

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Thursday, May 23, 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
Chasity Lesley
Jessica Sharp
Lisa Corning
Tami Nix
Tammy Compton
BJ Norris-Long
Felicia O’Neal
Reginald Williams

QUORUM reached with 9 members

Members Absent: Rachel Ellis, Melanie Keller, Bonnye Hughes Peebles, Brandy O’Neill, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Lisa Flood, Kristin Hanna

Staff to Committee: Cynthia Lara, Sam Frederick, Melissa Outen, Rebekah Burton, Donna McLees, Frankie Peterson

Guests: Monica Akers-Bellamy, CCR&R
Tiffany Paschal, Communications
Christine Jenkins
Martha Strickland, First Steps
Cathy Kovacs, ABC Quality Program Manager
Lashonja Grampus, Child Care Licensing, Low Country
Michele Bowers, Early Care and Education Director
Princess Hodges, Assistant General Counsel
Stacie Turcotte, Child Care Licensing Supervisor, Lowcountry
Tex Davis, Assistant General Counsel
Tylisha Hickson, Child Care Licensing
Jenn Adams, Child Care Licensing
Karen Morgan, Northway Academy Preschool
Debbie Earwood, SC Association of Christian Schools

The meeting was called to order at 10:23 am. Tammy Compton called the roll, welcoming all committee members and guests. The roll was taken with 9 members present.

The next order of business

Ms. Compton continued by getting a motion to approve the April 11, 2024 minutes. The motion was made by Lisa Corning, seconded by Chasity Lesley, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

The next motion to approve the May 23, 2024 agenda was made by BJ Norris, seconded by Tammy Nix, all in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Ms. Compton asked Tex Davis, Assistant General Counsel, to give the committee the status of Family Child Care Home regulations submitted. Mr. Davis announced that as of May 8, 2024, the regulations are currently in effect. Many thanks to the committee and DSS for the hard work in making this happen, especially since the regulations have not been updated in many years. Ms. Compton also continued to thank Mr. Davis' team and all others involved in getting this major accomplishment completed. Cynthia Lara, Director of Child Care Licensing interjected a question regarding other legislative updates for the committee to know... Mr. Davis indicated that there were a couple of bills under consideration. Senate 862 is still in discussion between the Senate and the House that deals with workforce requirements, and he hopes to get more information for the committee by the meeting of June 13, 2024. There were amendments by the House and the Senate needing to be agreed upon for the bill to move forward or die in this term.

Mr. Davis reminded the committee that our next meetings are critical. June 13, June 26 and July 11, 2024. The planned time frame is to file any proposed regulations for Child Care Licensing Centers and /or Group Child Care Homes by August 9, 2024. The last date to have all proposals or changes given to the General Counsel would be June 26, 2024 so that a final draft can be compiled and shared with the group prior to the meeting of July 11, 2024 to vote for approval for one or both of the regulations above. There is a 30 day time period then a potential hearing before the administrative law court.

Old Business

Ms. Compton asked for any discussion on 114-501 Definitions discussed at the last meeting of April 11. Lisa Corning wanted better clarification of Student Volunteers in Child Care Centers. Ms. Compton and Ms. Lara explained there is no requirement by DSS to fingerprint volunteers and the centers need to recognize this.

New Business

Meeting of April 11 ended with 114-501 Definitions.

Meeting of May 23 beginning with 114-502 Procedures.

114-502 Procedures.

- A. Licensing/approvals- No Changes
- B. Provisions of license/approval- No Changes
- C. Inspection and consultation- (3) add after "center staff/children," **and** before "records"
- D. Surveillance Requirements-No Changes
- E. Reasons for license/approval denial, revocation, or non-renewal- No Changes
- F. Reporting of changes affecting license/approval- No Changes
- G. License/approval renewal- No Changes

114-503 Management, Administration, and Staffing.

- A. Display of license/approval- No Changes
- B. Capacity- No Changes
- C. Child Abuse- No Changes

D. Reporting of incidents. Change to:

(2)(b) A child who is missing from the premises or while under the care of the center or who is left unattended in the center or in a vehicle operated by the child care center.

E. Death of a child- No Changes

F. Parent access and communication. Change:

5. The center shall make available the child care regulations and statutes and shall provide the regional child care licensing **contact information**. "Remove" the word **numbers**.

G. Child records. Change:

6. (b) A current South Carolina Certificate of Immunization; and other health information;

(c) And/or health safety plan for the child, if applicable.

H. Staff records shall include the following- No changes.

I. Confidentiality and applicable laws and regulations- No changes

J. Communication- No changes

K. Staffing.

2. Background criminal history checks. Change:

(b) A person may be provisionally employed.....This regulation will mirror the statute of 63-13-40 (D3).

3. Center Director and/or Co-Director(s). Change:

(c)(i) Add an **apostrophe** in the word "month's"

Ms. Compton took a brief break to check to see if the meeting still has a quorum- Quorum met.

4. Caregivers/Teachers. Change:

(a)(ii) Change throughout entire regulation paragraph, after the word "licensed", **registered or approved.**

Note* Mr. Davis did indicate that the Bill 862 referred to earlier will impact this regulation.

Note* Ms Compton then made a "Blanket" comment to the committee that everywhere in these regulations, where applicable, the above changes need to be made. (a)(ii).

(b) Exception: Change "60 days" to **30 days**

5. Professional development. Change:

(a)(i) Specific job duties and responsibilities; **The committee is adding statute 63-7-310.**

(b) "add" after the word "OSHA"-**and mandated reporter training.** "remove" the **commas** after "Director 101" and after "equivalent" in last sentence.

(e) **No changes-However, Jessica Sharp made the committee aware of the program CRAWL (Child Care Ready for All) that is available free of charge to providers who need nursing assistance to support children with special medical needs. This information is on the website SCINCLUSION.ORG. Ms. Lara also**

noted that the website of SCCHILDCARE.ORG also lists the SCINCLUSION.ORG information at the top of the first page.

(h) Change: “remove” the word internet in the 4th sentence.

After completion of section 114-503 discussion, Ms. Compton called for a motion to accept all changes made in this section with Jessica Sharp making the motion to vote, the second was Chasity Lesley, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

114-504. Supervision.

A. Children shall be directly supervised at all times by qualified staff persons:

(4) Change: There shall be at least two qualified staff persons in the center at all times while children are present.

(5) Change the period at the end of sentence to a semi-colon.

(6) Remove the period after the word supervision

C. Nap time staff: child ratios. Much discussion but the group decided to leave as it is.

D. Water safety staffing.

See WATER SAFETY CHART STAFF: CHILD RATIOS- Change:

The group decided to change line 4 to read “Four and older” and remove line 5 altogether.

No further discussion in this section so Ms. Compton called for a motion to accept all changes made in this section with BJ Norris making the motion to vote, the second was Althea Benson, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

114-505. Health, Sanitation and Safety.

B. Sanitation.

(6) Change: All products used for sanitation shall be EPA registered, used in accordance with the manufacturer’s label, and be labeled in their original container. The only exception is bleach and water solution, which must be at the diaper changing station.

D. Medications or medical procedures.

(2) **Storage of medications:**

(b) Change: All medications shall be stored in a separate container inaccessible to children and under the proper conditions of sanitation, temperature, light, and moisture.

F. Diapering.

(3) Change: add a “s” to “Center”

(6) Change: “add” the letters EPA after the word “an” in the sentence. “add” a period after “water”

(13) Change: If used, disposable non-absorbent paper sheets shall be disposed of immediately after diapering is completed, then the diaper changing area shall be cleaned and sanitized after each child.

H. Fire Safety and emergency preparedness.

(3) Change: In the 3rd sentence after the word “hazard”, add and accounting for infants and toddlers and children with chronic medical conditions or disabilities.

I. Transportation.

(1)(b) Insert from the notes of April 11, 2024 Minutes-**Each child should be secured in an individual safety restraint appropriate for the child's age, height, and weight at all times.**

(1)(h) Insert from the notes of April 11, 2024 minutes-**The use of tobacco products, smoking, and/or vaping is prohibited in the vehicle.**

Ms. Compton has now indicated to the committee that the meeting of June 13, 2024 will start with 114-506. Program. Mr. Davis also indicated that a draft of all changes to this point will be pushed out a little before the June 13th meeting so on the 13th, we can finish Child Care Centers and maybe start on Group Child Care Homes regulations. As state before, he hopes that by the end of the June 26, 2024 meeting the group will have reviewed all and approved as much of the Group Home regulations so that a final draft can be approved during the July 11, 2024 meeting and submitted with August 9, 2024 being the deadline to submit to the administrative court.

A motion was made by Jessica Sharp to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lisa Corning, all I favor, none opposed, and motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm

Next meeting dates:

June 13, 2024

June 26, 2024

July 11, 2024

