



South Carolina's Operation to Confront Social Isolation and Loneliness

Members List



SOCIAL Aging

SC'S OPERATION TO CONFRONT
SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS



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Overview

South Carolina's Operation to Confront Social Isolation and Loneliness (SOCIAL Aging), is a state-wide coalition dedicated to reducing social isolation in older adults. This coalition is responsible for tracking the progress of the guiding framework from state-specific recommendations to reduce social isolation in older adults. These recommendations were developed by the Social Isolation in Older Adults Taskforce led by the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health and the South Carolina Department on Aging. The recommendations and full report can be found in [*Addressing Social Isolation in Older Adults as a Determinant of Health*](#) (Siuba, Carroll, & Haire, 2023).

SOCIAL Aging is modeled after the [*Collective Impact*](#). The Collective Impact "is a network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems-level change" (Collective Impact Form, 2024). The infrastructure consists of a backbone support agency, a steering committee, workgroups and members, and coalition members. All members and organizations work to strive towards a common goal: to end social isolation in older adults across South Carolina.

Infrastructure

Backbone

The Office for the Study of Aging (OSA) at the University of South Carolina serves as the backbone support infrastructure for SOCIAL Aging. The OSA is needed to foster cross-sector communication, alignment, and collaboration required to achieve population-level systems change in social isolation for older adults. The OSA primary responsibility is the coordination and creating a place for the work of the coalition to be completed. The time commitment varies, though, a minimum of 15 hours of dedication monthly is required. Additional responsibilities include:

- Maintain open communication between all members, work groups, and partnerships
- Serve as the funding applicant, and if awarded, fund management
- Seek funding opportunities for the coalition
- Provide support to partners who seek collaboration or letters of support for funding opportunities
- Facilitate quarterly steering committee and coalition meetings
- Create meeting agendas and minutes
- Maintain the accuracy of the shared drive for coalition members



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Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of leaders, decision-makers, and community members who provide strategic direction, champion the effort, and align their own organization's work to the common agenda. The total time commitment for a Steering Committee member is estimated to be 5 hours quarterly. Though, additional time may be required to achieve coalition goals and tasks. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Meet with the OSA at least one time quarterly prior to coalition meetings
- Maintain ongoing communication with OSA on the status of identified tasks, funding opportunities, and potential partnerships
- Serve as a chair for at least one workgroup
- Empower coalition members to maintain an active engagement

Workgroup Chair/Co-Chair

Each workgroup shall have a Chair and a Co-Chair to share responsibilities. The Chair of the workgroup is a Steering Committee member, and the Co-Chair may be any coalition member dedicated to achieving the workgroup's goals and tasks. These individuals will lead the workgroup based on personal or professional experience and/or expertise. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Provide direction and structure to the workgroup
- Maintain communication amongst workgroup members
- Oversee the completion of tasks in a timely manner
- Report progress to OSA to keep the coalition updated

Workgroup Member

Workgroup members consist of professionals with subject expertise and individuals with lived experience to address the needs of older adults experiencing social isolation. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Attend quarterly meetings
- Engage with workgroup meetings and members
- Participate in parts of task completion to the best of their ability

Coalition Member

Coalition members are individuals who have a passion to address social isolation in older adults and want to be a part of active change in the community and across the state. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Attend quarterly meetings
- Engage with coalition members
- Provide professional and/or personal expertise when appropriate



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Coalition Members

Backbone

Megan Byers, LMSW

Co-Director, Office for the Study of Aging
Manager, Dementia Dialogues®
University of South Carolina

Ally Hucek, MPH

Ph.D. Candidate, Health Promotion,
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Steering Committee

Tom Amaro, Lt.

Lieutenant, Project HOPE
Richland Co. Sheriff's Office

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Nutritionist
SC Department on Aging

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Director, Waring & Lowcountry Senior
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SC Institute of Medicine and Public Health

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Waccamaw AAA

Andrea Smith, MEd

Executive Director &
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Senior Action, Inc.

Jennifer Brewton, LMSW

Caregiver and Alzheimer's Resource
Divisional Manager & Family Caregiver
Support Program Manager
SC Department on Aging

Fredrick Wilson

Executive Director
SC Respite Coalition



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Members

Sheila Bell-Ford

AAA – Central Midlands

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Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of South Carolina

Tricia Phaup

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SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault

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Acting Dean
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Mansi Verma

Ph.D. Candidate, Epidemiology &
Biostatistics
University of South Carolina

Sam Waldrep

President
The FriendShip



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Contact

If you are interested in learning more about the coalition's efforts or about becoming a member, please contact the Co-Director at the Office for the Study of Aging at the University of South Carolina.

Megan Byers, LMSW

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Office for the Study of Aging

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Office for the Study of Aging

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

References

Collective Impact Forum. (2024). Welcome to the Collective Impact Forum.
<https://collectiveimpactforum.org/>

Siuba, J., Carroll, E., Haire, E. (2023). Addressing Social Isolation in Older Adults as a Determinant of Health. South Carolina Institute of Medicine & Public Health.
<https://imph.org/social-isolation-in-older-adults-taskforce/>