

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Thursday March 14, 2024
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
In-person as well as Virtual Meeting
DSS State Office / North Tower Building Room 310
1535 Confederate Avenue Columbia, SC 29201

Members Present: Althea Benson
Bonnye Hughes Peebles
Chasity Lesley
Melanie Keller
Jessica Sharp
Lisa Corning
Tami Nix
Tammy Compton
BJ Norris-Long

QUORUM reached with 9 members

Members Absent: Rachel Ellis, Felicia O’Neal, Justin Hopson, Brandy O’Neill, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Patricia Scarry, Lisa Flood (new member), Reginald Williams

Staff to Committee: Cynthia Lara, Sam Frederick, Melissa Outen, Donna McLees

Guests: April McDaniel, Child Care Licensing, Program Manager
Frankie Peterson, Child Care Licensing Program Manager
Kena Hall, ABC Quality
Monica Akers-Bellamy
Cathy Kovacs, ABC Quality Program Manager
Laura Davis, Child Care Licensing
Katie Keppler, Parent of young child
Melissa Burgess, Child Care Licensing
Rose Anne Bryant
Kenneth Smith, Fire Marshal Child Care Licensing
Lashonja Grampus, Child Care Licensing, Low Country
Michele Bowers, Early Care and Education Director
Princess Hodges, New Assistant General Counsel
Stacie Turcotte, Child Care Licensing Supervisor, Lowcountry
Tex Davis, Assistant General Counsel
Tylisha Hickson, Child Care Licensing

Tammy Compton, Chair, asked Lisa Corning, Vice Chair, to officiate today’s meeting in the event that she had to leave.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Lisa Corning called the roll and welcomed all committee members and guests. The roll was taken with 8 members present however Melanie Keller was in attendance later.

The next order of business

Ms. Corning continued by getting a motion to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes after changes were made prior to this meeting. The motion was made by Jessica Sharp, seconded by Tammy Compton, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

The next motion to approve the February 9, 2024 minutes was made by Althea Benson, seconded by Jessica Sharp, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Ms. Corning continued by calling for a motion to accept the agenda for today, March 14, 2024. Althea Benson made the motion, Tammy Compton seconded, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Ms. Corning welcomed one of our guests, Katie Keppler, a parent, who wanted to address the committee with concerns about providers' plans of action when children have any kind of allergic reactions and need immediate attention. Cynthia Lara, Director of Child Care Licensing replied that the 2900 form collects all needed information from the parent regarding the medical information of the child and all providers are required to use this information to handle such cases.

Then Laura Davis added that parents are required to give training for the emergency plan for the individual child in addition to the form 2900, per the current regulations. Laura Davis offered a sample form to consider. And Ms Keppler was asked by the committee to provide her sample form and any other information she could share.

The committee thanked Ms. Keppler and Ms. Lara told her that the committee would look further into this.

Old Business

In continuing the Group Child Care Home regulation proposals, the members began with:

114-515. Health Sanitation and Safety.

G. Staff Health.

(1)a Remove "staff person" and Insert "individuals as listed above".

(1)b Remove "operator and teacher/caregivers" and Insert "individuals as listed above".

Tammy Compton made a motion to accept the above changes in the edited version. Bonnye Peebles seconded, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

I. Transportation.

The committee is tabling this section until more clear wording can be voted upon and will be matched to the Center, Faith-Based and Group Home regulations.

114-516. Program.

B. Discipline and behavior management.

Tammy Compton recommended section B (1) through B (8) match the Center regulations.

114-517. Physical Site.

A. Indoor space and conditions.

2. Ventilation. (b) Insert after "location" the words "and out of reach of children" (This should also be put in Center regulations)

4. Lighting. (c) Should read: Adequate, safe lighting for individual activities, for corridors, and for bathrooms shall be provided. Nap time lighting shall be sufficient to see each child clearly.

5. Environmental Hazards. Match entire section to Center regulations.

6. Water supply. (b) After adding "if the water is unavailable for 4 hours, the facility must close."

(c) Should read: The hot water supply shall meet applicable requirements of DHEC. Hot water shall not exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit at hand washing sinks used by children.

(g) Add "Portable sinks are prohibited" and match to Center regulations. All of 6 and the changes made should match Centers.

7. Temperature. (a) Insert "If temperature cannot be maintained for more than 4 hours, the facility must close.

(b) After "activities" Insert "and care shall be taken to insure children are properly hydrated to prevent overheating.

8. Sanitation. (a,c-i) No changes

b) Committee is tabling this section until experts are consulted.

9. Doors. Add (b) from Center regulations that read: The Egress doors shall not have child safety locks on them to prevent escape in case of an emergency.

11. Electrical sources. (a) Add second sentence: In case of a power outage of 4 hours, the facility should close. (add to Center regulations).

(c) Match the wording from the Centers regulations.

12. Bathrooms.

(a) There shall be at least one flush toilet.

(b) Toilet training equipment shall be provided to children who are being toilet trained. Toilet training shall occur in an enclosed bathroom. All toilet training equipment shall be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

(c) Adult's and child's hands shall be washed after assisting each child with toilet training.

(d) There shall be at least one sink with hot and cold running water under pressure in or near each toilet area.

(e) Toilets and sinks shall be at heights accessible to the children using them or shall be equipped with safe and sturdy platforms or steps.

(f) Toilets, toilet seat adapters, sinks and restrooms shall be cleaned at least daily and shall be in good repair.

(g) Liquid or granular soap and disposable towels shall be provided at each sink. Toilet paper shall be available at each toilet at all times for staff and children. (add to Center regulations)

(h) Children shall not be left unattended in a bathtub or shower.

(i) Easily cleanable receptacles shall be provided for waste material.

(j) Bathrooms shall be accessible by staff in case of an emergency and caregivers must have a way to enter the bathroom if the door is locked.

At this time, the committee will vote on the changes made in 114-515 (G and I) through 114-516 (B).

The motion was made by Jessica, seconded by Tammy, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Upon return from break, the committee still has a quorum of eight with Tammy Compton, Lisa Corning, Jessica Sharp, BJ Norris-Long, Chasity Lesley, Tami Nix, Althea Benson and Bonnye Peebles.

The committee is continuing with **114-517 Physical Site.**

B. Outdoor Space

3. Add a second sentence that defines “natural barrier”. Natural object that effectively precludes or deters access.

ADD 4 from Center regulations. HVAC units shall not be accessible to children.

ADD 5. Outdoor recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable. Recalled products listed by the CPSC shall not be accessible to children.

ADD 6. Outdoor recreational equipment shall be of durable, non-rusting, non-poisonous materials, and shall be sturdy. Equipment shall be in good repair. (match Center regulations)

ADD 7. Stationary outdoor equipment shall be firmly anchored and shall not be placed on a concrete or asphalt surface. No trampoline shall be permitted at the facility.

ADD 8. Swings shall be located to minimize accidents and shall have soft and flexible seats.

ADD 9. Match to Centers regulations.

ADD 10. Slides shall have secure guards along both sides of the ladder and placed in a shaded area. Slides over 3 feet in height, shall have secure guards.

ADD 11. Outdoor metal equipment that is uncoated shall be located in shaded areas or otherwise protected from the sun. Staff shall check the temperature by touch prior to children playing on it.

ADD 12. Outdoor equipment shall be arranged so that children can be seen at all times.

ADD 13. A properly fitting bicycle helmet that is approved by the American National Standards Institute, Snell Memorial Foundation, or American Society for Testing and Materials, shall be worn by each child when riding a bicycle, skateboard, roller blades, or skates. Helmets are optional for use with tricycles.

C. Furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall meet the following requirements:

4. Change to Play pens are not allowed. Needs to match Center regulations.

6. Should read: Sand in a sand box shall be securely covered when not in use and, if indoors, constructed to provide for drainage.

New 7. Indoor recreational equipment and furnishings shall be cleaned.....(reword to match # 8 of the Center regulations.

D. Rest Equipment. (1 -6) Will copy the Center regulations, but will omit from #4 the word “lobby” once copied.

E. Environmental Hazards. Matching to Centers regulations: (1) through (3).

Change (4) to read: Firearms, weapons, and ammunition are to be kept in a locked drawer or cabinet at all times when children are present. The locked drawer or cabinet where firearms, weapons and/or ammunition are stored shall be kept in a room that is inaccessible to children.

5. Animals. Match all sections to Center regulations.

Lisa Corning then asked for a motion to accept all changes made in 114-517. Tammy Compton motioned, Jessica Sharp seconded, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

114-518. Meal Requirements and Preparation, Serving, Storage and Protection of Food Supplies.

A. Meal requirements. All of (1)-(7) Match Center regulations.

B. Food Preparation. (1) –(3) Match Center regulations. (4) Match Center regulations but change Kitchen staff to Staff and don’t include the sentence of “Fingernails shall be free of nail polish or artificial nails”.

(5) Match to Center regulations. (6) Change wording: There shall be no tobacco or vaping use in any form. (7)-(11) Match Center regulations.

- C. **Food service.** All of (1)-(12) should match Center regulations.
- D. **Storage.** All of (1)-(8) Copy Center regulations and then on further review, remove what doesn't apply.
- E. **Cleaning, storage, and handling of utensils and equipment.** All of (1)-(9) The committee decided to copy Center regulations for the entire section and remove what is necessary once we review the Group Childcare home regulations after a draft of the changes is presented by Legal.

114-519. Infant and Toddler Care, Care for Mildly Ill Children, and Night Care.

The committee decided to copy Center regulations for the entire section and remove what is necessary once we review the Group Childcare home regulations after a draft of the changes is presented by Legal.

Lisa Corning has now asked for a motion to approve all of the changes made to section 114-518 through 114-519 entire section. Motion made by Jessica Sharp, Chasity Lesley seconded, however, Tami Nix asked for assurance in the minutes that we include that we will have the opportunity once everything is copied over from the Center regulations to review before final approval. All in favor, none opposed, the motion carried. This completes the first run through Group homes.

Our next meeting is April 11, 2024 with the committee returning to the Center regulations to complete the review and approval of the updated draft that has been asked to send to the committee by April 5, 2024.

Other Meeting dates are:

May 23, 2024

June 16, 2024

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn, Tammy Compton made the motion, Jessica sharp seconded, all are in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.