SOUTH CAROLINA
Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

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Date: August 20, 2026
Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office / Microsoft Teams

Subject: Minutes of the South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

Attendees: *Committee Members* (*Teams)* – Dr. Aunyika Moonan – SC Hospital Association, Mr. Brandt Smith – SC Medical Association, Mr. Kevin Tinch - Internetwork Engineering*)*, Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher– Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Ms. Jamie Shuster Godfrey – SC Governor's Office, Alex Dillard – SC Blue Cross Blue Shield

Staff – Ms. Sarah Crawford, Ms. Dianne Davis, and Mr. Chris Finney (*Teams*)

I. Ms. Sarah Crawford, RFA Liaison to the DOC, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. With new representation from SC BlueCross BlueShield in attendance, introductions were made by all participants.

II. The minutes for the May 21, 2026, meeting, which were previously shared with the DOC members, were presented. Members were asked if there were any edits or questions. Dr. Aunyika Moonan motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher seconded the motion. With no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

III. Review of Data Requests

A. Request 1: Analisa Packham: Vanderbilt University – "Shorter Sentences, Safer Streets? Evidence from South Carolina's 2010 Prison Reform"

- One goal of this study is to use inpatient, and emergency department claims data to quantify how changes in sentence length could increase or reduce costs related to healthcare utilization.
- **Approved: Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher motioned to approve the application; Dr. Aunyika Moonan seconded. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**

B. Request 2: Kevin Bennett: University of South Carolina – "The Effect of the Labor Program's Closure on Laurens County"

- The purpose of this request is to evaluate the impact of removing the labor/delivery program in Laurens County.

- Mr. Chris Finney noted that Laurens County has roughly 650 deliveries per year, so small cell size is not a concern. He recommended that instead of patient ZIP code, RFA could provide either a ZIP-to-ZIP distance or driving distance calculation.
- Dr. Aunyika Moonan also expressed concern about the inclusion of the actual healthcare facility ID. RFA staff indicated that the requested facility characteristics could make the facility identifiable even with an encrypted ID. To provide an additional level of confidentiality, RFA recommended attaching the requested characteristics and encrypting the ID, while reminding the researcher of the confidentiality agreement prohibiting any attempt to re-identify facilities. The Laurens County facility would still be identified for purposes of assessing the closure's impact.
- **Approved: Mr. Alex Dillard motioned to approve the application with these modifications; Mr. Kevin Tinch seconded. With no objections, the application was approved with the specified modifications.**

C. Request 3: Orgul Ozturk: University of South Carolina – "Does Infant Health Affect Adult Crime? Evidence from South Carolina"
- This study investigates whether a person's health at birth has a causal effect on their criminal behavior and related outcomes in adulthood. The researcher has requested hospital records from the Uniform Billing (UB) system to measure health conditions at and around birth for the individuals born between 2000 and 2006, following their hospital records for five years.
- **Approved: Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher motioned to approve the application; Dr. Aunyika Moonan seconded. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**

D. Request 4: Lindsey Woodworth: University of South Carolina – "Aggregate Facility Level Hospital Surgical Volume Reports" *Amendment*
- This amended application relates to a request approved at the May 2026 DOC meeting. The original request was for aggregate data with the stipulation that RFA would release information only by facility and only for aggregate cells greater than 5. When the aggregate reports were pulled, RFA found that approximately 25% of values for emergency department visits resulting in inpatient hospitalization were masked, limiting the data provided.
- RFA recommends providing the unmasked aggregate values by encrypted facility ID and date to the researcher with the reminder that any publication

of results must include masking of small cell sizes to ensure facilities are not identifiable.

- **Approved: Dr. Aunyika Moonan motioned to approve the application; Mr. Brandt Smith seconded. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**

E. Request 5: Orgul Ozturk: University of South Carolina – "Downstream and Spillover Effects of Civil Legal Representation on Economic, Educational, Health, and Justice-System Outcomes in South Carolina"
   - This study examines how involvement in the civil legal system—specifically eviction, divorce, and debt collection cases—affects educational, health, and justice-system outcomes for vulnerable women and their children.
   - RFA has not yet been provided the SC Judicial Data and could not report on cohort size or data quality.
   - Mr. Alex Dillard expressed concerns regarding Judicial data elements, such as case number, Judicial ID and Court ID and whether these could lead to the identification of individuals. RFA recommended that any identifiers from other systems that could potentially lead to re-identification be encrypted as a condition of approval.
   - **Approved: Mr. Alex Dillard motioned to approve the application with this stipulation; Mr. Brandt Smith seconded. With no objections, the application was approved with this stipulation.**

F. Request 6: Tracy Waters: The Riley Institute, Furman University – "Hello Family – Family Connects Spartanburg Emergency Medical Care Rate Study"
   - The purpose of this research is to calculate the infant emergency medical care rate during the first six months of life for babies born at Spartanburg Regional Hospital System (SRHS) between 4/1/2022 and 09/30/2026 and who receive the Family Connects home visiting model through Family Connects Spartanburg (FCS).
   - As the Hospital Administrator for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher recused herself from voting on this application but expressed her support for the project and study.
   - **Approved: Dr. Aunyika Moonan motioned to approve the application; Mr. Kevin Tinch seconded. With no objections, the application was approved with no modifications.**

IV. General Discussion

A. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

V. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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

The minutes were approved on __November, 19, 2026_____

Sarah Crawford __Sarah Crawford_____