

Minutes
Adult Protection Coordinating Council
November 18, 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 August 11, 2024. A motion was made by Kathy Bradley to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Kelly Cordell. After edits to the agency reporting from Department on Aging were discussed, the minutes were approved.

Agency Updates

Department of Social Services:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- The director of the Department will be resigning effective January 2, 2025.
- The Department is working on re-writing relocation committee procedures (how they partner to investigate and assist with relocation of those affected by assisted living and boarding home closures).

Department on Aging:

Brenda Stalzer Marchant reported:

- There are currently 149 total recipients of HUD grant money. This data represents 29 out of the 46 counties in the state.
- The Department has requested an additional six hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars to continue the program.
- The Department held their Race for the Ages 5K on November 2nd, with 80 participants, 50 volunteers, and 10 vendors.
 - Over five thousand dollars was raised for the Vulnerable Adult fund

Attorney General:

Jennifer Long reported:

- The Department has brought in new investigators to assist with the current caseload.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Margaret Alewine reported:

- Margaret will be transitioning the Department's representation to Russell Morrison.

Disability Rights SC:

Beth Franco reported:

- The department has begun monitoring CTH-IIs. This is not in response to complaints.
- They currently have one person who has completed six visits.
- Areas they are focusing on include abuse, neglect, quality of life, community integration, and HCBS setting requirements
- The Department is not currently reporting publicly but gathering information.

- NDRN is working with the Department to create a monitoring tool and their next step will be establishing the process for reporting.
- Beth stated that she would be willing to provide a presentation on monitoring and investigations.
- Questions/comments from the Committee included the need to coordinate potential overlap with the Ombudsman “friendly visits” as well as DDSN and DHHS.

SLED:

Sabrina Fellers reported:

- There is a vacancy that the Department is struggling to fill in the Lowcountry. The Department is looking for someone with law enforcement experience.

Data Reports

DSS/APS:

Kelly Cordell reported:

- 6,433 total calls, with 1,751 accepted for investigation. A large majority (1,411) were due to neglect.
- Most of the vulnerable adults are female, with 80% of the population being aged 60 or older
- Turnover for case managers in the Upstate is high, creating an elevated number of caseloads per case manager
- The majority of cases close within 6 months, with approximately 12% of cases remaining open until 12 months.

SLED:

Sabrina Fellers reported:

- The Department is no longer specifically tracking veteran totals.
- There were 160 reported incidents, which is a decrease. The total numbers continue to decrease.
- Standard of care continues to be the highest reported type of incident, with 80 total for this quarter.

Ombudsman:

Dale Watson reported:

- The Department received 3 referrals from DMH, 8 from DDSN, and 56 from the SNFs.
- The Department continues education on scams and exploitations.

Attorney General:

Jennifer Long reported:

- The Department provided the following data:
 - 74 complaints
 - 22 new cases
 - 7 arrests
 - 9 convictions
 - 30 pending cases
 - 44 closed cases
 - \$2,881.42 ordered in restitution payments

Other Discussion Topics:

Client Rights:

Anna Maria Conner presented on Client Rights:

- 2024 marks sixty years of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- Verbal abuse is not always captured as abuse.
- A Power of Attorney is not legal guardianship
- EmPath Units: currently 16 statewide
- The Department provides training on rights versus guardianship as well as trainings to providers in addition to general outreach and education.

Group Discussion

The agenda for the next meeting will include review of the purpose of APCC. The Council was asked to review the bylaws before the next meeting, with particular attention to Article II.

Meeting Attendance

Members Attending:

Name

Kelly Cordell
Ann Dalton
Margaret Alewine
Theresa Brown
Beth Franco
Sabrina Fellers
Jennifer Long
Dale Watson
Kathy Bradley
Brenda Stalzer Marchant
Anna Maria Conner

Agency/Organization

SC Dept. of Social Services/APS
SC DDSN
SC DHHS
SC LLR
Disability Rights SC
SLED SVU/Vulnerable Adult Investigation Unit
Attorney General
Long Term Care Ombudsman
Family Member of Consumer of Institutional Services
SC Department on Aging
Disability Rights SC

Members Absent:

Name

Connie Munn
Troy Bell

Jarrod Bruder
Lewis "Jackie" Swindler
Bailey Parker
Brian Bennett
Mike Lanier (proxy)
Delores Johnson (proxy)
Krisdee Clark
Jennifer Aplin
Wilson Dillard
Scott Cooke
Megan Meekins

Agency/Organization

SC Department on Aging
SC Assn of Community Residential Programs
SC Medical Association
SC Police Chiefs Association
SC Sheriffs' Association
SC Criminal Justice Academy
SC Department of Consumer Affairs
Criminal Justice Academy
SC Criminal Justice Academy
SC Assn of Community Residential Programs
SC Home Care and Hospice Association
SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
SC Health Care Association
Department of Consumer Affairs
SC Court Administration