



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health



PROGRESS REPORT - APRIL 2019

## CREATING DIRECTION

A GUIDE FOR IMPROVING

**LONG-TERM CARE**

IN SOUTH CAROLINA

# 1.1 Million

(more than 20% of the state's population)

**South Carolinians will be 65 or older by 2030.**

Led by the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health, the Long-Term Care Leadership Council seeks to create lasting improvements in South Carolina's system of long-term services and supports (LTSS) by developing and recommending cost-effective, actionable solutions to current and future challenges.

A wide array of public and private stakeholders came together in 2015 to issue 30 recommendations South Carolina must address to solve the multi-layered challenges associated with a growing aging population. This progress report highlights numerous areas for action, including periodic updates to streamline the collaborative work and ensure changes are being implemented.

### Key Considerations

- ❖ **INDEPENDENCE & DIGNITY:** Allow seniors and people with disabilities to live safely in their communities and homes with greater independence for as long as possible.
- ❖ **CHOICE:** As the aging population increases, significantly more innovations, more services and more resources will be necessary for consumers to choose the best possible care.
- ❖ **QUALITY:** Modernization activities in transportation, telemedicine, home-based technologies and services that will occur in the next decade will expand statewide service delivery options and should simultaneously reduce costs per person.
- ❖ **ACCESS:** Consumers will need a web-based, user-friendly database registry to help them hire reliable, qualified, experienced direct care workers to meet their personal care needs.
- ❖ **PROTECTION:** The lack of temporary stabilization placement options for vulnerable adults in need of protective services is one of the top challenges faced by Adult Protective Services and must be addressed.
- ❖ **OPTIMAL CARE:** There has been forward movement by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) to improve care coordination and comprehensive care plans for "dual-eligible" Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. This work must continue to offer optimal care for Medicaid-sponsored long-term services and supports.
- ❖ **SUPPORT:** With an aging population, more adult children and other family members will become caregivers and will need access to respite care.

*"Stakeholders must work together even more than before in preparation for demographic changes that will demand more services, more time, more resources and more strategic planning for an LTC system in South Carolina that will accommodate the needs of more seniors, more people with disabilities and more complexities."*

– "Creating Direction: A Guide for Improving Long-Term Care in South Carolina," April 2019 Progress Report.

The full report can be found at [IMPH.org](http://IMPH.org).