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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC agencies working together to ensure health, safety of residents from closed North Charleston assisted living facility

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Several state agencies are working with law enforcement to ensure the health and safety of residents of a North Charleston assisted living facility closed on Thursday by police. The closing comes after the owner of Fair Havens Manor on Cosgrove Avenue was arrested by North Charleston police Thursday morning. She is accused of neglecting the residents at the community residential care facility (CRCF), which was home to 15 vulnerable adults.

Officials with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the SC Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), the SC Department of Social Services, the SC Department of Mental Health, and the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman's Office were on site Thursday to assist with the care and placement of the residents, who include several hospice patients. These agencies work collaboratively to find placement and ensure the welfare of residents anytime a facility is closed.

The 13 Fair Haven Manor residents who were present at the time of the closure were placed in protective custody and given medical screenings to determine if they needed hospitalization or could be placed in another facility. Many of them are elderly with limited incomes.

"In working with local authorities, the long-term care ombudsman and other state agencies, our first priority is to ensure the residents receive appropriate care and services," said Health and Environment Director Catherine Templeton. "Our ultimate goal is for every licensed facility to foster an environment that protects the health, safety and well-being of its residents and DHEC's ongoing investigation will determine whether this facility fell short of the mark."

"South Carolina Medicaid spends over \$18 million each year on CRCFs. We are intensifying our scrutiny of a number of these facilities to ensure that resident health, safety and dignity are a priority," said SCDHHS Director Anthony Keck.

There are approximately 480 licensed CRCFs in South Carolina. They are designed for individuals who need care, but may not need 24-hour skilled nursing assistance. About half of the residents of the facility were enrolled in a state program administered by SCDHHS that pays for their room and board as well as some personal care.

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