

Minutes
Adult Protection Coordinating Council
August 12, 2024

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 13, 2024. A motion was made by Wilson Dillard to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Dale Watson. After edits to the attendance list were discussed, the minutes were approved.

Agency Updates

Department of Social Services:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- The Department has been receiving ARPA funding, and has asked for an extension through September of 2025
 - This funding is utilized by their Home Stabilization Fund, which helps combat the housing shortage by repairing homes so that people can age in place versus entering long term care facilities
- There are still changes being made to the Department's intake tool. This is an active project.

Department on Aging:

Brenda Stalzer Marchant reported:

- Gave a shout out to the local Area Agencies on Aging for their rapid response during the inclement weather the week of August 5th.
- Shared that three counties have started providing vouchers for low-income seniors to have lunch at the farmer's market. More counties are expected to participate.
- There will be a 5K on November 2nd to raise funds for the Vulnerable Adult Fund. An email with more information will be sent.

Attorney General:

John Frampton reported:

- The Department held a press conference for World Elder Abuse Day. There was good news coverage and an increase in referrals after the press conference.
- The Department is currently holding two outreach events per week with law enforcement agencies across the state. There is a lot of interest with this, and the agencies are asking a lot of questions.
 - There are 78 agencies total, and the Department has 57 more agencies to speak to.
- The Department is also willing to speak at any agency staff meetings to provide more information about their efforts.
- They have expanded their unit by 2 employees, with a new total of 13 investigators to assist with exploitation cases.
 - The Department is taking referrals directly from facilities.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Margaret Alewine reported:

- The Agency released several bulletins with July 1, 2024 effective dates.
- The Community Long Term Care (CLTC) provider manual is now the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provider manual, to reflect inclusion of all HCBS programs. Additional manual updates are currently in progress
- Currently policy/procedures and monitoring tools for critical incident reporting are under final review.

Data Reports

DSS/APS:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- Kelly reminded the committee that the goal is a 12:1 caseload. The Agency is working to meet this goal.
- The Agency is seeing more women than men, with a typical age of 60 or older.
- Most cases close out between 0-6 months, with cases open more than 24 months due to eligibility issues.
- Most cases accepted fall under the neglect category, with additional cases for abuse and exploitation.

SLED:

Trista Baird reported:

- Intakes for the second quarter were less than the first, with a total of 224 intakes.
- There has been a decrease in fatalities, with veteran fatalities totaling 59.
- There were 5 arrests in the first and second quarter.

Ombudsman:

Dale Watson reported:

- Totals of 71 cases of abuse, 24 cases of neglect and 11 cases of exploitation.
- There will be an increase in the amount of data that is available beginning at the next meeting. The Department has increased their staff and capacity.

Attorney General:

John Frampton reported:

- Reminded the committee that the Department does not track referrals for this population.
- Totals of 83 cases opened, currently 31 active cases, 21 arrests and 15 convictions
 - This data is coming from their Vulnerable Adults Unit

Other Discussion Topics:

ACL Rule:

Kelly Cordell shared:

- ACL was established in 2012 to provide guidance for APS and provided voluntary guidelines in 2015.
- Effective June 7, 2024, the Department has until May 8, 2028 to become fully compliant with ACL guidelines.

- The Department is well on its way to be fully compliant and already meets many of the compliance metrics.
- The Department is working on softening verbiage and becoming more person-centered, assuming that everyone has the capacity to make their own decisions.
- Submitting data through the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS).

Access Rule:

Margaret Alewine shared:

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Access Rule provides different timelines for requirements; therefore, Margaret will be bringing more information to the committee as it becomes available.
- Some of the requirements include:
 - Reporting on Medicaid payment rates for direct care workers.
 - Timeliness of access to services.

Omnibus Adult Protection Act (OAPA):

John Frampton shared:

- The law is dated 1993 and was updated in 2006.
- There are holes in the law that need to be addressed, as there are concerns with social media, how verbal abuse is defined and referrals
- John agreed to provide an overview of the areas that need to be addressed at the next meeting.

Meeting Attendance

Members Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Kelly Cordell	SC Dept. of Social Services/APS
Ann Dalton	SC DDSN
Margaret Alewine	SC DHHS
Theresa Brown	SC LLR
Beth Franco	Disability Rights SC
Trista Baird (proxy)	SLED SVU/Vulnerable Adult Investigation Unit
John Frampton	Attorney General
Krisdee Clark	SC Home Care and Hospice Association
Dale Watson	Long Term Care Ombudsman
Jennifer Aplin	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Wilson Dillard	SC Health Care Association
Kathy Bradley	Family Member of Consumer of Institutional Services
Brenda Stalzer Marchant	SC Department on Aging
Scott Cooke	Department of Consumer Affairs
Megan Meekins	SC Court Administration

Members Absent:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Connie Munn	SC Department on Aging
Troy Bell	SC Assn of Community Residential Programs
	SC Medical Association
	SC Police Chiefs Association
Jarrod Bruder	SC Sheriffs' Association
Lewis "Jackie" Swindler	SC Criminal Justice Academy
Bailey Parker	SC Department of Consumer Affairs
Brian Bennett	Criminal Justice Academy
Mike Lanier (proxy)	SC Criminal Justice Academy
Delores Johnson (proxy)	SC Assn of Community Residential Programs