

The State Advisory Committee on the  
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes  
Wednesday August 21, 2024  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
In-person as well as Virtual Meeting  
DSS State Office / North Tower Building Room 627  
1535 Confederate Avenue Columbia, SC 29201

**Members Present:**

**In person:**

Tammy Compton  
Jessica Sharp  
Lisa Corning  
Rachel Ellis  
Chasity Lesley

**Virtual:**

Althea Benson  
Tami Nix  
BJ Norris Long  
Felicia O'Neal  
Kristin Hanna joined at 11:01am

**QUORUM reached with 10 members**

**Members Absent:**

Bonnye Hughes Peebles, Brandy O'Neill, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Lisa Flood

**Staff to Committee:**

Cynthia Lara, Melissa Outen, Frankie Peterson, April McDaniel, Samuel Fredricks

**Guests:**

Princess Hodges, Assistant General Counsel  
Taron Brown Davis, General Counsel  
Laura Drew, Assistant General Counsel  
Tammy Penner, Family Child Care Quality Coach CCR&R  
Cathy Kovacs, ABC Quality Program Manager  
Kena Hall, ABC Quality  
Stacie Turcotte, Child Care Licensing Supervisor, Lowcountry  
Tylisha Hickson, Program Coordinator, Child Care Licensing  
Karen Morgan, Northway Academy Preschool  
Jenn Adams, Family Child Care Coach CCR&R  
Lashonja Grampus, Child Care Licensing Assistant Supervisor, Lowcountry  
Tiffany Paschal, DSS Public Information Coordinator  
Kenneth Smith, Child Care Licensing Chief Fire Marshal  
Monica Akers-Bellamy, Family Child Care Quality Coach  
Rebekah Burton, DSS Early Care and Education  
Peggy Wilson, Child Care Licensing Supervisor, Pee Dee  
Martha Strickland, First Steps 4k

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am. Tammy Compton called the roll, welcoming all committee members and guests. The roll was taken with 9 members present.

*Rachel Ellis made a motion to change the minutes from July 11, 2024, with a correction. D. Reporting of Incident change to “48 hours.” It was moved by Lisa Corning and seconded by Jessica Sharp. Tammy Compton, Chair, asked if there was a motion to accept the agenda. A motion was moved by Jessica Sharp and seconded by Chasity Lesley to accept the agenda for today.*

### **Old Business**

Tammy Compton asked Princess Hodges for an update regarding the Child Care Center’s regulations. Ms. Hodges provided an update. Taron Davis, Senior Counsel for Child Welfare introduced herself to the Committee. She then introduced Laura Drew, Assistant General Counsel. She explained her role and that she will be working to get the Child Care Center Regulations through the channels to have them introduced by December to the General Assembly.

The committee asked for another review of the Child Care Center regulation which will be held on September 5, 2024, 10am-1pm as a virtual meeting upon the discussion and request of the committee members of the Child Care Center Regulations.

Lisa Corning asked a question regarding the law changes regarding the 15-hour health and safety course plus 30 days supervision of the caregivers in Senate Bill 862. Jessica Sharp read the bill to the committee. Cynthia Lara agreed to provide an email from Tex Davis regarding his interpretation regarding the experience requirements.

### **The committee took at 10-minute break.**

Upon the return from the break, Tammy Compton began the discussion of the review of the Regulations for the Registration of Child Care Centers Operated by Churches and Religious Entities. Cynthia Lara discussed the Child Care Licensing Law surrounding what can be regulated. She pointed to the 63-13-20 (4) (j) and read this section to the committee.

(j) childcare centers and group childcare homes owned and operated by a local church congregation or an established religious denomination or a religious college or university which does not receive state or federal financial assistance for childcare services; however, these facilities must comply with the provisions of Article 9, and Sections 63–13–60 and 63–13–110 and that these facilities voluntarily may elect to become licensed according to the process as set forth in Article 3 and Sections 63–13–30, 63–13–40, 63–13–70, 63–13–80, 63–13–90, 63–13–100, 63–13–160, and 63–13–170.

A discussion about those faith-based facilities that are licensed versus those that are registered. Cynthia Lara asked how the committee would like to address this, and a discussion surrounding perhaps adding it to the purpose would take care of it so that parents have a better understanding of how this works.

The committee then began their review of the regulations starting with the definitions.

### **114-521 Definitions**

(10) Rachel recommended that the definition of “Complaint” matches the definition from the center regs.

(16) Change Definition of “Infrequently” Meaning two days or fewer weekly.

(24) Lisa Corning recommended that the definition of “Safe sleep” matches the center regs.

(28) Chasity Lesley recommended that the “Sleep Sack” definition matches center regs.

(39) Rachel Ellis recommended that the last sentence in the definition of “Training” be removed. (Remove: All training shall be documented through SC Endeavors.) But add it to group and centers.

-Add Definition of “Corporal punishment”:

*Corporal punishment: Physical discipline, including but not limited to spanking, hitting, slapping, twisting, dragging, yanking, squeezing, biting, pinching, or shaking a child.*

-Add Definition of “Volunteer Staff” - Volunteer Staff: An individual parent, grandparent, or other professional or skilled individual artist or crafts person at least 16 years of age assisting with the daily activities for children in a child care center more than two days a week who provides services without compensation and who is supervised by staff at all times. An individual meeting this definition is required to undergo a comprehensive background check. Children shall not be left unsupervised with volunteer staff for any reason. Volunteer staff are not counted in staff:child ratios.

*A motion by Chasity Lesley to approve all definitions to number “41” with the understanding to come back at the next meeting. Seconded by Rachel Ellis. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.*

## **114-522 Procedures**

### **D. Inspection and consultation**

-(4) Chasity recommended that the word “Stature” be corrected to “Statute.”

-(6) Should read “The facility shall not knowingly provide false information during the inspection process.”

-(7) Should read “The use of physical or verbal **threat** towards the Department’s licensing staff is prohibited.  
**ADD (including but not limited to; profanity, threatening language and/or non-verbal gestures, etc.)**

### **E. Surveillance Requirements**

-(2) Should read “Surveillance of any kind *in* the restrooms of the staff or children in the center is strictly prohibited.”  
Add the word “**In**” after the word kind.

*A motion by Chasity Lesley to approve sections 114-522 (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). Seconded by Althea Benson. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.*

The next meeting will be on September 5, 2024 (10:30am to 1:00pm), all virtual, to review the final draft of the Center Regulations.

The September 13, 2024 from 10:00 am -1:00 pm will be to continue with Regulations for the Registration of Child Care Centers Operated by Churches or Religious Entities in section 114-522 “F”.

Additional meetings for 2024:

- October 24, 2024 (10:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- November 20, 2024 (10:00 am to 1:00 pm)

*Tammy Compton asked for a motion to adjourn, Chasity Lesley made the motion and Tami Nix seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.*