

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Thursday, April 11, 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
Melanie Keller
Jessica Sharp
Lisa Corning
Tami Nix
Tammy Compton
BJ Norris-Long
Rachel Ellis
Felicia O’Neal
Reginald Williams

QUORUM reached with 10 members

Members Absent: Justin Hopson, Brandy O’Neill, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Patricia Scarry, Lisa Flood (new member), Chasity Lesley

Staff to Committee: Cynthia Lara, Sam Frederick, Melissa Outen, Rebekah Burton

Guests: Rayadu Akula, The Learning Experience
April McDaniel, Child Care Licensing, Program Manager
Monica Akers-Bellamy, CCR&R
Cathy Kovacs, ABC Quality Program Manager
Laura Davis, Child Care Licensing
Rose Anne Bryant, 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
Nicole Shea, SC Endeavors
Jenn Adams, Child Care Licensing
Karen Morgan, Northway Academy Preschool
Briana Davis-Gee
Debbie Earwood, SC Association of Christian Schools
Connelly Ragley, DSS Chief External Affairs Officer

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am. Tammy Compton called the roll and welcomed all committee members and guests. The roll was taken with 10 members present.

The next order of business

Ms. Compton continued by getting a motion to approve the March 14, 2024 minutes. The motion was made by Lisa Corning, seconded by Jessica Sharp, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

The next motion to approve the April 11, 2024 agenda was made by Jessica Sharp, seconded by Lisa Corning, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Ms. Compton welcomed one of our guests, Connelly A. Ragley, who started off by giving recognition to the Child Care Licensing Team for going above and beyond with the quick responses to the requests about data made by senators. Ms. Ragley then updated the committee on the Family Child Care Home and about the hearing where the House has completed their work on the Family Child Care Homes and the regulations received a favorable report on the House side. The Senate has not heard the regulations due to a different rule where it must sit for 2 weeks on the Senate floor before being heard. The last big procedural step (23 out of 24 steps) in this process is having the Senate hear the regulations.

Old Business

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

Cynthia Lara handed out Transporting Student, Transportation Policies from SCDMC website and another Transportation and driver regs printout. Tex Davis will need to update the law sections in our regs. Cynthia Lara discussed that group homes may not need CDL due to type of vehicle transporting children but USDOT medical certificate is required to carry 10 to 15 children, which is not common knowledge. Tammy Compton add that USDOT law needs to be in the regs to show to legislatures this is required and help facilities know where to look. Ms. Compton read Group Home Transportation section I and compared it to what is in center-based regs and recommended taking the wording from center-based regs and moving them to group.

114-507. Health Sanitation and Safety.

Child Care Center Regs:

I. Transportation.

(b.) Jessica Sharp added: Each child should be secured in an individual safety restraint appropriate for the child’s age, height, and weight at all times.

(h.) Bonnye Hughes Peebles asked to add vaping to the prohibited products allowed in a vehicle. Use of tobacco products is prohibited should read as well as The use of tobacco products, smoking and/or vaping is prohibited in the vehicle in the center regs and group.

Ms. Compton asked if anyone saw any other changes in center regs that needs to go to group child care homes.

Cynthia Lara suggested moving the information about the seats:

Group Child Care Home Regs

I. Transportation

(h.) The vehicle’s seats shall not have rips or tears and shall be in good repair. The vehicle shall be inspected by a licensed mechanic at least once per year and the documentation shall be in the vehicle.

This is requested to be put in both center regs and group child care regs for consistency.

Ms. Compton asked where to insert (h) from Group Home to Center-based providers. It needs to be inserted in Center regs as:

(g) There shall be a first aid kit and emergency information on each child in the vehicle.

(h.) The vehicle's seats shall not have rips or tears and shall be in good repair. The vehicle shall be inspected by a licensed mechanic at least once per year and the documentation shall be in the vehicle.

(i.) The use of tobacco products, smoking and/or vaping is prohibited in the vehicle.

Ms. Compton reminded Mr. Tex Davis that we were going to change the word centers to facilities. Ms. Compton asked to make a motion to approve the above section (i) Transportation will change from center based and inserted to Group Home regs. Reggie Williams made the motion to approve; seconded by Althea Benson, all in favor, none opposed, so moved and the motion carried.

Group Home Regs:

114-517. Physical Site.

A. Indoor space and conditions.

8. Sanitation.

(b.) Measures to control insects, rodents, and other vermin shall be taken to prevent harborage, breeding, and infestation of the premises. **(Formerly Proposed) INSERT: Children should not be in the direct vicinity during pest control treatment.**

Center Regs:

115-507. Physical Site.

A. Physical Site.

5. Indoor space and conditions.

(f.) Children shall not be present in the area during construction or remodeling and not in the immediate area during cleaning or in such a manner as to create a condition that might result in an accident or cause harm to the health and safety of the children.

DO NOT MAKE PROPOSED CHANGE; move from Child Care Regs to Group Home Regs under Environmental Section and not under Sanitation.

Motion to approve the changes from 114-517 but it was determined that approval was not necessary. The Committee then took a 5-minute break instead. A roll call was conducted and a Quorum was met.

Rachel Ellis stated a discrepancy in the minutes. Tammy Compton and Tex Davis answered her concerns.

Child Care Center Regulations re-review by the Committee began.

114-501. Definitions.

A. (4) Break in Service: When a staff member has not worked in a licensed approved or registered child care facility in SC within the last six months. Their staff file and records are no longer valid, and they must complete all new required staff file documents and background checks.

(11) Complaint: A written statement reporting unsatisfactory conditions in a child care facility.

(16) Full Evaluation: Follow up visit after forty-five (45) days of issue date of provisional visit with 13 or more children present. Staff and children files shall be reviewed.

A guest, Rayadu Akula from The Learning Experience, joined in person and introduced himself.

(18) Infrequently: Meaning two (2) days a week or fewer.

(22) Owner: The owner may be independent of the staff of the child care facility and not be required to be on the premises. If the owner is on the premises, he/she shall have state and federal fingerprint reviews completed in accordance with Section 63-13-10 et. Seq., Code of Laws of SC, as amended. However, the owner can be the director and/or staff, in which case he/she shall meet all other requirements of that position.

(26) Provisional Evaluation : Initial visit with Owner/Director to measure facility, review staff files and offer Technical Assistance.

(30) childcare needs to be child care; daycare needs to be changed to child care

(33) Safe Sleep: Practices, recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, to eliminate hazards and prevent infant injuries and/or fatalities due to Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

(36) Sleep sack: A wearable blanket with an infant's torso, legs, and feet housed within the sack. The garment shall allow the arms and hands to move freely and without any restrictions. Weighted sleep sacks shall be prohibited.

(45) Tracking: Documented account for the presence of each child as the child enters and exits the premises, enters and exits the premises, enters and exits a vehicle, or moves to a new location in or around the center. This documentation should include, but is not limited to, the date, child's name, and the child's location in and around the center. Each teacher/caregiver responsible for a child, or group of children, shall have tracking documentation with them at all times. Movement should be documented by completing a Name-To-Face check immediately upon arrival to a new location.

Ms. Compton asked for a motion to approve the changes. The motion was made by BJ Norris, seconded by Bonnye Hughes Peebles, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Mr. Tex Davis explained the next steps starting with DSS filing notices of drafting with the state registrar for Licensed Centers and Group Child Care Homes. He wants to file the proposed regulations by August. Finals drafts with the committee will need to take place before the July meeting for approval. According to the Administrative Procedures Act, when you file the proposed regulations requires a date for a public hearing before the Administrative Law Court in case any individuals requests said hearing. A hearing would be scheduled in October and the judge would hear the testimony and have everything finalized by the end of this year.

Other Meeting dates are:

May 23, 2024 10am - 1pm

June 13, 2024 10am - 1pm

June 26, 2024 10am - 1pm

July 11, 2024 10am - 1pm *tentative

Tammy Compton asked for a motion to adjourn, BJ Norris made the motion, Rachel Ellis seconded, all are in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.