

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Thursday, September 18, 2025
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
In-person as well as Virtual Meeting
DSS State Office Rm. 627
1535 Confederate Ave. Columbia, SC 29201

Members Present:

Person:

Lisa Corning – Chair in place
Jessica Sharp

Virtual:

Bonnye Hughes Peebles
Althea Benson
Rachel Ellis
Reginald Williams
BJ Norris Long

Phone:

(864) 704-0131 Felicia O’Neal

QUORUM reached with 8 members

Members Absent:

Tammy Compton, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Tami Nix, Brandy O’Neill,
Chasity Lesley

Staff to Committee:

Cynthia Lara, Frankie Peterson, Rebekah Louis, Melissa Outen, Karla Juarez

Guests:

Princess Hodges, Assistant General Counsel
Kena Hall, ABC Quality Program Manager
Michele Bowers, Division Director of Early Care and Education
Tylisha Hickson, Central Child Care Licensing Program Coordinator
Kenneth Smith, Child Care Licensing Chief Fire Marshal
Nicole Shea, SC Endeavors Program Manager
Hannah Holland
Connelly Anne Ragley, DSS Communication of External Affairs
Allyson Boone, DSS Child Care Licensing
Monica Akers-Bellamy, SC Child Care Resource and Referral
Melissa Allen, Asst. Child Care Director

Phone:

(843) 513-5020 Debbie Earwood

Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:24 am. Lisa Corning, Chair in place, called the roll. While waiting for the quorum to be met, the next meeting dates were confirmed. The quorum was taken met with 8 members present. Ms. Corning then welcomed all committee members and guests.

Lisa Corning asked if there was a recommendation to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2025, meeting. Rachel Ellis brought up a correction to add **body of water** in 114-514 C (1). It was moved by Jessica Sharp to approve as amended, seconded by Rachel Ellis. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Lisa Corning asked if there was a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting, September 18, 2025. A motion was made by Althea Benson and seconded by Jessica Sharp. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Old Business

Connelly Anne Ragley updated the committee on Child Care Center regulations. Ms. Ragley indicated that at the end of the close of last year's legislation session, there were 3 lawmakers, Representative Martin, Teeple, and Erickson, who asked for the proposed regulation for Centers to be halted so they could take time to go over them. DSS State Director Catone and the team from the Early Care and Education Division met with the Representatives to go over their concerns and their list of suggestions to be considered. Many concerns are tied to state and federal law. It is proposed to our committee that at the next meeting in October 2025, there will be a review of the presented items and concerns for consideration of the proposed regulations.

Ms. Ragley briefly discussed several upcoming meetings to be held related that the Joint Citizens & Legislative Committee on Children. There will be 5 public hearings this year. The meetings will be on September 30th, October 7th, October 8th, and October 15th. Additionally, the Joint Special Committee to Study Child Care will be meeting at the state house Capital on October 1st.

New Business

The Committee began their review of the regulations for Group Child Care Homes where they previously left off. 114-515. Health, Sanitation, and Safety.

D. Medications or medical procedures

(4) Medication errors

(b) The parent/guardian shall be immediately notified and notified in writing of a medication error or a suspected adverse reaction to a medication.

F. Diapering

(9) Staff shall check diapers and clothing at a frequency that ensures prompt changing of diapers and clothing. Written or electronic notice of daily diaper changing shall be given to their parent/guardian.

Vote on 114-515 A-F changes made by Jessica Sharp, seconded by Althea Beson. All in favor, none opposed; so moved.

G. Staff health

(1) The operator shall maintain the following records in the group child care home for herself/himself, staff, emergency person(s) and household members fifteen (15) years of age or older:

(a) Medical statements required by the Department and completed by the individuals listed above verifying that his/her health is satisfactory. Medical statements shall be updated as necessary; and

(b) individuals listed above

Vote on 114-515 G changes made by Bonnye Hughes Peebles, seconded by Rachel Ellis. All in favor, none opposed; so moved.

I. Transportation

- (1) (d) Placement of children in the vehicle shall be in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws
- (h) Use of tobacco products, smoking and/or vaping is prohibited in the vehicle when children are present;
- (j) The vehicle's seat shall not have rips or tears and shall be in good repair. The operator shall keep a record of vehicle maintenance.

Vote on 114-515 H-I changes made by Rachel Ellis, seconded by Jessica Sharp. All in favor, none opposed; so moved.

The committee took a 10-minute break. When the committee returned, Lisa Corning called roll, but we did not reach a quorum after break. A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Rachel Ellis, seconded by BJ Norris Long. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Next Meeting

Begin with Regulation 114-516 Program at the next scheduled meeting dated October 9, 2025.