



**Alzheimer's  
Resource  
Coordination  
Center**

## **Annual Report**

**July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014**

**Presented to the**

**South Carolina General Assembly  
April, 2015**

**Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging  
Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center  
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Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
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# **ARCC ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

## **Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 1994, the state legislature created the Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in response to the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Alzheimer's disease in South Carolina. The mission of the ARCC is to improve the quality of life for persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias (ARD), their families and caregivers through planning, education, coordination, advocacy, service system development and communication. It is guided by a twenty-three member Advisory Council appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The Advisory Council includes representatives from state agencies, professional organizations, universities, and caregivers with an interest in providing and improving care and services for the population.

The 2012 SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry Annual Report identified 82,772 persons in South Carolina living with a diagnosis of dementia as of January 1, 2010. The Registry tracks information from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, the most current period with available and comprehensive data. In 2014 in South Carolina, approximately 295,000 persons care for these individuals (based on statistics provided by the Alzheimer's Association "2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures"). The Alzheimer's Association report projects a 49% increase in the number of persons affected by Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias between 2000 and 2025. A recent study by the National Institute on Aging suggests that those numbers may be higher since the declining death rate after age 65 may mean that more people will survive to the oldest ages (after 85) where the risk for Alzheimer's disease and other disorders is the greatest. Therefore, this is an issue of growing concern and underscores the need for development of community-based services.

Eighty-five percent of care provided at home is delivered by family caregivers (Alzheimer's Association "2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures"). In 2014, nearly 336 million hours of unpaid care was reported by those caring for an individual with Alzheimer's or other dementia. The estimated value of care by family and unpaid caregivers in South Carolina alone was over \$4 billion in 2014 (Alzheimer's Association "2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures"). The physical, emotional, and financial demands on unpaid caregivers are huge, especially for those caring for a person with dementia. fifty-nine percent of family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias rated the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high. Moreover, approximately 40 percent of family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias report symptoms of depression (Alzheimer's Association "2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures"). Families want to keep their loved ones at home. However, the absence of supportive services which enable families to care for their loved ones at home may lead to premature placements in an institutional setting, thereby increasing the economic cost to the state and the psychological cost to the family caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Disease Registry reports that of the 82,772 persons currently living with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder in South Carolina, 24,992 (30%) are known to reside in nursing homes and 53,562 (65%) reside in the community, while another 4,218

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(5%) live in unknown location. The 2015 Genworth “Let’s Talk” Survey estimates the average nursing home cost for a semi-private room in South Carolina is \$69,350 annually. While the median home health aide costs \$18 an hour. This is a 1.6% increase over the past five years. Based on these figures the cost per day to live in a semi-private room at a nursing home is nearly double that of having a home health aide. Most persons with Alzheimer’s disease are cared for at home by family members who provide care at great cost to their own physical and emotional health as well as their financial status. The 2012 MetLife Market Survey provides an estimate for home care costs of \$6,570 annually in South Carolina (less than one-tenth the cost of nursing home care). The Survey findings indicate that maintaining 53,562 people at home costs \$351 million each year. The estimated total cost of nursing home care and personal care in the home is \$2.02 billion annually. A large portion of this cost is borne by the Medicaid program. Families or informal caregivers also pay for a considerable portion of this cost. If all Alzheimer’s Registry patients resided in nursing homes, the cost would be approximately \$5.55 billion each year. South Carolina must find ways to assist and support caregivers in maintaining their loved ones and friends at home as long as possible in order to avoid or delay institutionalization.

Caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease in South Carolina have identified their top three needs:

1. Caregiver support, in the form of emotional support, family support and support groups;
2. Information and resources on the disease; and
3. Respite services which allow caregivers to take a short break from their 24/7 care giving responsibilities.

A major barrier to proper care and services for individuals in South Carolina has been the lack of resources to fund the continuum of services needed by families through the course of the progressive disease.

The Legislature has addressed this need by allocating \$150,000 in state funds to the ARCC each year to develop community-based respite programs, caregiver education and training, and other supportive services to caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. Since 1995 small seed grants have been awarded to communities for dementia-specific respite and educational programs. These programs include group respite, in-home respite, and a voucher-based respite program in which consumers can choose the type of respite that best meets their needs. Educational programs target persons with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers, the medical community, colleges and universities, first responders, such as police, fire and emergency medical personnel, and the general public. Recipients of the grants are required to equally match state grant funds through cash or in-kind match.

The ARCC is the only entity in South Carolina that awards grants to start respite and education programs in communities. It monitors and provides technical assistance to grantees to ensure that the standards remain at the highest level. It offers information and resources to the grantees as well as the general public. The ARCC continues to

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encourage and support grantees after their grant award has ended by offering technical assistance to encourage the sustainability of their programs.

Alzheimer’s disease is one of the costliest and most uninsured health risks South Carolina families are likely to face. With the Baby Boomers aging and with in-migration, South Carolina’s senior population is going to drastically increase. With the increase in the numbers of seniors and the increase in life expectancy, the impact of Alzheimer’s disease on families, government and businesses may reach epidemic proportions. By preparing for the future now and providing the much-needed supportive services for families caring for loved ones at home, South Carolina will be ready to meet the challenges of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders with programs and services in place, rather than trying to handle the epidemic after it has started.

**Support Services Provided By ARCC Grantees in 2013-2014:**

Number of Unduplicated Respite Participants	44
Hours of Respite Provided	10,845
Number of Training and Education Sessions	226
Number of Attendees – Training and Education	4,368
Number of Outreach Events	68
Number of Attendees – Outreach Events	4,517
Number of support groups	123 <sup>1</sup>
Number of Attendees – Support Groups	905 <sup>1</sup>

Ten grants were awarded in 2013-2014, comprised of six respite programs and four education programs. All ARCC grant awards are equally matched with community funding and resources. A plan is required for continuation of the program after grant funding is discontinued. Standardized reporting for all grant programs is required to aid in ensuring fidelity to the objectives as outlined in the grant application.

As part of the grant process, the ARCC sponsored a pre-proposal workshop for prospective grantees in January 2014 and a grant procedures workshop for new grant recipients in June 2014. Additionally, Alzheimer’s information is made available “on-line” through the web site, [www.aging.sc.gov](http://www.aging.sc.gov).

Providing the much-needed supportive services for families caring for loved ones at home can prevent or delay the much higher cost of assisted living or nursing home placement. A substantial cost savings is realized for both the state and its taxpayers when home- and community-based services are adequately funded and available for utilization. Support from our state’s leaders is imperative in combating the costs associated with these diseases. By acting proactively, our state will spend less money and serve more

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<sup>1</sup> Totals include only those grantees that provided in-house support groups.

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victims of Alzheimer's and related disorders. If our leadership fails to act, taxpayers will be forced to foot the bill for the huge differences in costs. We thank the South Carolina Legislature for its support in providing relief, respite, and education to South Carolinians with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and their caregivers, and we believe further investigation of the savings our state will see by supporting home and community based services is warranted. Due to the unprecedented growth of the senior population in our state, it is vital to our state's welfare, our citizens, and our economy that our leadership studies these potential savings that could very well prevent our state from crisis.

As of September of 2015, Elizabeth Ford has become the new Program Manager for the ARCC. She joins the Office on Aging after serving over 10 years at the Office of Regulatory Staff.

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## Fiscal Year 2013-2014

### **I. Background**

#### **A. Enabling Legislation**

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center was created in the Division on Aging (now the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging) by act of the South Carolina Legislature effective April 20, 1994. The purpose of the Center is to "provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families, and caregivers."

#### **B. Responsibilities Assigned by Legislation**

According to the SC Code of Laws Section 33-36-320, the center shall:

- (1) initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services;
- (2) facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning, and quality assurance;
- (3) identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services;
- (4) serve as a resource for education, research, and training and provide information and referral services;
- (5) provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families, and caregivers;
- (6) recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders to state policymakers;
- (7) submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly.

#### **C. Community Grants**

According to the SC Code of Laws Section 44-36-325, the Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center was further directed to "develop a grant program to assist communities and other entities in addressing problems relative to Alzheimer's disease and other related disorders. In awarding grants, consideration must be given to recommendations made by the advisory council to the center on priority needs and criteria for selecting grant recipients. As a condition to receiving a grant, the community or other entity shall provide matching funds or an in-kind contribution equal to the amount of funds awarded in the grant." This act took effect July 1, 1996.

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**II. ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The ARCC is supported by an advisory council appointed by the Lieutenant Governor including, but not limited to, representatives of:

1. Alzheimer's Association – SC Chapter
2. AARP
3. Clemson University
4. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
5. Department of Health and Environmental Control
6. Department of Mental Health
7. Department of Social Services
8. Department of Health and Human Services
9. Medical University of South Carolina
10. National Association of Social Workers, South Carolina Chapter
11. South Carolina Adult Day Services Association
12. South Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging
13. South Carolina Council on Aging Directors
14. South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging
15. South Carolina Association of Residential Care Homes
16. South Carolina Health Care Association
17. South Carolina Home Care Association
18. South Carolina Hospital Association
19. South Carolina Medical Association
20. South Carolina Nurses Association
21. South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Registry
22. South Carolina State University
23. University of South Carolina

The Advisory Council meets quarterly. Committees are appointed by the Chair and activated as needed.



## **Appendix A**

### **ARCC Advisory Council Members**

Mr. Jim Love  
AARP

Ms. Beth Sulkowski  
Alzheimer's Association - SC Chapter

Dr. Stephanie Davis  
Clemson University

Ms. Mildred Lilley  
Consumer/Caregiver

Dr. Jacobo E. Mintzer  
Medical University of South Carolina

Ms. Sara English  
National Association of Social Workers, South Carolina Chapter

Pending  
South Carolina Adult Day Services Association

Mr. Shawn Keith  
South Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Pending  
South Carolina Association of Council on Aging Directors

Ms. Vickie Moody  
LeadingAge South Carolina (formerly South Carolina Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging)

Ms. Karen S. Bowman  
South Carolina Association of Residential Care Homes

Ms. Carol Cornman  
South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Registry

Dr. Graeme H. Johnson  
South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Ms. Cora Plass  
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Pending  
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Dr. Miroslav Cuturic  
South Carolina Department of Mental Health

Ms. Mildred Washington  
South Carolina Department of Social Services

Pending  
South Carolina Health Care Association

Ms. Leigh Nunn  
South Carolina Home Care and Hospice Association (formerly South Carolina Home  
Care Association)

Pending  
South Carolina Hospital Association

Dr. Terry Dodge  
South Carolina Medical Association

Ms. Marilyn Koerber  
South Carolina Nurses Association

Pending  
S.C. Silver Haired Legislature

Pending  
South Carolina State University

Dr. Mindi Spencer  
University of South Carolina

Ms. Patricia McCloud  
Dorn VA Medical Center

**Staff:** Anne Wolf

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**Appendix B**

**Grants Awarded in July 2013 for FY 2013-2014**

Alzheimer's Family Services of Greater Beaufort Respite Beaufort County	\$20,000
The ARK – St. Luke's Lutheran Education Dorchester County	\$10,000
Cura Respite Anderson County	\$20,000
GET Education Resources Respite Williamsburg County	\$20,000
Greenville Hospital System Education Greenville County	\$20,000
Memory Matters Education Beaufort County	\$10,000
The Oaks Adult Day Center Respite Orangeburg County	\$20,000
Respite Care Charleston Education Charleston County	\$10,000
South Carolina Respite Coalition Education Statewide	\$10,000
St. James South Santee Senior & Community Center Respite Charleston County	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL GRANT AWARDS IN FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>