

Minutes
Adult Protection Coordinating Council
August 11, 2025

Call to Order/Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Beth Franco presided and called the meeting to order.

Introductions

The council completed introductions for those present.

Approval of Minutes

Beth Franco called for approval of minutes from May 19, 2025. After a brief change was made to the minutes, a motion was made by Sally Foster to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Margaret Alewine.

Agency Updates

Department of Health and Human Services:

Margaret Alewine reported:

- Shared a summary of how H.R.1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) impacts South Carolina Medicaid
 - Currently have 1.1 million South Carolinians enrolled in Medicaid, with approximately sixty percent of that total being children
 - South Carolina is not a Medicaid expansion state, and many aspects of H.R.1 affect expansion states
 - State-directed payments (SDP) are expected to be impacted
 - This will be a gradual change over ten years
 - South Carolina is expected to apply for funding from the Rural Transformation Fund and is working with CMS on this initiative
 - There will be a moratorium on implementing the final staffing rule for nursing facilities. This creates minimum requirements regarding staffing. The bill delays implementation until 2034, but does not change the rule
 - Existing provider taxes will remain the same, but new provider taxes are prohibited
- South Carolina has submitted a Community Engagement Waiver to CMS that assists individuals that do not qualify for Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act coverage based on income levels
 - This gives individuals a pathway to coverage with community engagement requirements
 - South Carolina will be working with CMS to ensure that requirements align with the new federal guidelines while reducing administrative burden
- South Carolina is monitoring guidance surrounding coverage for Home and Community Based Services, but does not expect an impact to any of the current waivers
- The Palmetto Coordinated System of Care waiver, which supports youth with serious mental illness, is no longer in effect
 - Helped provide supports to reduce out of home placements
 - South Carolina expanded the Behavioral Health services by adding them into the State Plan
 - Children who were in the waiver have been transitioned out of the waiver in coordination with their Managed Care Organizations
- Medicaid Bulletins are the best way to learn about new services or changes to existing services. There is a link to sign up for them on the Department's website. There are also tabs for Members and Providers that link to various information that may be of interest to the Council

- Nursing Facility rates are reviewed and updated each October
- Graduate Medical Education reimbursement is being reviewed
 - Pays a set amount for resident programs
- Some Medicaid members who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid will be moving into Managed Care programs
 - The Prime Demonstration program will be sunseting effective January 1, 2026, with those members being moved into Managed Care plans. Their waiver services will remain the same (fee-for-service), with their medical services being provided by the Managed Care plans
 - Notifications will be sent to both members and providers
- Recently launched a Beneficiary Advisory Council as required by the CMS Access Rule and in addition to the Medicaid Advisory Council
 - The first meeting was recently held and went well
- There are currently seven waivers, but the Department is looking to combine and reduce the number of waivers
 - The number of slots available is based on funding, so some waivers will implement a cap on the number of slots allocated based on funding and utilization
- There are updates coming for home delivered meals. The Agency is working with CMS on this.
 - The Agency is working with providers to determine changes based on need
 - Options for choosing how meals are delivered to increase successful deliveries
- The Agency has implemented a self-directed service as of July 1 for the Medically Complex Children's Waiver
 - Serves children up to age twenty-one
 - Changes allow for reimbursement to parents of minors to deliver attendant care services for the Medically Complex Waiver only
- Caregiver Coaching has been implemented as of July 1 for ID/RD waiver to help the caregiver with supports and resources
- The Agency is making changes to Children's Personal Care services related to location of service and supervision/oversight requirements
 - There will be a bulletin issued with additional information
- The Agency will be implementing the Home Again program to assist individuals transitioning out of intermediate care facilities
 - Hopes to be able to put this in effect for January 1

Department on Aging:

Brenda Marchant reported:

- The Department is holding their annual Faith-Based Symposium on October 9 at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History with the focus on public health
- Awarding Elder Care Trust Fund grants. The Department is doing a final review of applications now
- The Department now has a fully funded home stabilization program. Previously there was funding awarded for the repairs but not the positions, but the Department now has funding for the positions
- Currently accepting applications for the Geriatric Physician Loan Forgiveness Program
- Medicare open enrollment is October 15-December 7. The Department has counselors offering free services to help individuals choose their plan

- Provided a list of the current Dementia Care Specialists. These specialists provide dementia education, individual consultations to family and caregivers, program support, and advocacy for dementia friendly communities.

Ombudsman:

Dale Watson reported:

- The Department is hosting a Race for the Ages 5K on November 1
 - This helps displaced residents with funding for clothing and hygiene items

Data Reports

DSS/APS:

Brandi Nevud reported:

- Caseloads have increased since the new intake tool was implemented
- The majority of cases are open between 0-6 months
 - There are no formal restrictions on the time allowed for cases to remain open
- Intakes have risen overall
 - The percentage of accepted intakes was 26%
 - Most cases involve neglect, including self-neglect at 82%
 - The majority of individuals served are 60+ years old, with slightly more female than male individuals

SLED:

Stevi Price reported:

- There was a significant drop in intakes down to 122
 - This was due to veteran facilities no longer being classified under the Vulnerable Adult Unit
 - These now go to the Ombudsman
- Approximately 244 calls taken, which was a slight decrease from the first quarter
- 37 cases were opened, with 37 cases closed
- There were no arrests

Ombudsman:

Dale Watson reported:

- Total complaints were 97, with the majority (71) being abuse complaints
- The number of complaints verified was 28
 - Lower rates of verification versus other agencies

Attorney General:

John Frampton reported:

- Total complaints received was 58, with 18 cases opened
- There were 16 arrests with 8 convictions and \$81,214.94 in restitution ordered
- Generally, half of complaints were abuse, with the other half being neglect

Other Discussion Topics:

Personal Needs Allowance:

- The Personal Needs Allowance amount has been increased
 - The federal minimum has been \$30.00
 - SCDHHS has increased from the minimum amount of \$30.00 to \$60.00
- For individuals in nursing facilities and ICFs, this is the amount that individuals are allowed to keep from their income
 - This is intended for personal items such as shampoo, clothing, snacks, haircuts, etc.
 - This cannot be used for any Medicaid covered items such as food and activities

- This will go into effect on October 1
 - The members and facilities will be notified

Bylaws:

- Attendees were given a draft copy of the bylaws with the changes highlighted
- There was a discussion surrounding making sure the agencies are informed that they are part of the Council
 - The contact list needs to be updated
 - Any updates need to go to Kira at SCDHHS
- The HCBS representative (family member from HCBS service provision system) reached out and has been absent due to medical issues but is ready to come back
 - Beth will confirm this
- The Council is requesting designees from the three offices that now fall under the South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
 - Beth is going to reach out to the Department of Admin to see how to best have this representation on the Council

Reporting:

- Margaret is going to pull a copy of the previous report that was submitted
- Margaret, Kelly, Kathy, and Beth are going to work on the annual legislative report

Meeting Attendance

Members Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Brandi Nevud (proxy)	SC Department of Social Services/APS
Ashley Capers (proxy)	SC Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Margaret Alewine	SC Department of Health and Human Services
Theresa Brown	SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Beth Franco	Disability Rights SC
Stevi Price (proxy)	SLED SVU/Vulnerable Adult Investigation Unit
John Frampton	Attorney General
Dale Watson	Long Term Care Ombudsman
Kathy Bradley	Family Member of Consumer of Institutional Services
Brenda Marchant	SC Department on Aging
Maggie Meekins	SC Court Administration
Jennifer Aplin	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Scott Cooke	Department of Consumer Affairs
Jeffrey Gauge	SC Office of Mental Health
Beverly McClerklin	SC Office of Mental Health
Angie Smith	SC Department of Public Health
Sally Foster	SC Sheriffs' Association

Members Absent:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
	SC Association of Community Residential Programs
	SC Medical Association
	SC Criminal Justice Academy
	SC Association of Community Residential Programs
Krisdee Clark	SC Home Care and Hospice Association
John "JJ" Jones	SC Police Chiefs Association
Wilson Dillard	SC Health Care Association