

CREATING DIRECTION

A GUIDE FOR IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE IN SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Institute of
Medicine & Public Health



THREE YEAR UPDATE – LONG-TERM CARE TASKFORCE JUNE 2018

Due to the limiting effects of aging, nearly 70% of the elderly need long-term care services and supports (LTC) at some time during their lives.¹ By 2030, more than one in five South Carolinians will be 65 and older, reflecting the demographic shift to an aging population occurring across the United States. As a result, public and private requests for LTC services will increase and our current system will be overwhelmed. Anyone with limitations caused by physical, cognitive or chronic health conditions may need regular assistance with various activities of daily living; the system also serves people with disabilities under age 65—many of whom need daily care to live as independently as possible. Families, service providers, government agencies, advocates and people in the long-term care continuum envision an integrated, fiscally sustainable system of high-quality, accessible services.

The South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) established the LTC Taskforce in 2014. The Taskforce included 65 service providers, researchers, advocates and agency representatives from across the state. Members explored a range of issues facing our statewide LTC system and worked to develop actionable recommendations to address some of the most critical needs. In June 2015, IMPH released *Creating Direction: A Guide for Improving Long-Term Care in South Carolina*, a report that highlighted the urgency of addressing growing demands on family caregivers, public and private service providers and government agencies. The Taskforce's 30 recommendations are presented in the report, grouped into six crucial areas for improvement: promoting system efficiency and coordination; strengthening the full spectrum of long-term services and supports; ensuring an adequate and trained workforce; protecting vulnerable adults; supporting family caregivers; and promoting choice and independence through education. A current IMPH initiative addressing system-wide changes in South Carolina's healthcare workforce incorporates the Taskforce's goal of strengthening the Long-Term Care continuum. The envisioned health services system will continually promote choice and independence to the fullest extent possible, enabling people to choose the most appropriate care in the least restrictive setting.

To build on the momentum of the Taskforce's work, the capstone recommendation listed in *Creating Direction* is to establish a formal Implementation Leadership Council of key stakeholders. The Council's primary responsibilities are:

- **To keep continued focused attention on recommendations,**
- **To minimize or eliminate barriers to implementation,**
- **To connect and mobilize the many stakeholders across public agencies, family caregivers and LTC service providers throughout South Carolina and**
- **To promote and track progress toward implementation**

The Council and IMPH staff monitor improvements in LTC services that reflect the report's recommendations for building a more robust continuum of care and assistance. Given the comprehensive nature of the taskforce, the Council chose to prioritize certain recommendations each year. Since Fall 2015, members have explored essential issues, including significant budgetary and programmatic trends. In areas where there were not already existing efforts to promote action, the Council has also sought to lay the groundwork for collaboration by initiating ad hoc exploratory meetings. Additionally, work groups have been established for two recommendations (transportation and the adult abuse registry) to advance implementation efforts and assure that the appropriate stakeholders are involved in this process.

¹ SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. 2012. South Carolina Community Profiles – Population Projects Based on the 2010 Census Data. Accessed 4/30/18: http://sccommunityprofiles.org/census/proj_c2010.html

As the members of the Council continue the work to address the full array of recommendations from the LTC Taskforce, the support of key public and private-sector partners will remain vital. Such collaborative leadership from the Council will be essential to improving access, quality, caregiving strategies and education for the benefit of all people who enter a more robust LTC system over the coming years.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SINCE 2015

- R4. Expand support for Medicaid-sponsored long-term services and supports over the next five years to strengthen and expand home and community-based services as part of a full spectrum of care options
- R6. Enhance the mission of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA) and its capacity to coordinate with the Area Agencies on Aging, Aging Disability Resource Centers and service providers. As a part of this effort, conduct a review to determine the optimal organizational placement of the LGOA
- R12. Develop a comprehensive Direct Care Worker Registry to be used as a resource for consumers, family caregivers and potential employers
- R14. Develop a Vulnerable Adult Abuse Registry
- R15. Ensure vulnerable adults are protected through an adequate Adult Protective Services Program and have access to preventative services that keep them safely in their homes and from requiring more expensive services
- R17. Improve access and funding for flexible respite services for family caregivers
- R19. Enhance the capacity of the Aging Network to ensure that family caregivers receive critical services, including thorough assessment, education, training and support
- R26. Support and enhance awareness about statewide public education efforts regarding advance care planning based on the needs and values of individuals

RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LONG-TERM CARE STAKEHOLDERS

- R23. Develop and market a comprehensive, user-friendly online information and referral resource for long-term services and supports, which will include resources for caregivers (This resource can be found at <https://www.getcaresc.com>)
- R30. Establish a formal and structured implementation process that brings collective focus, leadership and accountability to each of these recommendations

MEMBERS OF THE LONG-TERM CARE IMPLEMENTATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Mr. Sam Waldrep, Senior Advisor, IMPH	Ms. Kelly Cordell, Director of Adult Advocacy, SC Dept of Social Services	Mr. Sam Mathur, Director, Comfort Home Health Care
Mr. Johnny Belissary, Administrator, New Generations Adult Day Centers	Ms. Nikki Hutchison, Associate State Director, AARP South Carolina	Ms. Gloria Prevost, Executive Director, Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.
Ms. Stephanie Blunt, Executive Director, Trident Area Agency on Aging	Ms. Brenda Hyleman, Executive Director, Palmetto Care Managers	Ms. Beth Sulkowski, Vice President for Communications and Advocacy, Alzheimer's Association, SC Chapter
Mr. Darryl Broome, Agency Director, Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging	Dr. Pete Liggett, Deputy Director for Long-Term Living and Behavioral Health, SC Dept of Health and Human Services	

(Note: The composition of the council will evolve as implementation efforts and prioritized recommendation areas continue to be identified.)

Significant efforts have been undertaken by public and private stakeholders and IMPH to improve options for older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers across our state. **A progress report to be released this fall will provide an opportunity to highlight many of those efforts while also underscoring the challenges that remain.** Implementation efforts face serious barriers, including lack of resources, competing priorities and the need for greater coordination. The collaboration among ILC members and other partners will be key to maintaining momentum for systemic transformation to meet the growing demand for LTC services and supports.

For more information or questions, please contact Dr. Corey Remle at corey@imph.org

The mission of the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) is to collectively inform policy to improve health and health care. IMPH seeks to achieve this mission by convening academic, governmental, organizational and community-based stakeholders around issues important to the health and well-being of all South Carolinians. In conducting this work, IMPH takes a comprehensive approach to advancing health issues through data analysis and translation and collaborative engagement.