



State of South Carolina
Department on Aging

Henry McMaster
Governor

Connie D. Munn
Director

Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Meeting Minutes

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council met Tuesday, December 10, 2024
at 10:00 am via Zoom.

This meeting is 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.

Present:

Ms. Margaret Alewine	SC Department of Health and Human Services
Ms. Megan Beyers	University of South Carolina
Mr. Andrew Boozer	SC Association of Council on Aging Directors
Ms. Jennifer Brewton	SC Department on Aging
Dr. Jessica Broadway	VAMC, Charleston
Dr. Miroslav Cuturic	SC Department of Mental Health
Ms. Dana Daniel	SC Department on Aging
Ms. Emma Kennedy	SC Department of Public Health
Mr. Robert McBurney	SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Mr. Joseph Meyers	American Association of Retired Persons, SC Chapter
Dr. Cynthia Port	Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Kassie South	LeadingAge, South Carolina Chapter
Ms. Jane Stowe	SC Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ms. Taylor Wilson	Alzheimer's Association, SC Chapter

Absent: Dr. Steve Carroll, Dr. Melissa Gilliam, Dr. Scott Habakus, Ms. Mary Peck, Ms. Kelly Cordell, Dr. Nicole Davis, Ms. Denise Kish, Dr. Maggi Miller, Dr. Sara English, Dr. Miriam Evans

Guests:

SC Commission for Minority Affairs: Ms. Alicia Paige, Ms. Nicole Moran
SC DPH: Ms. Emily Ash, Ms. Karilyn Tremblay, Ms. Jillian Catoe, Ms. Jessica Plair
SC DOA: Ms. Tori Anderson
Other guests: Ms. Susan Bill (Magnolia Memory Care), Lisa Firmender



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CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., read the FOI statement/Americans with Disabilities Compliance Pledge, and welcomed all council members and guests to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Kennedy motioned to approve the September 2024 minutes, and Dr. Broadway seconded the approval. Minutes approved.

ARCC Caregiver Needs Assessment

Ms. Daniel provided information on the ARCC Caregiver Needs Assessment project. In 2000, the ARCC conducted a Caregiver Services Needs Assessment project to assess the needs of caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Focus groups were conducted at Alzheimer's Association support group meetings to develop a list of the needs of caregivers. Seven focus groups were conducted in the Anderson area (Easley [3], Anderson [2], Seneca [1], Abbeville [1]), two in the Columbia area, and one in Charleston. There were 87 respondents. The majority of respondents identified as Caucasian women. 50% of respondents identified the need for education and information on dementia as their greatest need when caring for a loved one with dementia. 1/3 stated that respite was needed to be successful as caregivers. 25% reported that additional support was needed in the form of support groups, financial assistance, and assistance from other family members to be successful caregivers of persons living with dementia. The needs assessment also contacted 95 agencies to do a phone interview about the services offered. 74 responded. The agencies contacted were the AAAs, Councils on Aging, Community Mental Health Centers, Regional Community Long-Term Care Offices, and the regional Alzheimer's Association offices. All agencies reported either offering the needed services reported by caregivers or referring out for the services if they did not offer them. The assessment has been updated and placed into a virtual format for distribution in hopes of reaching a larger and more diverse group of caregiver respondents. Ms. Daniel asked for assistance with reviewing the survey and then, once finalized, assistance with distribution when the time comes.

Ms. Wilson suggested that Ms. Daniel and Ms. Byers connect to see if the Office for the Study of Aging may be able to provide an epidemiologist or student to review the data from the assessment once it is completed. It was suggested that the survey be shortened from 28 questions to encourage more respondents. Dr. Broadway and Ms. Catoe offered to review the assessment and provide feedback. Ms. Wilson asked that once the caregiver needs assessment is ready, that it be shared with all Council Members for assistance with dissemination. She also requested that verbiage be provided for dissemination to avoid respondent bias. Ms. Stowe offered to disseminate the survey through the AAA network. The survey link was shared in the chat.



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ARCC Grants Update

Ms. Daniel provided an update on the ARCC Grant Cycle. She stated that a total of 10 Grantees, five second-year grantees, and five first-year grantees have been awarded ARCC grants for FY25. Second-year grantees each received \$10,000. First-year grantees received funds between \$20,000 and \$50,000 to be expended over a two-year period. Ms. Daniel mentioned that the grant applications for FY26 are currently scheduled to open on February 10, 2025. She requested volunteers to assist with application review and selection once applications close in April 2025. Ms. South, Ms. Byers, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Alewine, and Dr. Broadway volunteered as reviewers. It was requested that anyone else who would like to volunteer as a reviewer reach out to Dana Daniel at ddaniel@aging.sc.gov. Ms. Wilson requested that once applications open, the Notice of Funding Opportunity be shared with the Council so that they may also assist with promoting the grants.

State Plan Implementation Update

Ms. Tremblay thanked everyone for attending the Subcommittee meetings as the implementation plan is being worked on. She stated that the BOLD team will present on the Implementation Plan at the March 2025 Advisory Council meeting. Discussion was held about possibly combining subcommittee meetings to encourage discussion and promote work that is currently being done. Ms. Kennedy made a motion for Subcommittee meetings to be held in January 2025. Dr. Cuturic seconded the motion. Ms. Plair will send out a doodlepoll to schedule the meetings. Ms. Tremblay also shared that the update on the State Plan that is completed by the SC Department on Aging is currently on the Department on Aging website and shared a link to the document in the chat. Ms. Wilson stated that the update would be shared with the Council when minutes are sent out.

SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry Update

Ms. Byers provided an update on the SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry. She states that the data has been updated, and the report is currently in the hands of the graphic designer. It is hoped that the report will be released in early 2025. She also stated that the registry numbers have been sent to the Alzheimer's Association so that the county-level fact sheets can be created. Ms. Wilson stated that the fact sheets will likely be released in January 2025.

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Designation Update

Ms. Wilson shared that the South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Research Center did not receive NIH funding this application cycle. She stated that MUSC, USC, and Clemson University will each provide funds for the ADRC as they continue to work on research projects, build out the different focuses of the Center, and work toward NIH designation.

Ralph Johnson VA Dementia Clinical Coordinating Care Center

Ms. Wilson stated that the Ralph Johnson VA Dementia Clinical Coordinating Care Center may want to partner with the SC Department on Aging and the Dementia Care Specialist program to ensure that DCSs who



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encounter veterans are able to refer them to the center for services. Ms. Wilson shared that during a meeting with the VA Dementia Clinical Coordinating Care Center team, she learned that 1/10 South Carolinians are veterans. Dr. Broadway shared that the VA is implementing a Rapid Access Memory Screening for Veterans who have cognitive changes/concerns. Veterans will be assessed by primary care before being referred to Dr. Broadway for a formal diagnosis and treatment plan.

SC Cognitive Connection Ministry

Ms. Anderson shared that the SC Department on Aging and the United Methodist Church are working together to create what is meant to be an ecumenical program aimed at dementia-friendly programs. She stressed the importance of having dementia-friendly church services so that those living with dementia can still practice their faith. Ms. Anderson shared that representatives from the United Methodist Church, Rev. Bryan Pigford and Bishop Ken Carder, and she have been able to host workshops in Charleston, Greenville, and West Columbia with faith-based groups providing education on Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and how churches and faith-based communities can support persons living with dementia and their families through dementia-friendly services, memory cafes, respite programs, and other needed services. Additional presentations will be held in Surfside Beach, SC, on January 15, 2025, and in Orangeburg, SC, on March 19, 2025.

Ms. Anderson shared that the UMC has started a dementia-friendly service held on the third Thursday of each month in Columbia, SC, a caregiver support group in Marion, and a new adult day program in Rock Hill, SC, as a result of these presentations.

Special Projects

Ms. Wilson provided a brief recap of the results of the listening sessions held in Orangeburg County that were discussed at the September ARCC Advisory Council Meeting. She further mentioned that the Alzheimer's Association will be piloting a program that will hopefully assist with combatting the high levels of stigma in the region.

Adjournment/Closing

There being no other business, Ms. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:38 am.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 10:00 am (virtual)

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 11:00 am (in-person at the SC Department on Aging in Columbia, SC)

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Daniel, LMSW