

Minutes
Adult Protection Coordinating Council
May 4, 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 February 9, 2026. A motion was made by Wilson Dillard to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Kelly Cordell.

Agency Updates

HHS:

Jacob Chorey reported:

- The Agency has created a web page dedicated to information surrounding the Managed Care Carve-In project to provide information and updates as the project continues
- There are conversations ongoing regarding continuity of care as members move into Managed Care Plans to ensure a smooth transition

DSS/APS:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- The Agency will celebrate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 12, 2026, with a walk, food vendors and tables of information

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 7,141 with 1,945 (approximately 27%) 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.
- Staffing issues continue to be a concern for the Agency

SLED:

Ashley Burch reported:

- There was a slight increase in the number of intakes from the last quarter, from 161 to 169
- There was a decrease in fatalities from the last quarter, but the number of intakes for standard of care increased
- The Agency continues to engage in various trainings on the skills needed to interview individuals effectively

Ombudsman:

Alanna Berry reported:

- The number of cases that the Agency has been receiving are decreasing
- These complaints mostly come from nursing homes, residential care facilities and assisted living facilities
- There were 69 abuse cases, 33 neglect cases, and 7 exploitation cases
- Quality of care cases continue to be the largest, with 609
 - These cases include rights violations, personal hygiene, food quality issues, and activities

Attorney General:

John Frampton reported:

- There were a total number of 62 complaints, with 23 cases opened
- The Agency conducted 18 arrests with 5 convictions and \$444,935.69 in restitution
 - Restitution totals reflect only vulnerable adults and not Medicaid fraud
- Currently there are 81 pending cases

Other Discussion Topics:

DSS/APS Adult Advocacy

- Kelly Cordell presented information regarding Adult Advocacy and Domestic Violence programs for the State
- The Agency does not provide Domestic Violence services, but provides funding for programs across the State

Annual Report:

- The Council discussed the final draft of the report for 2025
- Currently the Council is awaiting approval from HHS leadership
 - Once the report is approved it will be distributed to all members of the Council

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
Theresa Brown	SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Ashley Burch (proxy)	SLED SVU/Vulnerable Adult Investigation Unit
Kathy Bradley	Family Member of Consumer of Institutional Services
Tasha Bridenback (proxy)	SC Court Administration
Jeffrey Gauge	SC Office of Mental Health
Wilson Dillard	SC Health Care Association
Dawna Keith	SC Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
John Frampton	Attorney General
Alanna Berry (proxy)	Long Term Care Ombudsman
Beverly McClerklin	SC Office of Mental Health
Scott Cooke	Department of Consumer Affairs

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
	SC Home Care and Hospice Association
	SC Police Chiefs Association
	SC Department of Public Health
	SC Department on Aging
	SC Sheriffs' Association
	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Krisdee Clark	
John "JJ" Jones	
Angie Smith	
Brenda Marchant	
Sally Foster	
Jennifer Aplin	