

Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center Board Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2026

Meeting held in person and by Zoom

Attendance:

Board Members: Brook Henderson, Vanessa Thompson, Miriam McCall, Mekeshia Bates, Jennifer Parker

Members Excused: Dr. Ebony Gaffney, Rob Usry, Gayle Singletary, Cecilia Cogdell, Terence Dawkins

Members Unexcused: Dr. Erica Savage-Jeter, Lauren Foster

Staff Members: Freda Miller, Tamer Elshennawy, Carrie Hanson

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up
Welcome and Introductions	Brook called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.	None.
Approval of the Minutes	The minutes of the August 6, 2026, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.	None.
Board Orientation: Freda Miller Program Manager, Cherokee	• August 12, 2026, a Gaffney High School student was fatally shot while at the bus stop. Our clinicians were deployed on-site to provide critical grief counseling. We will continue to support the community as needed. • Cherokee has 4 clinicians and 1 Nurse Practitioner in the School Based Services • Partnering with Belle Haven Apartments and will have 7 designated units for our patients. • Partnering with First Baptist Church Blacksburg, we will be on site offering services for the rural community. • The Cherokee County Detention Center has budgeted for us to have an imbedded clinician to serve the inmates. • In May of this year, we held our community awareness (CHAD) event for the community.	PowerPoint.

Finance/Budget/Building & Grounds Tamer Elshennawy	- We are currently awaiting budget approval for FY27 and will share updates as soon as they are available. - The building and grounds are now centralized.	Continue to follow.												
Assistant Center Director Carrie Hanson	- State Performance Survey Results: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Key Strengths & Successes</th><th>Targeted Areas for Improvement</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Spartanburg OMH</td><td> - High quality of care - Strong cultural sensitivity </td><td> - Reduce intake delays - Optimize appointment availability </td></tr> <tr> <td>Cherokee OMH</td><td> - Robust social connectedness - Strong peer networks </td><td> - Expand localized youth programs </td></tr> <tr> <td>Union OMH</td><td> - Strong baseline service access </td><td> - Modernize facilities & amenities - Address psychiatric provider shortages </td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Key Strengths & Successes	Targeted Areas for Improvement	Spartanburg OMH	- High quality of care - Strong cultural sensitivity	- Reduce intake delays - Optimize appointment availability	Cherokee OMH	- Robust social connectedness - Strong peer networks	Expand localized youth programs	Union OMH	Strong baseline service access	- Modernize facilities & amenities - Address psychiatric provider shortages	Continue to follow.
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Legislative Cecilia Cogdell	Absent	Continue to follow.												
Nominating Brook Henderson	Brook discussed the following: - We currently have two positions open for Spartanburg and two for Cherokee county, though, two candidates who have expressed interest in Cherokee. - If you have any recommendations, please reach out Brook.	Continue to follow.												
Personnel Tamer Elshennawy	No discussion. <u>New hires</u>: Kellie Dover 8/17 (Resuming post-rift to ACT), Quincella Smith 8/17 (Nursing) Cierra Dean 9/2 (TLC Program) <u>Resignations</u>: Jasmyne Barron 8/7, Bailey Bridges 8/14, Emily Gay 8/14 Meika Jones 8/31, Margaret McAdams 8/21 <u>Retirees</u>: None.	Continue to follow. New Hires, Resignations, and Retirees are also listed on agenda.												
Executive/Medical Director's Report Tamer Elshennawy Carrie Hanson	Power Point attached to original copy of minutes - The FOCUS Grant ended 8/31/26, we are transitioning to start billing the family's insurance or providing - In honor and memory of Michelle Kelly, we will have a coat drive to support families in our community. Stakeholder Engagement & Public Mobilization	Continue to follow. See PowerPoint.												

Community Events	• SIM Mapping Workshop- September 9 & 10, 2026. • September 17, 2026: Q1 Hybrid Stakeholder Meeting & Program Spotlight (12:00 PM – 12:45 PM via Zoom) • October 2026: Deployment of Fiscal Year Strategic Planning Stakeholder Survey • January 21, 2027 Q2 Hybrid Stakeholder Meeting & Program Spotlight (12:00 PM- 12:45PM via Zoom)	None.
Comments from Central Office Debbie Blalock Deputy Director	• Absent	None.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.	Next meeting – October 1, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Spartanburg Area MHC.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Alverson, Accounting