



State of South Carolina
Department on Aging

Henry McMaster
Governor

Connie D. Munn
Director

Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Meeting Minutes

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council met on Tuesday, March 3, 2026,
at 10:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

This meeting was in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act's mandate that the public be notified when the public's business is being done and that furthermore, the public has been notified that this meeting is accessible to individuals with disabilities, and special accommodations can be arranged if requested in advance.

<u>Present:</u>	
Ms. Jessica Benson	SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Mr. Andrew Boozer	SC Association of Council on Aging Directors
Ms. Jennifer Brewton	SC Department on Aging
Dr. Jessica Broadway	VAMC, Charleston SC
Ms. Megan Byers	University of South Carolina
Ms. Dana Daniel	SC Department on Aging
Dr. Sara English	National Association of Social Workers, SC Chapter
Dr. Miriam Evans	South Carolina State University
Dr. Jennifer Nicholson-Hall	Clemson University
Ms. Emma Kennedy	SC Department of Public Health
Dr. Cynthia Port	Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Kassie South	LeadingAge SC
Ms. Janae Stowe	SC Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ms. Carla White	SC Home Care and Hospice Association
<u>Absent:</u>	Dr. Steve Carroll, Dr. Miroslav Cuturic, Ms. Kelly Cordell, Ms. Sara Johnson, Dr. Maggi Miller
<u>Guests:</u>	SC Department of Public Health - Ms. Emily Ash, Ms. Karilyn Tremblay, Ms. Jillian Catoe, Ms. Jessica Plair SC Department on Aging - Ms. Tori Anderson, Ms. Shaneka Brown, Ms. Cameron Harrison, Ms. Amy Rushing, Ms. Stephanie Yelder SC Department of Health and Human Services - Ms. Brenda Rankin (for Ms. Alewine) Presbyterian Communities of SC - Ms. Amy Laughlin Other Guests: Ms. Betsy Goodale



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Call to Order

Ms. Stowe called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, read the FOI statement/Americans with Disabilities Compliance Pledge, and welcomed all council members and guests to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Evans motioned to approve the December 2025 minutes, and Ms. South seconded the approval. Minutes passed.

Implementation Plan and ARCC Subcommittees Update

Ms. Tremblay provided an update on the implementation plan and related initiatives. She reported that the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure grant had received continued funding as of January 29. As part of the grant renewal process, the program will submit a progress report, performance narrative, evaluation materials, and success stories by April 7. Ms. Tremblay noted that the BOLD grant year runs from September 30 through September 29.

She described participation in a new learning collaborative focused on strengthening community–clinical linkages. This initiative, facilitated by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, aims to connect public health, healthcare systems, and community organizations. The collaborative will explore topics such as dementia screening practices in federally qualified health centers and the role of community health workers in supporting individuals with cognitive impairment. Monthly meetings will take place through November.

She also shared that South Carolina recently received its 2025 Healthy Brain Initiative state report, which compares state activities to national public health strategies related to dementia. According to Ms. Tremblay, South Carolina demonstrated activity across all nine outcome categories in the framework, reflecting strong statewide engagement in areas such as education, policy development, workforce training, and service delivery. The report will be shared with ARCC members.

Ms. Tremblay discussed ongoing efforts to align dementia initiatives with the State Health Improvement Plan, particularly the section addressing chronic health conditions. She emphasized that connecting dementia-related work to broader statewide health priorities can help draw the attention of state leadership and strengthen program impact.

Ms. Tremblay announced the development of a new media campaign focused on brain health. The campaign, scheduled to launch in June and July, will include billboards, social media outreach, and other online materials. Its goal is to reach adults aged 35 to 65 with the message that maintaining physical health also supports brain health. The campaign will initially target seventeen counties identified through analysis of Alzheimer’s prevalence and chronic health indicators such as physical inactivity and diabetes.



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SC Department on Aging Dementia Care Specialist Program Update

Ms. Brewton provided an update on the Department on Aging's Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) program. She announced that the Dementia Toolkit developed through the program had received a notable state document award from the South Carolina Library System. The toolkit was developed over about 2 years with input from professionals, individuals living with dementia, and family caregivers. Brewton explained that the resource is designed to guide individuals and families through navigating a dementia diagnosis and connecting with available services. Updated versions of the toolkit will be printed and distributed soon.

Ms. Brewton introduced the dementia care specialists and highlighted the program's statewide reach. Progress includes hiring staff and building a team focused on community education, care consultations, and outreach.

The DCS program focuses on helping individuals understand dementia, locate appropriate services, and access support networks. DCS work within community settings such as libraries, rural health offices, and YMCA facilities to maintain accessibility and visibility. Ms. Brewton explained that the program is not intended to provide full case management but rather to help individuals navigate the complex system of available resources and connect them with appropriate support.

She also noted that one region, Waccamaw, still requires office space before a dementia care specialist position can be filled. SCDOA is actively seeking a community-based location within that region to house the position once a suitable site is identified. Additionally, the position for the Trident region has recently closed for applications, and interviews are expected to begin soon.

Ms. Brewton concluded by emphasizing that dementia care specialists play a critical role in supporting the statewide dementia plan by providing education, strengthening community partnerships, and expanding the availability of supportive programs for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

SC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Update

This discussion was postponed to the June 2026 meeting.

SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry Update

Ms. Megan Byers provided an update on the Alzheimer's Disease Registry report. She explained that the release of the report has been delayed due to difficulties obtaining updated data. The team is expecting to receive the necessary information soon, although the exact timeline remains uncertain. Once the data is received and analyzed, the updated report will be released as quickly as possible.

Ms. Byers also noted that the team is redesigning the report format to make it shorter and easier to read by reducing repetitive content and focusing on key findings. In addition, the registry team is working to obtain data on social isolation and loneliness from another source. While that information will not be included in the



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upcoming report, it may be incorporated into future editions to explore the relationship between social isolation and dementia trends in South Carolina.

ARCC Executive Committee Vote

Ms. Daniel facilitated the election of the ARCC Executive Committee.

Ms. Kassie South was nominated for the position of Chair, and, with no additional nominations, the council voted unanimously in her favor.

Dr. Miriam Evans was nominated for the position of Vice Chair. After confirming that there were no other nominees, the council voted unanimously to approve her appointment.

Ms. Janae Stowe was nominated to serve as Secretary. With no additional nominations offered, members voted unanimously to appoint her to the position.

The newly elected Executive Committee will therefore consist of Kassie South as Chair, Dr. Miriam Evans as Vice Chair, and Janae Stowe as Secretary, with two-year terms beginning July 1, 2026.

Call for Volunteers for ARCC Grant Reviewers

Ms. Daniel announced that the ARCC grant application cycle opened in February and will close on April 10. The council is seeking volunteers to review grant applications to ensure that funding is directed toward the most effective and innovative programs supporting individuals living with dementia. Reviewers will receive the applications by April 20 and will have until May 22 to complete their evaluations.

Several members volunteered to serve as reviewers, including Dr. Jessica Broadway, Dr. Miriam Evans, Ms. Kassie South, Ms. Janae Stowe, and Dr. Sara English. Ms. Daniel expressed appreciation for their participation and requested that any additional volunteers email her at ddaniel@aging.sc.gov.

Discussion/Questions

Ms. Brewton reminded members that the June ARCC meeting will be held in person at the South Carolina Department on Aging in Columbia. Due to state agency policies, lunch may not be provided this year, and attendees may need to bring their own meal unless arrangements change prior to the meeting. She also emphasized the importance of including individuals living with dementia in the council's work and encouraged members to identify individuals who may be interested in participating in ARCC activities or discussions.

Dr. Cynthia Port shared information about a report titled *Living with Dementia: Learning from Cultural Narratives of Aging Societies*, published through the Hastings Center's Bioethics for Aging Societies program. She noted that the publication explores how cultural narratives and metaphors about dementia shape public perception and may influence the experiences of individuals living with the condition.



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Ms. Stowe also shared information about the 2026 statewide needs assessment being conducted by the Area Agencies on Aging. The survey aims to gather input on the needs of older adults and caregivers throughout South Carolina. The results will inform the development of four-year area plans and guide program planning and resource allocation.

Adjournment/Closing

There being no other business, Ms. Stowe adjourned the meeting at 10:44 am.

Next Meeting:

In Person on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at the SC Department on Aging