



# SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

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**Date:** November 21, 2024  
Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office / Microsoft Teams

**Subject:** Minutes of the South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

**Attendees:** *Committee Members* -Dr. Marcus Ferguson - DHHS (*Teams*), Dr. Abdoulaye Diedhiou - DHEC (*Teams*), Dr. Aunyika Moonan - SC Hospital Association (*Teams*), Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher - Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System (*Teams*), Mr. Kevin Tinch, Internetwork Engineering (*Teams*), Mr. Brandon Hulko - Molina Healthcare (*Teams*)

*Staff* - Ms. Sarah Crawford and Mr. Chris Finney (*Teams*)

- I. Ms. Sarah Crawford, RFA Liaison to the DOC, called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.
- II. The August 15, 2024, meeting minutes, which previously had been shared with the DOC members, were presented and members were asked if there were any edits or questions. Hearing no amendments or objections, Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher motioned to approve the minutes; Dr. Abdoulaye Diedhiou seconded the motion. With no objections, the minutes were approved as written.
- III. Review of Data Requests
  - Request 1: Jorge Luis Garcia: Texas A&M University - "Understanding the Effects of Foster Care and Adoption: A Causal Analysis" *Amendment*
    - The proposed research project aims to evaluate the causal impact of foster care and adoption on child development, covering a comprehensive range of outcomes including educational attainment, employment, household stability, and health measures.
    - The SC Data Oversight Council tabled this request in the August meeting, requesting clarification on the specific time-period of interest for following individuals and whether that is pre and post. Also asked for some clarification on the inclusion criteria for the cohort.
    - The researcher provided the following clarifying information.

- Researchers is interested in following one year prior to the SC DSS founded investigation. Have requested data going back to 1999 to include a pre-period for those entering in 2000.
  - Interested in all founded investigations whether resulted in a foster care stay or not.
  - Also interested in following all individuals through 2023, even into adulthood. Researcher provided explanation highlighted in application.
- **Approved: With the clarifying information provided, the contingency of approval from the Department of Social Services. Dr. Abdoulaye Diedhiou motioned to approve the application; Dr. Marcus Fergus seconded the motion. With no objections, the amended application was approved contingent on the approval from the Department of Social Services.**
- B. Request 2: Sally Morris Cote: The Riley Institute at Furman University – “Family Connects Greenville (FCG) Impact Evaluation”
- Researcher is requesting all payer hospital data to answer questions about the health and well-being six months postpartum of mother/baby pairs who are offered or receive FCG services in comparison to similar mother/baby pairs who give birth in hospitals across South Carolina where Family Connects is not offered.
  - **Approved: Mr. Brandon Hulko motioned to approve the application; Dr. Abdoulaye Diedhiou seconded the motion. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**
- C. Request 3: Dulaney Wilson: Medical University of South Carolina – “Risk Factors of Epilepsy Outcomes: Comorbidities in Population with Epilepsy (Phase 3)”
- The project will extend previous work describing the magnitude and distribution of common comorbid conditions among people with epilepsy (PWE) relative to people with lower extremity fracture (PWLF) and people with migraine (PWM).
  - Concern was expressed over the possibility of a small cell size of this cohort for this request. Particularly when aggregating by different demographics. It was pointed out that the researchers all sign a confidentiality agreement that specifies they will not release aggregate numbers below the cell size of five.
  - **Approved: Dr. Marcus Ferguson motioned to approve the application reminding the researcher of the small cell size suppression rules in place; Dr. Aunyika Moonan seconded the motion. With no objections, the**

**application was approved. RFA staff will remind the researcher of the suppression rule specified in the confidentiality agreement.**

- D. Request 4: Songyuan Deng: SC Center for Rural & Primary Healthcare – “AI-enabled Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Operation Planning for Acute Medical Events”
- This research project aims to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to reduce response time and travel time of EMS vehicles responding to acute medical events caused by chronic conditions. The project team will use AI-based mining of medical data and develop an AI-enabled algorithm for EMS vehicle allocation and routing design.
  - Concerns were raised regarding the AI technology and additional details about its functionality, implementation plan, and the environment in which it will be utilized were requested. Specifically, DOC members asked for clarification on the environment where the data will be stored, and the AI will operate.
  - **Tabled: DOC members decided to table this request until the researcher could provide the requested information.**
- E. Request 5: Andres Garcia: Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services – “Overdose Incidence Rate Model”
- The researcher will utilize all payer hospital data to analyze overdose trends across SC, develop predictive models to forecast the number of overdoses, and to provide actionable insights for public health interventions and policy making.
  - **Approved: Dr. Marcus Ferguson motioned to approve the application; Dr. Abdoulaye Diedhiou seconded the motion. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**
- F. Request 6: Reba Berry: SC Department of Public Health – “SC Surveillance of Muscular Dystrophies (MD STARnet – Muscular Dystrophy Surveillance, Tracking, and Research Network)”
- The overall goals of this project: (1) is to maintain and broaden a dynamic population-based surveillance system for muscular dystrophy (MD), and (2) to conduct ongoing analyses of the health status, health care utilization, and public health impact of people with MD.
  - **Approved: Dr. Marcus Ferguson motioned to approve the application; Dr. Aunyika Moonan seconded the motion. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**

- G. Request 7: Jennifer T. May: University of South Carolina – “Prevalence of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias and risk factors among transgender adults, 2000-2022” *Amendment*
- The researcher applied to re-use data from their previous study, “Healthcare utilization among transgender adults in South Carolina” for a study focused on looking at Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias and risk factors of the transgender population. No new data is being requested.
  - DOC members requested that RFA remind the researcher of the small cell size suppression requirement. Also to request that the researcher submit any reports for review by RFA prior to publication.
  - **Approved: Dr. Abdoulaye Diedhiou motioned to approve the application with these stipulations; Dr. Aunyika Moonan seconded the motion. With no objections, the application was approved with these stipulations.**
- H. Request 8: Angela Malek: Medical University of South Carolina – “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, SARS-CoV-2 infection, and social determinants of health on pregnancy complications, birth outcomes and post pregnancy maternal cardiovascular and mortality outcomes” *Amendment*
- The original application was approved by the DOC on May 19, 2022. The submitted amendment was for the inclusion of an additional data source, DPH Immunization data, to their study. No additional hospital data is being requested.
  - The requested all payer hospital data will be used for a statewide retrospective cohort study to investigate the COVID-19 pandemic and infection with SARS-CoV-2 as risk factors for pregnancy complications, adverse birth outcomes including maternal and infant mortality, and maternal post-pregnancy cardiovascular events and mortality outcomes in South Carolina (SC)
  - **Approved: Dr. Marcus Ferguson motioned to approve the application; Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher seconded the motion. With no objection, the amended application was approved.**

#### IV. General Discussion

- A. Reminder of reappointment of DOC members and designating a DOC chairperson.
- Ms. Sarah Crawford reminded members of upcoming terms expiring and the reappointment of those members. Reminder emails will be sent to those members.

B. 2025 Meeting Schedule

- The meeting schedule for 2025 was submitted to the DOC. With no objections the 2025 meeting schedule was approved.

C. No other items were brought to the Council for discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00pm.

V. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.

Public Notice of this meeting was posted at: <https://rfa.sc.gov/boards-committees/dataoversight>.

The minutes were approved on February 20, 2025

Sarah Crawford *Sarah Crawford*