BHSPC

Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County

...where change begins

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2025

The Board of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. in the BHSPC Board Room at the agency located at 208 East 1st Ave., Easley, South Carolina. Attendants were in-person and virtual.

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. ADSAP Update – Traci Brockman, Clinical Counselor, ADSAP Coordinator. Angela Farmer recognized Traci Brockman for an update on the ADSAP (Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program) Services. Ms. Brockman reported that effective in May 2024 all DUI offenders are required to have the IID (Ignition Interlock Device) installed on their vehicle. Previously the device was required for repeat offenders or offenders with a blood alcohol level in excess of 0.15. The IID is a device that monitors the blood alcohol level of the driver before the car will start. According to data shared by Mark Childress, Director of the IID Program, as of October 23, 2025, there were 1857 South Carolina drivers with the device. The South Carolina Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole monitors the devices, which are required for 6 months for first offenders and up to 3 years for repeat offenders. The installation cost for the device is about $130, depending on the vehicle, and often require recalibration that can cost $100. The device can also be installed on motorcycles. There are some options for fee reduction, for those who qualify. Ms. Brockman stated that while the state is making progress in efforts to reduce drunk driving, declining ADSAP participation rates continue to be a statewide concern and program sustainability challenging. The state law-mandated ADSAP program fees have not been adjusted to meet inflation and do not align with the amount of services required to be provided to each ADSAP participate. The ADSAP fee structure also does not allow for any additional fees to be charged to ADSAP participants, such as no-show fees. Ms. Brockman stated that she typically has about a 40% no-show rate. In an effort to address this issue, ADSAP clients who miss an appointment are only allowed to reschedule once before being instructed to present for a "walk-in assessment," which are held a couple of days per week and are not as convenient for the client as a scheduled appointment. The Board thanked Ms. Brockman for her update on the ADSAP services activities. Angie Farmer added that while ADSAP can be a challenging service area, the agency is very fortunate to have Traci Brockman serving as the ADSAP Coordinator and commended her for doing a great job. Angie Farmer also reported that there are some legislative discussions of implementation of DUI courts, improvement of the fee structure and increase of penalties for offenders, but could allow ADSAP service provision to be privatized and expungement of charges.

Item IV. Approval and Adoption.

A. November 12, 2025 Agenda. Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Douglas Clamp seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. October 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Mary Babb made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 8, 2025 Board Meeting as presented. Ernie Dandeneau 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 September and the Profit and Loss Statement for July through September 2025. Ms. Davidson reported that there were some additional funds that were retroactively transferred to FY'25 by the auditors, which are reflected on the report. There are still some outstanding COLA funds from OSUS, amounting to over $115,000. The new Drug Testing Laboratory, Program #9002 – Lab, indicates year to date expenses of $44,968.11, but does not indicate any income as the program has not gone live. Implementation is expected to begin December 1, 2025. On the Profit and Loss Statement for the period covering July through September, 2025 there is over $21,000 increase in total client fees reported for the first quarter, primarily in the MCO area. The Actual Net figure at the bottom of the report indicates that the agency finished the quarter with a "profit" of over $121,904.00, including outstanding funds from OSUS, MUSC, SCORF and SCDHHS. Proceeds from the sale of the Pickens properties will continue to be deposited in the investment funds. The Financial Report for September and the Profit and Loss Statement for the period covering July through September 2025 were accepted as information, pending the audit.

Item VI. Program Report. Ms. Farmer reported that the October Program report indicates that 757 clients were served in October and an increase of over 9% as compared to the same period in 2024. The programs indicating the most significant increases included, ADSAP programs, Outpatient, Detention Center Services and MAT. The Detention Center Services continue to perform strongly, despite involuntary loss of the Clinical Counselor in this program at the end of September. Recruitment is underway for a replacement. A licensed clinician in the Child and Adolescent programs has submitted her resignation and will be leaving in mid-December. Recruitment for clinical positions are a challenge considering that other entities are paying over $70K for therapists. Ms. Farmer and Susanna Deming will continue to monitor the activities reported on the Program Reports. The reports were accepted as information.

Item VII. Pickens Properties Update.

A. Update on Contract Progress on 311 East Main Street, Pickens. Ms. Farmer reported that the closing for the sale of 311 East Main Street property was conducted on October 22, 2025. She thanked Douglas Clamp and Mary Babb for complying, on such short notice, with the lawyer's request to have Board officers sign the closing documents.

B. Update on Sale Contract of 303 East Main Street, Pickens. Ms. Farmer reported that the title search was conducted and determined inconclusive. The counter offer revision, which was just received and emailed out the Board, omitted the parking lot verbiage. Upon the Board's acceptance of the counter offer revision, the contract will enter a 25-day due diligence period, with closing expected on or before January 12, 2026. Ms. Farmer stated that she had consulted with Attorney Kelly Jolley to ascertain the appropriate authorization that will allow her to sign the closing documents for the sale. Ms. Farmer stated that, per Attorney Jolley, the Board needed to vote to accept the contract proposal and authorize her to sign the closing documents. Mary Babb made a motion to accept the proposed counter offer revision for the sale of 303 East Main Street property as presented. Douglas Clamp seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jessica Merrill made a motion to allow Angela Farmer, Executive Director, to sign any necessary closing documents relative to the sale of 303 East Main Street property. Pam Winters seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on this item.

Item VIII. Drug Screen Testing Lab Update. Ms. Farmer reported that the projected November 1st implementation date for the Drug Screen Testing lab has been slightly delayed due to issues within the CareLogic system with regards to billing the drug screen services. There has not been a final decision made on the external lab company to conduct confirmation screens. Dominion and Quest are being considered and negotiations will be finalized soon. Anti-fatigue mats were added at the testing equipment, as suggested by the Lab Director, Lindsay Flanagan, as a result of the laboratory pre-safety check. Everything seems to be ready for the new implementation date, projected for December 1, 2025. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on the progress of this item.

Item IX. Proposed New Policies – Drug Testing Laboratory Policies and Procedures. Ms. Farmer reported that Milly Keeler, the contracted Laboratory Technical Consultant, had written and provided the policy and procedure manual for the laboratory services. These policies and procedures were previously emailed to Board Members for review and are presented for consideration of approval to be added as a separate section of the agency's policies and procedures. These policies necessitated new titles and job descriptions for two current staff members, Angela Nicholson and Tristan Merrell. Angela is currently the Director of Medication Assisted Treatment and Tristan Merrell is currently a Medical Assistant. The new proposed job description for Angela Nicholson will be Director of Medication Assisted Treatment and Laboratory Services. The proposed job description for Tristan Merrell will be Laboratory Testing Technician. There is also a new job description proposed for a Drug Test Collector. These activities have previously been conducted under the Administrative Specialist job description. The new job descriptions necessitated changes to the Position Classification and Salary Schedule. A new section was added for Medical/Laboratory, which includes all the positions for the lab and Medication Assisted Treatment. After discussion, Ernie Dandeneau made a motion to accept the policies and procedures as presented. Mary Babb seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Douglas Clamp made a motion to accept the changes to the Position Classification and Salary Schedule and the addition of the proposed job descriptions. Ernie Dandeneau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item X. Executive Director's Evaluation. The Executive Director's Evaluation has been completed and reviewed with the Executive Director. All documents have been submitted for filing in the Director's personnel file.

Item XI. Annual Management Report. Angela Farmer reported that the Annual Management Report is a requirement for CARF and provides information regarding the agency's activities for the fiscal year. The 2025 report was previously emailed out in PDF format to all Board Members. She asked that the Board consider accepting the report as information. Douglas Clamp made a motion to accept the Annual Management Report as presented as information. Ernie Dandeneau seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Old Business.

A. Legislative Update. Angela Farmer reported that the legislative updates regarding the ADSAP program were covered with Traci Brockman's ADSAP presentation. Efforts are being made to classify kratom as a Schedule I drug, which is considered having no medical use and a high potential for abuse. Sara Goldsby, OSUS Director, is supporting these efforts as some over-the-counter drinks contain kratom. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on any legislative issues impacting the agency.

B. Research Project. Angela Farmer reported that the Research department is struggling with recruitment for the smoking cessation project, as fewer individuals smoke cigarettes. Daniel Moss, Research Assistant, continues to be frequently on-site at the Easley office recruiting for the project. The Research team is also actively recruiting for the Meth study, utilizing bupropion and naltrexone. Ms. Farmer will keep the Board updated on the research projects.

C. By-Laws Revisions. Tobias Vogel reported that a response had been received from Attorney Kelly Jolley regarding the proposed changes to the By-Laws. The revised By-Laws will be presented for consideration of approval in the next meeting. The By-Laws Committee consists of Tobias Vogel, Tracie Freeman, Jessica Merrill and Pamela Winters.

D. BHSA Board Seminar: January 30 – February 1, 2026. Angela Farmer reported that hotel reservations have been secured for all Board Members and dinner reservations made at Chestnut Hill Restaurant for Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the upstairs Pack House room. Registration for the seminar will be submitted closer to the event. Keep Roslyn Holcombe advised of any changes in your plans to attend. The BHSPC Youth Board along with the Orangeburg "Fire Squad" Youth Board have been asked to present at the Board Seminar on their work with various successful Youth Board prevention initiatives.

Item XII. New Business.

Leadership Pickens met yesterday at BHSPC. The agency was closed for the Veteran's Day holiday and Angie Farmer gave the group a tour of the new facility and explained the services provided by our agency.

Bridge Pickens Grant will offer a two-day training beginning Monday. This is the grant for which BHSPC will serve as the fiscal administrator for two positions, working to improve access to behavioral and mental health services in Pickens County.

Pickens County Sheriff's Office and Clemson University LEAD (Law Enforcement and Diversion) Program. Ms. Farmer reported meeting with Sheriff, Tommy Blankenship, to discuss the LEAD program. In an effort to alleviate jail overcrowding, the LEAD program would allow an officer to refer a misdemeanor offender to treatment and consider expungement of the record upon successful completion of treatment services. The grant would provide funding for a case manager to be housed at the jail, but employed and managed by BHSPC.

Electronic Platform for Board Documents Access. Ms. Farmer reported that in an effort to reduce printing and provide Board members access to Board documents, an electronic platform is being created. This platform will allow secure access for Board Members to access documents for upcoming meetings as well as previous meetings. The platform will also provide access to the agency's policies and procedures. Jessica Gibson, Director of Prevention Services, is working on creating this platform and will be assisting with training Board Members on accessing and navigating the system.

BHSPC Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hiott Training Room. The event will be catered by staff member, April Thomas. Everyone can be assured of an adequate quantity of food.

Next Board Meeting. It was determined that the next regular Board Meeting will be scheduled for January 14, 2026, unless urgent business arises that requires a called meeting.

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

Item XVI. Adjournment. There being no further business, Douglas Clamp made a motion to adjourn. Mary Babb seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Holcombe

Roslyn Holcombe
Recording Secretary

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

Members Present Virtually:
Tracie Freeman

Members Excused:

Others Present:
Angie Farmer
Susanna Deming
Carly Davidson
Roslyn Holcombe
Traci Brockman