BHSPC
Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County
...where change begins

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2026

The Board of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the BHSPC Board Room at the agency located at 208 East 1st Ave., Easley, South Carolina. All Board Members 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. Approval and Adoption.

A. March 11, 2026 Agenda. Jessica Merrill made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Ernie Dandeneau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. February 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 11, 2026 Board Meeting as presented. Eddie Talley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item IV. Financial Report. Ms. Farmer referred to Carly Davidson, Director of Financial Services, for an overview of the Financial Report for January 2026. Ms. Davidson reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary on the January report. The report reflects that revenues are at 49% of projections, which is a little behind for this point in the fiscal year. The expenses are indicated at 61%, which is a little over projections at this point of the fiscal year. Ideally, the percentages should be about 68%. The Financial Report for January was accepted as information, pending the audit.

Ernie Dandeneau asked if future financial reports could be amended to include the drug screen lab income and revenues. Ms. Farmer stated that the financial information for the lab is tracked separately in CareLogic, but could be added to the financial report as requested. She stated that the revenues are about $11K below projections due to issues with billing and collections from insurance companies. The administrative staff has been working diligently to resolve the issues and increase income. The number of screens processed each month continues to increase.

Item V. Program Report. Ms. Farmer reviewed the Program Report for February 2026. Ms. Farmer reported that the report reflects over a 12% increase in total clients served for the month. The Detention Center Services reflects the largest increase, with 11 more clients reported as compared to a year ago for this same period. There were 7 new clients involved in MAT services at the LEC. Child and adolescent services are holding steady and Adult Intakes reflected an increase of 12 more this period. Ms. Farmer and Susanna Deming will continue to monitor the activities reported on the Program Reports. The report was accepted as information.

Item VI. Annual Corporate Compliance Report. Ms. Farmer referred to Roslyn Holcombe, Director of Human Resources, for an overview of the annual Corporate Compliance Report. Roslyn Holcombe reported that this year's report contained four allegations, investigations and/or complaints. All four incidences were fully investigated according to the Corporate Compliance investigation process, reviewed with the agency's attorney and outcomes from the investigations presented to the parties involved. All incidences were resolved, with no known outstanding consequences and no recommendations of policy changes. The Board accepted the 2025 Corporate Compliance Report as information.

Item VII. Annual Reviews.

A. By-Laws. Tobias Vogel reported that the By-Laws are being revised and should be finalized to be presented for consideration of approval at the next meeting.

B. Committees. The list of standing committees was reviewed. The Fundraising Committee needs to be added to the list. The members of this committee are: Jessica Merrill, Pamela Winters, Angela Farmer, Jessica Gibson, Carly Davidson and Roslyn Holcombe.

C. Board Succession. The list of Board Members whose County Council appointments will end on December 31st for the next three years was reviewed. Tracie Freeman, Liz Rampy and Jessica Merrill's appointments will end on December 31, 2026. Board Members were encouraged to submit the necessary paperwork to County Council prior to the September 30, 2026 deadline in order to be considered for reappointment or to inform the Board if they do not intend to reapply.

Item VIII. BRIDGE Pickens and CRPH Grant. Ms. Farmer reported that the South Carolina CRPH (Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare) Grant will be providing funding for two positions through the BRIDGE Pickens Coalition. The grants are aimed at improving rural healthcare access and quality. The initial two positions to be filled include a Community Engagement Coordinator and a Community Engagement Specialist. A Community Health Specialist position may be added later. BRIDGE Pickens needed a fiduciary agent in order to accept the grant until the coalition can become an independent, sustainable, non-profit entity. The two positions will be hired, managed and housed with Behavioral Health Services, but fully supported with CRPH grant funds. BRIDGE Pickens consists of a collaborative of many community partners working to improve access to healthcare for the Pickens County communities. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on this item.

Item IX. County Plan. Ms. Farmer reported that she is continuing to work on collecting data for the County Plan, the annual strategic plan, which is a contractual requirement of OSUS (Office of Substance Use Services). The County Plan entails establishing and prioritizing the agency's strategic goals and projected budget for the next year, but only considering the revenues that are projected to be received from OSUS. The required format for submitting the County Plan to OSUS requests very specific information. Ms. Farmer stated that she envisioned implementing an annual strategic plan for the entire agency that considers all programs, revenues and expenses, after the County Plan is completed this year. This will give a better view of the position of overall agency and the future goals. Ms. Farmer reported that she plans to present the County Plan at the next meeting for consideration of approval.

Item X. Proposed Policy Changes. Ms. Farmer reported that Susanna Deming has worked diligently on revising the Privileging policy. Previously, the policy contained numerous worksheets on which clinicians were privileged to provide specific services. After review of current regulations, it was determined that these specific privileging sheets are no longer required. The policy was reduced from about 25 pages down to 3 pages, also reducing work load burden for all involved in the privileging process. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the proposed Privileging Policy changes as presented. Eddie Talley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The other proposed policy change is the addition of three new job descriptions for the BRIDGE program, along with changes to Position Classification and Salary Schedule to include the new positions. Once the BRIDGE Pickens coalition obtains non-profit status as an individual entity, employment of these positions will be transferred to BRIDGE Pickens and can be removed from our classification plan. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the new BRIDGE job descriptions and the revisions to the Position Classification and Salary Schedule as presented. Tracie Freeman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item XI. Old Business.

A. Legislative Update. Angela Farmer reported that the BHSA (Behavioral Health Services Association) was making great progress at the state level regarding hemp-infused products. A bill is moving through the Senate that contains some funding for prevention and regulations to require these products to be sold only at liquor stores and be removed from convenience store shelves. There is also some requirements regarding the serving of hemp drinks in bars. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on any legislative issues.

B. Research Project. Angela Farmer reported that there are five different research projects running simultaneously, with a sixth project coming soon. The new project will involve gleaning quality feedback from the client/clinician relationship and researching it's use in clinical supervision. The Research department continues to struggle with recruitment for the smoking cessation project, as fewer individuals smoke cigarettes. The participation criteria for this project has been loosened and will hopefully encourage more participation. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on the research projects.

C. By-Laws Revisions. Tobias Vogel reported that the committee would discuss the final revisions and hopefully present the revised By-Laws for consideration of approval at the next meeting.

D. Drug Screen Testing Lab Update. Angela Farmer reported that the Drug Screen Testing Laboratory is going well. There are still a few nuances being settled, especially with insurance companies and the billing procedures. The Laboratory Consultant and BHSPC have a disagreement regarding the alcohol test on the drug screens. The Lab Consultant asserts that because our lab is considered moderately complex, we should only be testing for Ethyl Alcohol and not testing for or reporting results of ETG presence. Ethyl Alcohol only stays in the system about 6 to 10 hours, but ETG can be detected much longer. A disclaimer can be added to the results that indicates that the results are for "forensic use only." There will be another meeting with the Lab Consultant and BHSPC staff to determine how to proceed. Testing for Xylazine is coming soon. 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 last month: she had attempted to reach out to realtor, Tim Elder to inquire about the closing for the property at 303 East Main Street, as she had not received any update since the buyer requested to postpone the closing. The closing was expected to be scheduled by the end of February. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on this item.

Item XII. <u>New Business.</u> There was no new business indicated.

Item XIII. <u>Executive Session.</u> There was no need for Executive Session indicated.

Item XIV. <u>Action from Executive Session.</u> There was no action to report.

Item XV. <u>Adjournment.</u> There being no further business, Eddie Talley made a motion to adjourn. Ernie Dandeneau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Holcombe

Roslyn Holcombe
Recording Secretary

Members Present In-Person:
Tobias Vogel, Chair
Pamela Winters, Vice-Chair
Jessica Merrill, Treasurer
Rhonda Billingsley, Secretary
Ernie Dandeneau
Traci Freeman
Liz Rampy
Eddie Talley

Members Excused:
Amanda Merchant

Others Present:
Angie Farmer
Susanna Deming
Carly Davidson
Roslyn Holcombe