

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Monday, March 23rd, 2026
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
In-person and Virtual Meeting
DSS State Office Rm. 631
1535 Confederate Ave. Columbia, SC 29201

Members Present:

In-Person:

Rachel Ellis

Virtual:

Tammy Compton

Lisa Corning

Jessica Sharp

Bonnye Hughes Peebles

Felicia O'Neal

BJ Norris Long

Chasity Lesley

QUORUM met with 8 members present virtually/person.

Members Absent:

Althea Benson, Tami Nix, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Brandy O'Neill, Reginald Williams

Staff to Committee:

Cynthia Lara, Melissa Outen, Karla Juarez

Guests:

Princess Hodges, Assistant General Counsel

Allyson Boone, Child Care Licensing

Frankie Peterson, Child Care Licensing Program Manager

April McDaniel, Child Care Licensing Program Manager

Tylisha Hickson, Child Care Licensing Program Coordinator

Kenneth Smith, Child Care Licensing Chief Fire Marshall

Cathy Kovas, ABC Quality

Monica Akers-Bellamy, Child Care Resource and Referral

Kayln Tyler, Child Care Licensing Specialist

Rebecca Woodward, Child Care Regional Assistant Supervisor

Cecelia Lee, Upstate Child Care Regional Manager

Laura Davis, Child Care Licensing Specialist

Lanielle Causey, Child Care Licensing Specialist

Melissa Starker, Program Manager, Early Care and Education

Lovetta Williams, Early Care and Education

Marilyn Diggs, Head Start, Early Care and Education

Karen Morgan, Executive Administration Northwood Academy

Tiffany Hallman, In His Hands Early Learning, LLC

Marla Herlong, In His Hands Early Learning, LLC

Debbie Earwood, C-Net SC. Associate of Christian School

Meeting called to order

Tammy Compton called the roll. The quorum was taken with 8 members present. Ms. Compton then welcomed all committee members and guests. The meeting was called to order at 10:11 am.

Tammy Compton asked if there was a recommendation to approve the minutes from the February 12th, 2026 meeting, none were voiced. Rachell Ellis voiced corrections needed.

Page 1, "The quorum was taken ~~met~~ with 8 members present"

Rachel Ellis name was misspelled on page 1 & 2

Page 3, 114-517 Physical Site. (Doors) "(b) The egress doors shall not have child safety locks...)"

It was moved with changes by Jessica Sharpe to approve, seconded by Rachel Ellis. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Tammy Compton asked if there was a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting, March 23rd, 2026. The motion was made by BJ Norris Long, seconded by Lisa Corning. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Old Business

No updates regarding the proposed center regulations.

We had visitors, Marla Herlong, In His Hands Early Learning, LLC attended the meeting to get clarification.

114-503 Page 19. (4) Caregivers/Teachers. "The certificate of completion or South Carolina High School employee employability credential. What does that look like? What? What is that exactly?"

Melissa Starker, Director of SC Endeavors, stated the employability credential is for students who have a disability, which helps with career readiness, for the student. The Certificate of Completion is for a smaller group of students who don't meet the education credential requirements to graduate.

114-516. Page 34. (9) Outdoor space. Swings shall be located to minimize accidents and shall have soft and flexible seats. Are bucket seats allowed? Kenneth Smith, Fire Chief stated, they are allowable.

114-519. (1) Stimulation and Nurturing. (a). Children shall not remain in restrictive play equipment for more than fifteen (15) minutes at a time. Does this mean bouncy play or seats with toys etc.? Jessica Sharp stated an item a child can not get themselves into is considered restrictive.

Are Velcro swaddles no longer allowed? Jessica Sharp stated Swaddling is not allowed in childcare.

Clarification on spacing between cribs? Children should not be able to get into each other's crib and should not get caught by any barrier between cribs.

Old Regulations are still in use. The new regulations have not yet been approved.

New Business

We continue with the revision in Group childcare homes.

114-514. Supervision.

C. Water Safety staffing

3. No further changes

114-515. Physical Site.

(b) The egress doors shall not have child safety locks on them to prevent escape in case of emergency.

114-518. Meal Requirements.

8.

(a) ~~DHEC~~ Department of Agriculture

(C) ~~DHEC~~ Department of Agriculture

114-519. Infant and toddler care.

1. Stimulation and Nurturing.

(a) Children shall not remain in restrictive play equipment for more than fifteen (15) minutes at a time.

5. Sleeping

(k) Stacked Cribs are not permitted.

Vote to approve revisions, made by Jessica Sharp, seconded by Lisa Corning all in favor, none opposed: so moved.

Motion to move the Group Home Regulations process to the legislatures, made by Bonnye Hughes Peebles, seconded by BJ Norris Long all in favor, none opposed: so moved.

10 min Break

Tammy Compton called the roll. 8 members present so the meeting continued.

A reading of the Child Care Licensing Law for Registered Faith-based Centers exceptions was read by committee member, Rachel Ellis. It was suggested that perhaps a crosswalk of the Law and faith-based regulations could help continue the conversation regarding the review and possible revisions for this category of care be completed and reviewed at the next Advisory Committee meeting on April 23, 2026. will be done during the next meeting.

The committee also requested to be kept informed of the GCCH process as it moves along the process.

Rachel Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by BJ Norris Long. All in favor, none opposed.

Meeting concluded at 11:35AM

The following meeting will be on April 23rd, 2026, at DSS State Office 10am – 1pm.

The following meeting will be on May 18th, 2026, at DSS State Office 10am – 1pm.