

Minutes
Adult Protection Coordinating Council
February 9, 2026

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 November 17, 2025. A motion was made by Wilson Dillard to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Dale Watson.

Agency Updates

- No agency updates were provided at this Council meeting

Data Reports

DSS/APS:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- The majority of calls come into the Agency via the intake hub
- The total number of calls for this quarter were 6,974 with 1,754 (approximately 25%) being accepted by the Agency
 - The rest of the calls were forwarded to other investigative entities
- The majority of the calls accepted were due to neglect, both self and via the caretaker
- The Agency opened their intake tool to include those with cognitive decline but are still mobile. This has caused a slight increase in the total numbers.
- The Agency has increased efforts to close out older cases and keep cases open less than six months.

SLED:

Sabrina Fellers reported:

- Annual numbers are lower for intakes, but the call volume has not decreased. The Agency has been working to gather more information prior to issuing an intake.
- Based on the annual report, there are no drastic changes from previous years.
- The total number of unfounded cases includes fatalities, which are sent to the Fatality Review Committee.
- The Agency opened a total of 179 cases and closed 171.

Ombudsman:

Dale Watson reported:

- Abuse and Quality of Care continue to be the largest number of complaints
- These complaints mostly come from nursing homes, residential care facilities and assisted living facilities
- There has been a continual decline in the number of cases accepted and this has been a trend since the 2020 Public Health Emergency

Attorney General:

John Frampton reported:

- There were a total number of 52 complaints, with 21 cases opened

- The Agency conducted 13 arrests with 6 convictions and \$100,000 in restitution
 - Restitution totals reflect only vulnerable adults and not Medicaid fraud
- Currently there are 60 pending cases

Other Discussion Topics:

OMH Pre-Screening Consultation Presentation

- The Council welcomed Rochelle Caton, Director of Patient Advocacy & Forensic Legal Liaison at the Office of Mental Health (OMH) to the meeting
- Rochelle presented information regarding competency to stand trial and how OMH handles this process through Competency Restoration Treatment

Annual Report:

- The Council discussed the draft of the APCC annual report, including items that were needed from various council members such as annual reports and Council rosters
- Once the draft report is completed, Beth will send the report to the Council for review and approval before the report is sent to the appropriate Legislative entities.

Meeting Attendance

Members Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Kelly Cordell	SC Department of Social Services/APS
Jacob Chorey (proxy)	SC Department of Health and Human Services
Beth Franco	Disability Rights SC
Sabrina Fellers	SLED SVU/Vulnerable Adult Investigation Unit
Kathy Bradley	Family Member of Consumer of Institutional Services
Shiaza Tindell	SC Court Administration
Jennifer Aplin	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Jeffrey Gauge	SC Office of Mental Health
Wilson Dillard	SC Health Care Association
John Frampton	Attorney General
Dale Watson	Long Term Care Ombudsman
Beverly McClerklin	SC Office of Mental Health
Melanie Gambrell	SC Office of Mental Health
Brandi Nerud (proxy)	SC Department of Social Services/APS
Rochelle Caton	SC Office of Mental Health
Melissa Snyder	Center for Disability Resources

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
Angie Smith	SC Department of Public Health
Ann Dalton	SC Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Brenda Marchant	SC Department on Aging
Sally Foster	SC Sheriffs' Association
Scott Cooke	Department of Consumer Affairs
Theresa Brown	SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation