for board members to attend in person.	
FY27 meeting	- The board reviewed FY27calendar. Voted and approved to not meet in July.	
NAMI Report	No report	Reach out to and Tia.Lewis@sscdmh.org for information
Nominating Committee	The Nominating committee Kendra Stewart and Dr. Roxane Scott proposed a motion for a slate of officers: - Chair- Douglas Wurster; - Secretary -Kendra Stewart; - Treasurer- Dr. Roxane Scott. Still need to fill the vice-chair position. Will reach out to other members not in attendance and present at the next meeting.	.
By-Laws	There will be two changes to update the name to SC Department of Behavioral Health Developmental Disabilities and remove meeting in July. Douglas Wurster, Chair, will review and sign the by-laws.	
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, August 24, 2026, at Dorchester Clinic		