BHSPC

Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County

...where change begins

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

The Board of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 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. <u>Call to Order.</u> Tobias Vogel, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and established that a quorum of voting members was present.

Item II. <u>Public Input.</u> There was no one present for public input.

Item III. <u>Approval and Adoption.</u>

A. September 10, 2025 Agenda. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Douglas Clamp seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
B. August 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Mary Babb made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 13, 2025 Board Meeting as presented. Ernie Dandeneau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
C. August 28, 2025 Financial Resources Committee Meeting Minutes. Douglas Clamp made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 28, 2025 Financial Resources Committee Meeting as presented. Jessica Merrill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item IV. <u>Financial Report.</u> Ms. Farmer referred to Carly Davidson, Director of Financial Services, for an overview of the Financial Report for July 2025 and Projected FY'26 Budget. Ms. Davidson reported that most of the revenues recorded on the July Financial Report will be applied retroactively to FY'25 as part of the final audit. She also reported that the Excise Tax revenues were recently received and slightly exceeded the anticipated amount. Also, there are funds expected from Pickens County for the SCORF program and Cost-of-Living funds from OSUS. The first quarter of FY'26 funding from OSUS was received today. The Financial Report for July 2025 was accepted as information, pending the audit.

Ms. Davidson referred to the Agency Projected Budget for FY'26, which is due to OSUS by September 30, 2025. She reported that the Women's IOP 2601 column is blank due to the discontinuation of funding for this program area. All personnel previously funded in this program area were transitioned into the Intensive Outpatient Services or another program area. The Lab 9002 column is for the new Drug Screen Testing Lab program that is anticipated to begin soon. The figures reported in this budget area are the most conservative projections available at this time, and will likely have to be revised as the program progresses. Ms. Farmer added that these projections are based on the 4000 screens per year that the agency sends out for testing. This includes employee tests provided for Pickens County, Pickens City and Cornell Dublier. It is anticipated that these projections will increase as the number of screens increase. Douglas Clamp made a motion to approve the Agency Projected Budget as presented. Ernie Dandeneau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Financial Resources Committee Meeting Report. Tobias Vogel reported that the Financial Resources Committee met to consider the proposed staff bonus options presented by Angela Farmer and Carly Davidson. Mr. Vogel stated that the committee were in favor of a bonus, as no salary increases have been given to staff for the last two years and that a bonus would be a one-time expenditure to motivate staff and encourage retention. Mr. Vogel reported that the committee recommends the most conservative option presented considering the agency's current financial standing. Mr. Vogel stated that hopefully with the projected increase in revenues from the drug screen testing lab, a staff salary increase can be considered later. Mary Babb made a motion to approve the recommended staff bonus option. Tracie Freeman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item V. <u>Program Report.</u> Ms. Farmer reported that finally the numbers reported on the Program Report for adult services are also trending upward since the agency's relocation, with 14 more clients reported for Adult Intakes. The figures for child and adolescent services are still reflecting steady increasing activity. The Detention Center Services reported 10 more clients and MAT reflects 4 more admitted than compared to last year. Ms. Farmer and Susanna Deming will continue to monitor the activities reported on the Program Reports. The reports were accepted as information.

Item VI. <u>Pickens Properties Update.</u>

A. Update on Contract Progress on 311 East Main Street, Pickens. Ms. Farmer reported that so far, so good with the contract on the 311 building. The due diligence period will conclude on or before October 15, 2025. There have no issues reported.

B. Update on Sale of 303 East Main Street, Pickens. Ms. Farmer reported that she had received a call from Real Estate Agent, Tim Elder, suggesting that the parking spaces behind the building at 303 may be more of an impediment to the sale of the building than anticipated, due to no access from the back of the building. Mr. Elder commented that several interested buyers have withdrawn interest once the no rear access situation is discovered. Ms. Farmer reported that she had tried to reach the owner of the Burning Brick to ascertain how it came about that ownership of the parking spaces behind the 303 building belong to her company. Ms. Farmer stated that she feels like it is time to reach back out to Attorney Shawn Faulkner to have him research the history of the deeds to determine how this change of ownership of the parking spaces came about and what would be necessary to have the ownership reverted back to when Redmond Coyle owned the building. Jessica Merrill suggested proposing a request for an easement to the Burning Brick in order to aid the sale of the building if it isn't possible to reclaim ownership. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on this issue.

Item VII. <u>Drug Screen Testing Lab Update.</u> Ms. Farmer reported that things are going well with the drug screen testing lab. The equipment is scheduled to be delivered today. An engineer will be on-site Monday to install the equipment. The Medicaid inspection is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The Siemens representative is scheduled to be on-site on September 23-24, 2025 to begin testing the equipment. Training with staff will begin on September 29, 2025. The lab is anticipated to begin operation on or before November 1, 2025. The test will be a 12-panel screen that will test for 11 different substances and creatine. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on the progress of this item.

Item VIII. **BHSA Board Seminar: January 30 – February 1, 2026.** Ms. Farmer reported that the BHSA Board Seminar is planned for January 30 through February 1, 2026 at the Embassy Suites Kingston Plantation in North Myrtle Beach. The block of rooms is not available for reservations yet.

Item IX. **Proposed Policy Changes.**

A. Exposure Prevention and Control Plan (COVID). Ms. Farmer reported that the COVID section of the Exposure Prevention and Control Plan was updated due to some recent reports of positive cases. The changes are in line with the current recommendations of the CDC and are very similar to the response to any other illness. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the policy change regarding COVID in the Exposure Prevention and Control Plan as presented. Tracie Freeman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Social Media Policy. Ms. Farmer reported that the agency's Social Media Policy had also been reviewed and several changes are proposed to strengthen the policy. All clinicians are required to abide by the ethical standards set forth by NAADAC (National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors) for addiction professionals. The NAADAC Code of Ethics was updated as of June 1, 2025 and included substantial regarding social media and the use of AI. The revised policy clearly outlines the expected on-line behavior of clinicians and is a reminder that anything they post on social media can be interpreted as professional advice because of their profession. Mary Babb made a motion to accept the policy revision regarding social media as presented. Ernie Dandeneau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item X. **Old Business.**

A. Legislative Update. Angela Farmer reported that things have been quite legislatively. A director has not been named for the BHDD (Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities). Currently, the individual departments are continuing to operate in "business as usual" position. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on any legislative issues impacting the agency.

B. Research Project. Angela Farmer reported that the five Research projects are going well. The Research staff will be in the Easley office more often to recruit for the new smoking cessation project, utilizing e-cig products. There were some new advertising videos created and posted on-line. Board Member Jessica Merrill reported viewing the videos and commented about the professional quality. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on the research projects.

C. By-Laws Revisions. Tobias Vogel reported that the By-Laws Committee had submitted their recommended changes to the By-Laws to Attorney Kelly Jolley and was awaiting her response before presenting to the Board. The By-Laws Committee consists of Tobias Vogel, Tracie Freeman, Jessica Merrill and Pamela Winters.

Item XII. <u>New Business.</u>

Angie Farmer reminded the Board of the 2nd Annual Lip Sync Battle to be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at the Pickens Amphitheater. Gates will open at 3:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 4:00 p.m. Teams of local first responders will face off at this event to raise awareness of suicide prevention.

Angie Farmer also mentioned that there has been an increase the number of clients presenting with issues resulting from kratom use. Currently, kratom is uncontrolled and available over-the-counter at vape shops and convenience stores. Efforts are being made to address this situation and take the substance off the shelves. Dr. Clinch is working to educate the public about the adverse side effects of kratom use.

Item XVII. <u>Executive Session.</u> Tobias Vogel excused staff and called the Board into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation. The Board reconvened into public meeting forum and requested that the Recording Secretary return to the room. There was no action taken during the Executive Session to be recorded in the minutes.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Holcombe

Roslyn Holcombe
Recording Secretary

Members Present In-Person:
Tobias Vogel, Chair
Douglas Clamp, Treasurer
Rhonda Billingsley, Secretary
Mary Babb
Ernie Dandeneau
Tracie Freeman
Jessica Merrill
Liz Rampy

Members Excused:
Pamela Winters, Vice-Chair

Others Present:
Angela Farmer
Susanna Deming
Carly Davidson
Roslyn Holcombe