



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health's  
Behavioral Health Taskforce

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Alliance member leading this taskforce:



South Carolina Institute of  
Medicine & Public Health

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This series is dedicated to recognizing the South Carolina coalitions that are leading the way in the improvement of health outcomes for ALL people in South Carolina.

Coalitions highlighted in the "Coalitions' Work Series" are actively working to improve outcomes in the five priority areas of the Alliance: Improve the health of babies, improve the health of children, prevent chronic disease, improve access to high quality primary care, and improve access to behavioral health services.

*To share your coalition's work in support of Alliance Goals contact [agallego@scha.org](mailto:agallego@scha.org)*

# SOUTH CAROLINA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASKFORCE

## ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) created a taskforce of behavioral health providers, payers, advocates and researchers from across South Carolina to address a set of important areas to improve care and outcomes and better serve our residents with behavioral health illnesses. The 60+ member taskforce was guided by a 20-member Steering Committee.

## WHAT DOES THE INITIATIVE DO?

The Behavioral Health Taskforce envisioned a behavioral health system in South Carolina that is available, complete, cost-effective, united, built on science and evidence-based practice, focused on wellness and recovery, and centered on people living with behavioral health illnesses and their families. The taskforce mission was to create lasting improvements in our state's system of behavioral health services and supports by developing and recommending cost-effective, actionable solutions to existing challenges.

## RESULTS

The taskforce created a report of 20 recommendations, [Hope for Tomorrow: The Collective Approach for Transforming Behavioral Health Systems in South Carolina](#), which was released May 6, 2015.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

IMPH formed an Implementation Leadership Council to keep focus on these issues, track progress toward achieving the recommendations and to identify and remove barriers to success. They will present annual updates for five years.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Implementation of the recommendations will require the collective work and advocacy of all stakeholders.

The Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina Board has endorsed all of the Taskforce's recommendations and is encouraging members to act on as many as individual organizations can. In addition to this, in 2015-2016, the Board is encouraging all Alliance members and partners to place special focus for collective action on three recommendations:

- Create short-stay crisis stabilization facilities across the state for patients experiencing a behavioral health emergency.
- Support the expansion of access to outpatient behavioral health services around the state.
- Develop a network of Mobile Crisis Units.

For an example of how these services function, connect with the Charleston-Dorchester Community Mental Health Center.

## PARTNERS

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – SC Chapter  
Charleston/Dorchester Community Mental Health Center  
Companion Benefit Alternatives (CBA), Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Continuum of Care  
Francis Marion University  
Greenville Health System – Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine  
LRADAC  
Medical University of SC – Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health  
MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Mental Health America - SC  
Mental Health Partners, LLC  
National Alliance on Mental Illness - SC  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP  
Palmetto Health  
Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities  
Richland County Mental Health Court  
Richland School District Two  
SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services  
SC Army National Guard  
SC Department of Corrections  
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs  
SC Department of Education  
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control  
SC Department of Health and Human Services  
SC Department of Juvenile Justice  
SC Department of Mental Health  
SC Department of Probation, Pardon & Parole  
SC Hospital Association  
SC Legal Services  
SC Primary Health Care Association  
SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority  
Spartanburg Regional Health System  
United Way of the Midlands  
USC Department of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Science  
Veteran's Administration Medical Center  
WJB Dorn VA Medical Center

## CONNECT

For more information please visit [www.imph.org](http://www.imph.org) and please direct any questions to Maya Pack ([maya@imph.org](mailto:maya@imph.org)).

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