

CREATING DIRECTION

A GUIDE FOR IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE IN SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Institute of
Medicine & Public Health



One Year Update – Long-Term Care Taskforce June 10, 2016

As the Baby Boom generation ages, approximately 10,000 people in the U.S. turn 65 every day. This unprecedented growth in our nation's older adult population is no longer a future inevitability. It is here now, impacting every facet of our society. Considering that 70% of those turning 65 will need long-term services and support in their lifetimes, this demographic wave threatens to overwhelm our current long-term care (LTC) system. The costs associated with this growth are staggering for both government and family budgets, and the strain on the LTC system is growing exponentially. Adding to the growing demand, **the LTC system also serves people with disabilities under 65, who make up nearly half of those who need daily long-term services and supports.** The current LTC system does not have the capacity to ensure a meaningful range of service options to meet the diverse needs and preferences of all the people who rely on it. Although the LTC challenges facing us are immense, they represent an opportunity to work together to ensure fuller lives for older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers across our state.

In 2014, the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) launched a new phase in the LTC conversation in South Carolina by establishing the Long-Term Care Taskforce, which included 65 providers, researchers, advocates and agency representatives from across the state. The taskforce was guided by a 16-member steering committee and chaired by South Carolina business and civic leader, Joel Smith. Under this leadership, taskforce members explored a range of issues facing our LTC system and worked to develop actionable solutions to address some of the most critical needs. The taskforce members were motivated by their shared vision of an integrated, fiscally sustainable system of high quality, accessible services. This envisioned system would promote choice and independence to the fullest extent possible, enabling people to choose the most appropriate care in the least restrictive setting.

In June 2015, the taskforce report, *Creating Direction: A Guide for Improving Long-Term Care in South Carolina*, was made public at a press conference at which the taskforce chair and Lt. Governor Henry McMaster highlighted the urgency of addressing growing demands on the LTC system. The taskforce's 30 recommendations are presented in the report according to 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. The report received considerable media attention and strong support from stakeholders, underscoring the sense of collaboration among taskforce partners and their continued commitment to collective action to improve and expand services.

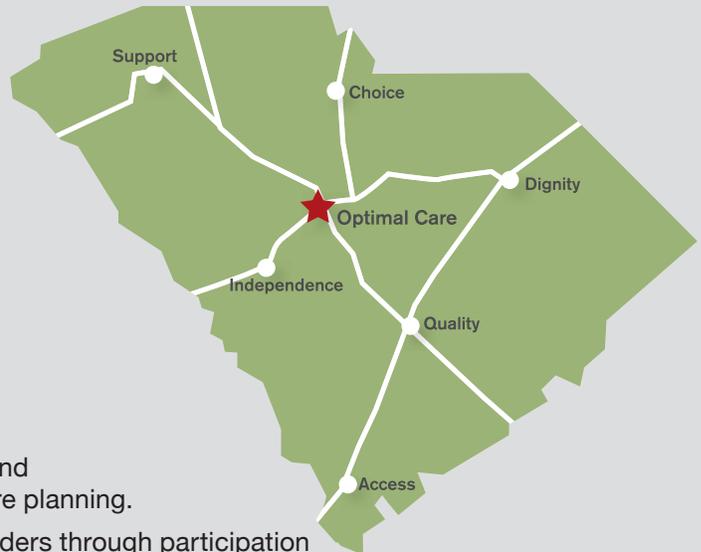
To build on that momentum, IMPH established the LTC Implementation Leadership Council (ILC) to:

- Keep continued, focused attention on the recommendations;
- Minimize or eliminate barriers to implementation;
- Connect and mobilize stakeholders; and
- Promote and track progress toward implementation.

The ILC has met quarterly since the fall of 2015. Given the comprehensive nature of the taskforce report, the ILC chose to prioritize the recommendations to focus the early phase of implementation. In its meetings thus far, the ILC has explored essential issues impacting those prioritized recommendation areas, including significant budgetary and programmatic trends. In areas where there were not already existing efforts to promote action, the ILC has also sought to lay the groundwork for collaboration by initiating ad hoc exploratory meetings. In the coming months, the ILC will inform the development of an annual report to be released this fall detailing progress on the prioritized recommendations and shedding light on barriers to action.

Highlighted Action Areas

- Establishing priority areas within the comprehensive set of taskforce recommendations to bring focused attention and increased activity to the following critical needs:
 - Expanded support of Medicaid long-term services and supports;
 - Enhanced capacity/services coordinated through the Office on Aging and the Aging Network;
 - Adequate services for vulnerable adults;
 - Greater supports for family caregivers;
 - A better online information and referral resource; and
 - Increased education efforts regarding advance care planning.
- Increasing connectivity among key agencies/stakeholders through participation in the Implementation Leadership Council (ILC) and the ad hoc interest groups facilitated as part of the broader implementation process.
- Raising awareness of the increasing need for and costs of long-term services and supports by tracking significant agency trends and related agency budget requests.



Members of the Long-Term Care Implementation Leadership Council

Mr. Sam Waldrep, Senior Advisor, IMPH and Long-Term Care ILC Chair

Ms. Coretta Bedsole, Associate State Director for Advocacy, AARP South Carolina

Mr. Johnny Belissary, Administrator, New Generations Adult Day Centers

Ms. Stephanie Blunt, Executive Director, Trident Area Agency on Aging

Ms. Brenda Hyleman, Aging Life Care Professional

Dr. Pete Liggett, Deputy Director for LTC and Behavioral Health, SC Dept. of Health and Human Services

Mr. Mark Plowden, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Ms. Gloria Prevost, Executive Director, Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.

Ms. Beth Sulkowski, Vice President for Communications and Advocacy, Alzheimer's Association, SC Chapter

(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 LTC stakeholders over the past year to improve options for older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers across our state. The 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 to transform the system to meet the growing demand.

For more information or questions, please contact Eleanor Stein at eleanor@imph.org.

The mission of the South Carolina Institute of Medicine & 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.