

Minutes
Adult Protection Coordinating Council
November 17, 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 August 11, 2025. A motion was made by Theresa Brown to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Kelly Cordell.

Agency Updates

SC Court Administration

Tasha Bridenback and Shiaza Tindell reported:

- Maggie Meekins has been has taken a different role, so Shiaza Tindell will now be representing the SC Court Administration on the Council.
- Tasha Bridenback will attend meetings when Shiaza has a conflict.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Margaret Alewine reported:

- The Agency recently updated the allowed amount of the Personal Needs Allowance, increasing the monthly total from \$30 to \$60. This went into effect on October 1st
- The Agency updated the HCBS Settings Policy, completed the transition plan, successfully went through the process of CMS site visits, and received final approvals from CMS
 - Requirements and monitoring are now in place
- The Agency is currently working through the annual budget process
- There will be updates to the Critical Incident Management System definitions and categories that align with the Access Rule
- The Agency recently added Caregiver Coaching for family members of members in the ID/RD Waiver
- Children in the Medically Complex Waiver now have the option for Children's Attendant Care
- The Agency has upcoming policy updates
 - Medication Assistant Training to assist with medication administration in nursing facilities to assist nursing facilities with medication support
- The Agency will be implementing a new type of assessment to determine the acuity of members for HCBS settings placements. It has been piloted with HCBS residential services in the state
- The Agency has been approved by CMS to begin a MCO Certification, which reviews MCOs against various quality criteria
- The Agency is currently targeting funding from the Rural Health Transformation Grant that supports CMS's efforts to improve rural health
 - An application has been submitted to CMS, with a notice of funding between January and July, with a disbursement of funds beginning around July
 - Approximately \$200 million dollars of funding could come to the state

Department on Aging:

Brenda Marchant reported:

- The Agency held their 7th annual Faith-Based Symposium on October 9, 2026.
 - The theme was Improving Public Health Within the Faith-Based Community
 - There are more than 6,000 religious organizations in the state
- The Agency partnered with Able South Carolina to present information about the importance of preparing for emergencies and disasters before, during and after.
- The Agency held its Race for the Ages 5K on November 1st. The event raised approximately \$3,000.
- The Agency participated in a documentary titled “The Silver Tsunami” to bring awareness to the challenges of aging.
- The Agency was awarded the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers Grant
- Discussed the dementia care specialists across the state and provided flyers for meeting attendees.

DSS/APS:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- The Agency has created a practice model to better serve younger adults. The current model currently supports older adults in more ways.
 - The Agency is working with the Unumb Center and Child Advocacy Centers
- The Agency is submitting a first draft to show compliance with ACL regulations. The Agency is confident with the results

Data Reports

DSS/APS:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- Intakes happen via law enforcement or intake hub
- Currently accepting approximately 25%
- Neglect can be via caregiver or self-neglect
- Most of the younger intakes are male, with older intakes being female
- The Greenville area hard to keep staffed, but this is an issue across the state
 - The Agency is looking at recruitment and pay scales to boost staffing
 - Retention is better than it has been in several years
- Most cases close out within six months, and the Agency has started closing out a lot of older cases

SLED:

Sabrina Fellers reported:

- Overall intake numbers are trending downward, but the call volume is remaining stable
 - There was a decrease in local law enforcement cases, but an increase in cases from SLED and the Ombudsman’s Office
- Veterans' agencies are no longer reporting to the hotline
- The Agency should be fully staffed in February, which will decrease the overall caseload for staff

Other Discussion Topics:

Virtual Option for Meetings:

- The Council recognizes that with travel and other meetings, a virtual option may be helpful
- Meeting engagement is important to the Council, so there was a discussion about how many times per year members can attend virtually
- There was a discussion about opening the meetings to the public

AARP Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard:

- Beth suggested moving this topic to the next meeting

Annual Report:

- Beth will send a draft report to the Council members

- Discussed what the Council looks like now versus what it looked like prior to the Public Health Emergency in 2020
- Is there other data that the Council can look at in order to make recommendations in the annual report?
 - The annual report would be the appropriate place to show what system changes have been put in place to reduce the number of incidents
 - There are gaps that can also be added to the report to help bring attention to changes that need to be made
- Some agencies do not get any type of follow up, so there is no way to know what happens in specific cases in order to put together data that is meaningful
- Discussed the importance of creating public awareness of what the Council does and major issues affecting older adults

Meeting Attendance

Members Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Kelly Cordell	SC Department of Social Services/APS
Ann Dalton	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
Sabrina Fellers	SLED SVU/Vulnerable Adult Investigation Unit
Kathy Bradley	Family Member of Consumer of Institutional Services
Brenda Marchant	SC Department on Aging
Tasha Bridenback/Shiaza Tindell	SC Court Administration
Jennifer Aplin	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Scott Cooke	Department of Consumer Affairs
Jeffrey Gauge	SC Office of Mental Health
Sally Foster	SC Sheriffs' Association
Wilson Dillard	SC Health Care Association

Members Absent:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Krisdee Clark	SC Association of Community Residential Programs
John "JJ" Jones	SC Medical Association
John Frampton	SC Criminal Justice Academy
Dale Watson	SC Association of Community Residential Programs
Beverly McClerkin	SC Home Care and Hospice Association
Angie Smith	SC Police Chiefs Association
	Attorney General
	Long Term Care Ombudsman
	SC Office of Mental Health
	SC Department of Public Health