

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2025
10:00 am to 11:00am
Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Tammy Compton
Lisa Corning
Rachel Ellis
Felicia O’Neal
Chasity Lesley
Tami Nix
BJ Norris Long
Jessica Sharp

QUORUM met with 8 members present virtually.

Members Absent: Bonnye Hughes Peebles, Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Brandy O’Neil, Reginald Williams, Althea Benson

Staff to Committee: Cynthia Lara, Karla Juarez, Frankie Peterson, April McDaniel

Guests: Princess Hodges, Assistant General Counsel
Cathy Kovacs, ABC Quality
Debbie Earwood, SC Christian Schools Association
Connelly Anne Ragley, Office of Communications and External Affairs
Akia Maxwell, Child Care Licensing Specialist
Tylisha Hickson, Child Care Licensing
Stacie Turcotte, Child Care Licensing
Kenneth Smith, Child Care Licensing
Melissa Starker, SC Endeavors
Belva Britt, Child Care Licensing
Kena Hall, ABC Quality
Cecelia Lee, Child Care Licensing
Allyson Boone, Child Care Licensing
Monica Akers-Bellamy, Child Care Resource and Referral
Shennaya Pons, Child Care Licensing
Karen Morgan, Northwood Academy
Nocole Shea, SC Endeavors
Hannah Sane, SC Endeavors

Meeting called to order

Tammy Compton called the roll. The quorum was taken met with 8 members present. Ms. Compton then welcomed all committee members and guests. The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am.

Tammy Compton asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, June 15th, 2026. The motion was made by Lisa Corning, seconded by Rachel Ellis. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Tammy Compton asked if there was a recommendation to approve the minutes from the March 23rd, 2026, meeting, none were voiced. It was moved by Lisa Corning to approve, seconded by Jessica Sharpe. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Old Business

Connelly Anne Ragley had an update on the proposed regulations.

An update of the past 18 months:

We as an agency asked to promulgate regulations that received a favorable vote by the committee. We filed and began the process in 2024 and had them pending by the general assembly in January 2025, they had passed the Senate, however, in the House some members that were involved in childcare asked the agency to pull back the regulations. Additionally, they sent a list of 9 bulletin points over the 2025 summer to the committee. The committee met and revised the regulation as suggested that were mainly made by James Teeple who is a childcare owner and a South Carolina state representative from the Charleston area. The Committee over two meetings revised these regulations but several conflicted with state and federal law. Unfortunately, regulations cannot interfere with these laws. The committee voted to make two changes that was suggested, the first was the health assessment for caregivers to change from being done every 5 years instead of every four to coincide with the updated background checks. Some wording was changed regarding SC Endeavors and their registry to keep all trainings together. These two changes were made and sent back to the House Regulations Committee, along with the meeting minutes, however, the House Committee and the Regulation Committee Chair choose not to rehear these regulations. Therefore, the regulations were essentially dead for the year. This means if the Center Regulations were to continue, they would need to be refiled, essentially beginning the promulgation process from the legislation side all over.

The agency will follow the committee's decisions. The agency cannot put forth any regulations to be considered by the general assembly without the affirmative vote of the committee.

Rachell Ellis asked for suggestions for next steps as a committee, what can be done next?

Connelly Anne Ragley stated we are currently in the promulgation season. This means the State register is very specific in the dates and times they accept Notices of Drafting. There is a very strict calendar. If the committee would like to move forward with promulgating additional regulations or new regulations for the general assembly to consider in 2027, they would need to file a notice of drafting on July 10th. The notice of drafting is essentially a signal that the agency is looking at updating regulations.

Lisa Corning asked, for the 2027 –2028 session, if no regulations are put forward for 2027, could they put forward mid-session?

Connelly Anne Ragley said it was possible, forwarding in 2027 or 2028 is fine, since there is no prohibition, it can be forwarded mid-session. She also mentioned the statute states the regulations must be reviewed every 3 years, it does not state it must be promulgated every 3 years. If there is a quorum this committee is continuing its work and meeting the statutory requirements.

New Business

Committee members discussed formerly reviewing all regulations thoroughly. A concern is the struggle to meet quorum, since this will intake commitment to complete.

Motion to reevaluate Group Child Care Homes, Faith-based, and License Child Center regulations along with the Crosswalk related to the Faith-based regulation, proposed regulations, and Statute to ensure we do not overstep our jurisdiction. Motion made Chasity Lesly, seconded by Lisa Corning.

Chasity Lesly - voted Yes
Lisa Corning – voted Yes
Jessica Sharpe –voted Yes
Rachel Ellis - voted Yes
BJ Norris Long – voted Yes
Tami Nix -voted Yes
Felicia O’Neal - voted Yes

All in favor, so moved.

Motion to pause Proposed Licensed Center regulations and not forward them at this time made by Tami Nix, seconded by Chasity Lesley.

Lisa Corning – voted Yes
Chasity Lesly - voted Yes
Jessica Sharpe –voted Yes
Tami Nix -voted Yes
Rachel Ellis - voted Yes
BJ Norris Long – voted Yes
Felicia O’Neal - voted Yes

All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Motion to pause Group Child Care Home regulations and not forward them at this time made by Lisa Corning seconded by Jessica Sharpe.

Lisa Corning – voted Yes
Chasity Lesly - voted Yes
Jessica Sharpe –voted Yes
Tami Nix -voted Yes
Rachel Ellis - voted Yes
BJ Norris Long – voted Yes
Felicia O’Neal - voted Yes

All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Committee discussed to set a consistent Advisory Committee meeting date and to send electronic invites to the meetings for those dates.

The next scheduled meetings are for August 13, 2026, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th at DSS State Office from 10am – 1pm. Tami Nix made a motion to conclude the meeting, which was seconded by Rachel Ellis. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting concluded at 11:05am.