



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health

## **TASKFORCE:**

### **Social Isolation in Older Adults**

---

These meeting notes are from the Social Isolation in Older Adults Taskforce Meeting.

**OCTOBER 31, 2022**

**11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M**

**SALUDA SHOALS PARK, THE RIVER CENTER, UPS ROOM**

#### Steering Committee Members

Andrew Boozer, Executive director, Senior Resources Inc.

Jennifer Brewton LMSW, Caregiver and Alzheimer's Resource Divisional Manager and Family Caregiver Support Program Manager, South Carolina Department on Aging

Megan Byers, MSW, Program Coordinator, Office on Aging-University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public

Charmaine Fuller Cooper, MPA, State Director, AARP

Shelia Cotten Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Research Development, Clemson University

Elexias Cotton, Adult Protective Services, Department of Social Services

Rowan Goodrich, MS, RD, LD, Nutritionist, South Carolina Department on Aging

Ann Lewis, Chief Executive Office, Care South

Lori Phillips, MPH, MCHES, Director, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Prevention South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Jessica Seel MPH, Director of Behavioral Health Initiatives and Workforce, South Carolina Office of Rural Health

---



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health

#### Meeting Attendees

##### In-Person

Tom Amaro

Sara Barber, MA

Justin Blomdahl, MBA

Ali Burnett

Tracey Coleman, AGPCNP-BC, CHFNP

Christopher Cooper, MD, MPH

Cynthia Corbett, PhD, RN, FAAN

Marisette Hasan, RN, BSN

Hillary Johnson

Nancy Kennedy, MMC

Thomas Kilpatrick, JD, LL.M.

Michelle Nienhius, MPH

Lee Patterson, LMSW

Christine Phillips, PhD, MSS

Melissa Price

Lisa Ragland, MSW, CPM

Mark Smith

Eleanor Stein, MSW

Julie Vidotto, Ed.D.

##### Virtual

Kara Bopp, PhD

Robert Breen, MD

Amy Davis, MSN, RN

Emanuel Flemming Sr., BAPSY, CF

Joe Kunkel, MSW

Kathy Schwarting, MHA

Katrina Shealy

Alex Tovar

Lakesia Tucker, MSW, Ed.D.

Janise Wright

Kimberly Tissot, MSW

---

#### Notes

Agenda item: Taskforce Process Overview

Presenter: Maya Pack, IMPH

Discussion:

- Role of Steering Committee:
  - Identify taskforce members
  - Identify meeting speakers
  - Help develop agendas for TF meetings
  - Review report drafts
- Role of Taskforce:



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health

- Identify recommendations
- Share data and expertise
- Patient Engagement Studio (PES)
  - A way to engage people with lived experience
- Questions:
  - Q: Is there good representation in the composition of the PES?
  - A: We will work to ensure that the group is picked to reflect the diverse dynamics of South Carolina

Agenda item: Aging 101: Info Regarding Services and Programs

Presenter(s): Jennifer Brewton, SCDOA, Rowan Goodrich, SCDOA

Discussion:

- SCDOA's services are run through the regional areas agencies on aging (AAAs), then directed to the provider level.
- Supportive Services
  - "Catch all program"
  - Includes Information and Referral Assistance, In Home Care, Transportation and Legal Services
- Nutrition Program
  - Includes Group Dining Program, Home Delivered Meal Program, Nutrition Education and Nutrition Counseling
- Family Caregiver Support Program
  - Includes supports for adults 18+ caring for someone 55+, elder 55+ caring for a child under 18 who is not theirs biologically, and a dlder caring for a disabled adult supports
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
  - Includes Medicare options counseling, insurance counseling and assistance for Medicare beneficiaries
- Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)
  - Includes supports to prevent, detect and report healthcare fraud, errors and abuse
- GetCareSC
  - Includes supports that allows seniors, caregivers, etc., to search for service providers in their area
- Questions:
  - Q: How are we looking as far as waiting lists for programs funded by the OAA?
  - A: Depends on region and county, numbers not available on the spot. Over 100
  - Q: Is workforce part of the problem?
  - A: Yes, for homecare. There are multiple variables for meals (meal cost increases, gas prices increases, insurance rates up charged for those transporting elderly
  - Q: Are all congregate meal sites reopen?



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health

- A: A majority are open
- Q: Update on the respite funding. Did we expend 100% of those funds?
- A: Not all expended last year. During COVID, people were hesitant to have people in their homes, so used federal funding first. State funding continued to grow, there are plans to expend state funding and get that out.
- Q: Are people who didn't get respite funds last year eligible for two vouchers this year?
- A: Answer is situational

Conclusions:

- SCDOA's services are geared towards assisting South Carolina's older adult population
  - Services cover physical care to informational and educational support
  - Programs and services (ex. congregate eating sites) affected by COVID are returning to normal operations
-