



BHSPC

***Behavioral Health Services
of Pickens County***

...where change begins

BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 8, 2026

The Board of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the BHSPC Board Room at the agency located at 208 East 1st Ave., Easley, South Carolina. All attendants were in-person.

Item I. Call to Order. Tobias Vogel, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and established that a quorum of voting members was present.

Item II. Public Input. There was no one present for public input.

Item III. Drug Testing Laboratory Update. Angela Farmer recognized Angela Nicholson, Director of MAT and Laboratory Services, for an update on the drug testing laboratory activities. Ms. Nicholson reported that the Lab is doing well. The official start-up was in December 2025 and activities have been steadily increasing. The testing equipment is able to test 50 screens at once. A new Laboratory Testing Technician has recently been hired to replace the individual who resigned. She is doing well and should receive official laboratory training by the end of the month. Ms. Nicholson reported that there could be a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) audit at any time. The Laboratory Technical Consultant, Milly Keller, is assisting with keeping everything up to date and on track for the audit. The Board thanked Ms. Nicholson for her report.

Item IV. Approval and Adoption.

- A. April 8, 2026 Agenda. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Pamela Winters seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. March 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2026 Board Meeting as presented. Traci Freeman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. March 6, 2026 Financial Resources Minutes. Pamela Winters made a motion to accept the minutes from March 6, 2026 Financial Resources Meeting as presented. Tobias Vogel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item V. Financial Report. Ms. Farmer referred to Carly Davidson, Director of Financial Services, for an overview of the Financial Report for February 2026. Ms. Davidson reported that February revenues were not as much as projected, but still within budget. There was some discussion regarding the financial report format. Ms. Davidson stated that a Profit and Loss Statement, which provides more

detail, is provided on a quarterly basis in addition to the monthly financial report. Angela Farmer stated that she and Ms. Davidson could review the Financial Report format, as requested. The Financial Report for February 2026 was accepted as information, pending the audit.

As a matter of financial information, Angela Farmer reported that there have been some issues with billing drug screens, particularly with insurance claims. She stated that it would be beneficial to have a billing coder on staff to coordinate insurance and other third-party payor claims. Self-pay drug screens are billed on a sliding scale, which negatively impacts revenues, but benefits indigent clients. In efforts to reduce expenses, Ms. Farmer reported that she is considering a different janitorial company. One vendor quote would save over \$700.00 a month. She is also considering a different vendor for maintenance services, in hopes to lower maintenance costs. She will keep the Board updated.

Item VI. Program Report. Ms. Farmer reviewed the Program Report for March 2026. The report indicates that more clients are being served as compared to this same period last year, with a 16.21% increase in Total Clients Served. There were notable increases in Adult Intakes and ADSAP program areas. The number reported in Adolescent services increased, as well as the Women's Services and MAT program. Ms. Farmer and Susanna Deming will continue to monitor the activities reported on the Program Reports. The report was accepted as information.

Item VII. DPH License Renewal Application and Survey. Ms. Farmer reported that DPH (Department of Public Health, formerly DHEC) visited the office on March 30, 2026 for an unannounced inspection. The visit was very positive, with no citations. The agents were very impressed with our organization. The current DPH license will renew on May 31, 2026

Item VIII. CARF Survey. Ms. Farmer reported that CARF requested a permanent change in the survey date. The survey will be scheduled in the spring of the renewal year, instead of the fall. This will move our survey date from the fall of 2026 to the spring of 2027. The agency will be surveyed according to the 2026 CARF regulations. The current CARF certification expiration date will be extended accordingly. Ms. Farmer reported that this will give additional time to prepare for the visit.

Item IX. Youth Board Graduation: Scholarship Presentation. Ms. Farmer reported that we have several seniors on the Youth Board this year, who will be honored at the Youth Board Graduation celebration. Jessica Gibson will host the dinner and awards ceremony in the Hiott Training Room at the agency on May 31, 2026. Board Members are cordially invited to attend.

Item X. Old Business.

- A. Legislative Update. Angela Farmer reported that there is a lot happening at the state and federal level. BHSA is working hard to secure funding for the next year. She will keep the Board updated on any legislative issues impacting the agency.
- B. Research Project. Angela Farmer reported that the research department is doing well. The Research department continues to struggle with recruitment for the smoking cessation project, as fewer individuals smoke cigarettes. The research department is still actively recruiting for the vaping study. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board up to date on the research projects.

- C. By-Laws Revisions. Tobias Vogel reported that self-evaluations have been added to the proposed By-Laws revisions. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the By-Laws revisions as presented. Pamela Winters seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Drug Screen Testing Lab Update. Angela Farmer reported that the Drug Screen Testing Laboratory is going well. The first MOA contract with Yokohama is in place to allow collaboration for service referrals and drug screens. There have been several other inquiries for drug screening activities. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on the progress in this area.
- E. Pickens Properties Update – 303 East Main Street Closing. Ms. Farmer reported that the closing for the property at 303 East Main Street building was completed on March 18, 2026 and proceeds have been deposited. All insurances for sold properties have been cancelled.
- F. County Plan. Ms. Farmer reported that the County Plan is complete and just needs signatures. There was a discussion on raising salaries for counselors to retain staff. Ernie Dandeneau requested a financial meeting to discuss pay raises for all clinical staff.

Item XII. New Business. Angie Farmer reported that all staff would be participating in a time study. This time study will be conducted for one week and each staff member will record all tasks done during each day. This information will be utilized internally as well as justification for funding.

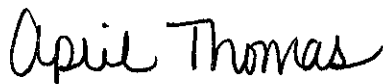
Item XIII. Executive Session. There was no need for Executive Session indicated.

Item XIV. Action from Executive Session. There was no action to report.

Item XV. Adjournment. There being no further business, Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to adjourn. Pamela Winters seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



April Thomas
Recording Secretary

Members Present In-Person:
Tobias Vogel, Chair
Pamela Winters, Vice-Chair
Rhonda Billingsley, Secretary
Ernie Dandeneau
Tracie Freeman
Amanda Merchant
Liz Rampy
Eddie Talley

Members Excused:
Jessica Merrill, Treasurer

Others Present:
Angie Farmer
Susanna Deming
Carly Davidson
April Thomas
Angela Nicholson