



State of South Carolina  
Department on Aging

Henry McMaster  
Governor

Connie D. Munn  
Director

Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council  
Quarterly Meeting

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council met Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the South Carolina Department on Aging, located at 1301 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201.

*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
Mr. Andrew Boozer	SC Association of Council on Aging Directors
Ms. Megan Beyers	University of South Carolina
Dr. Steve Carroll	Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Miroslav Cuturic	SC Department of Mental Health
Ms. Dana Daniel	SC Department on Aging
Dr. Nicole Davis	Clemson University
Dr. Sara English	National Association of Social Workers, SC Chapter
Dr. Miriam Evans	South Carolina State University
Ms. Emma Kennedy	SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
Mr. Robert McBurney	SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Mr. Joseph Meyers	American Association of Retired Persons, SC Chapter
Dr. Maggi Miller	South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Registry
Ms. Rebecca Smith	South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature
Ms. Kassie South	LeadingAge, South Carolina Chapter
Ms. Janae Stowe	SC Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ms. Taylor Wilson	Alzheimer's Association, SC Chapter

**Virtual:**

Dr. Cynthia Port                      Coastal Carolina University

**Absent:** Dr. Jessica Broadway, Ms. Kelly Cordell, Dr. Melissa Gilliam, Dr. Scott Habakus, Ms. Denise Kish, Ms. Mary Peck

**Guests:** Alzheimer's Association, SC Chapter – Ms. Cindy Alewine

MUSC – Ms. Laura Davis

SC DHEC – Ms. Emily Ash, Ms. Jillian Catoe, Ms. Karilyn Tremblay

SC DOA – Director Connie Munn

USC Brain Health Network – Mr. Brad Cole



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**Welcome and Call to Order**

Ms. Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:05 am, read the FOI statement/Americans with Disabilities Compliance Pledge, and welcomed all council members and guests to the meeting.

**Review of March 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Approval of minutes was tabled to the next ARCC Council meeting.

**Message from Cindy Alewine, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association – South Carolina Chapter**

Ms. Alewine expressed gratefulness for the work of the ARCC in the last few years and stated how she remembers meeting with a statewide council for Alzheimer's and dementia when he first started with the Alzheimer's Association in 1991. She expressed gratitude for the ARCC Council, and the work being done and stated that she will continue to support the Council even in her retirement.

**USC Brain Health Network Presentation**

Mr. Brad Cole provided an update on the University of South Carolina's Brain Health Network, outlining the construction of the brain health center and the creation of a network in collaboration with health systems and primary care providers to enhance access to brain health services. They are actively developing a workforce, including Community Health Workers, Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Associates, to provide specialized support and connect patients and caregivers to community resources. Right now, USC Brain Health is focusing on screening and health system navigation. He provided an overview of the expansion of partnership sites, detailing the recent clinic openings in Winnsboro and Sumter, as well as the upcoming launch in Seneca. They are also looking at community partnerships to better serve patients post-diagnosis.

**ARCC Update**

Ms. Daniel provided an update on the ARCC Annual Report to the Legislature. The 2024 report focuses on FY 23. That year, 13 grants were awarded, and grantees provided 1,778 hours of respite to 13 families, hosted 47 support groups, and provided 1,789 hours of education to 3,171 participants. The report also highlights the work that the ARCC Advisory Council did on the Statewide Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. It also highlighted the work of the Dementia Care Specialist. Ms. Daniel also provided an update on the ARCC grantees to be awarded for FY25. Eleven applications were submitted, and ARCC Council volunteers Dr. Broadway, Dr. English, Dr. Evans, Mr. McBurney, and Ms. South reviewed them. Of the eleven applicants, three were first-time applicants. Two first-year grants and six second-year grants were awarded for FY25. Ms. Daniel also stated that once FY24 has closed and the availability of any unutilized grant funds becomes known, additional first-year grants may be awarded.

**BOLD Plan Update**

Ms. Tremblay provided an update on the BOLD Grant and the implementation of the Statewide Plan to Address ADRD. She reintroduced the BOLD team, including Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Ash, Ms. Catoe, and herself. They are still in the process of hiring a BOLD Grant Coordinator. Constellation Quality Health out of North Carolina has been hired as the consultant for the implementation of the Statewide Plan. Currently, the consultant group is working to try to make the Statewide Plan actionable, so they want to meet with the ARCC Advisory Council and the subcommittees to determine what work is already being done to implement the Statewide Plan. She also mentioned the Take Brain



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Health to Heart campaign which focuses on risk reduction, and ways to promote the campaign across the state. The BOLD team is looking for ways to add Take Brain Health to Heart and ADRD to other Community-Clinical linkages across the state. She states that she is hopeful to get the Take Brain Health to Heart campaign out again beginning in August 2024 once rebranding has been completed.

Ms. Tremblay also stated that assistance is needed from the ARCC Advisory Council with the Primary Care Provider survey. The survey is designed to help prioritize the diagnosis and treatment of ADRD. PCP priority areas are education and training to support ADRD, early detection of ADRD, perceived ADRD patient barriers, the impact of physician-led ADRD care, health systems, and equity, and enhancing tools for the future. The hope is that the Council can help connect the BOLD team with trusted physicians to get the survey out to a wide group of individuals to ensure a wide variety of responses/respondents.

### **Silver-Haired Legislature Update**

Ms. Smith provided an update on the Silver-Haired Legislature. She provided the background and history of the Silver-Haired Legislature. She asked for assistance with the recruitment of volunteers with the Silver-Haired Legislature. Ms. Wilson stated that as an advocacy group, the Silver Haired Legislature has provided support to many of the things the ARCC has supported, including ADRD Respite Care, the Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program, the work of the Alzheimer's State Plan, and many other initiatives. Ms. Smith stated that this year, the Silver Haired Legislature has made a resolution to support the work of the SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry and will be voting on that resolution in September.

### **Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Update**

Dr. Carroll and Ms. Davis provided an update on the South Carolina ADRC. The application for the ADRC was submitted on Friday, June 14, 2024. Dr. Carroll states that the application is about 1,010 pages. He states that on the recommendation of another ADRC director, the application was structured similarly to a comprehensive cancer center, including research focuses. There are five research focuses outlined in the application: Health Services Research, Cognitive Neurobiology and Immunology, Neurodegenerative Epidemiology, Insilico Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Models, and Vascular Biology and Cognition. Now that the application has been submitted, they are planning for the next stages of implementation. They have hired a consultant to assess the application, look at the strengths and weaknesses, and help come up with a long-term strategic plan, including a plan for financial continuity. The application will be reviewed in the fall with comments about a month after that. It is hopeful that information regarding the status of the application will be available for the December ARCC meeting.

### **SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry Update**

Dr. Miller states that the registry has been working together on projects related to the ADRC project. She states that one project is related to Veterans regarding getting access to research about Veterans with ADRD. She states that they have been able to link the registry data with vital records data and have identified over 10,000 individuals who are Veterans who have died with ADRD within the registry. Another project focuses on defining the extent to which cardiovascular disease plays a role in the death of those with ADRD. A third project looks at longevity within the AD Registry; this project found that 75% of cases survive twelve months and 25% survive at least sixty months. This was submitted as a paper to the journal Frontiers in Aging, and they are working on responses to reviewers. The registry is also working on a project looking at the incidence of dementia in different regions of the state, divided into



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different demographic groups and years. Another project being worked on is looking at mortality incidence ratios over the last 5 years and will be looking at state maps to see which counties have high mortality levels vs. higher diagnosis levels.

**SC Department on Aging Caregiver and Alzheimer's Resource Division Update**

Ms. Daniel provided an update on the CARD division at the South Carolina Department on Aging. Ms. Daniel and Ms. Brewton will be attending the State Dementia Coordinator Conference in November 2024. Ms. Brewton will be presenting at the Southeastern Area Agency on Aging Conference about South Carolina's dementia programs along with Florida, Kentucky, and Alabama in October. The division is working to ensure a successful Dementia Care Specialist program once it becomes fully funded. To date, Tori Anderson, the state's first Dementia Care Specialist, has developed and taught Dementia 101 virtually 14 times to over 475 participants; due to the success of Dementia 101, she developed Dementia 201: Positive Interactions, which in its first month reached 49 participants. Various community presentations on dementia have been conducted as well, reaching 688 individuals. Ms. Anderson has also assisted 189 families navigating a dementia diagnosis to provide individualized care consultations.

Director Connie Munn with the South Carolina Department on Aging presented Ms. Wilson with a framed copy of the signed bill for the Statewide Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. She thanked the ARCC Advisory Council for the work done on the Statewide Plan and for the work the Council continues to do to address the needs of those impacted by ADRD.

**State House Update**

Ms. Wilson stated that the budget for the Dementia Care Specialist program was included in the proposed budget made by the Senate and there is hope that it will pass the House. The Alzheimer's Association completed a Community Health Needs Assessment in Orangeburg, SC, on June 13, 2024, for stakeholders to address Orangeburg County's need for dementia care/assistance due to its ranking as the 8th highest prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the nation. Further listening sessions are being planned, including 3 caregiver (in North, Santee, TBD) meetings and 1 virtual meeting for healthcare providers.

**Adjournment/Closing**

There being no other business, Ms. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

September 2024. Date TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana M. Daniel, LMSW