

The State Advisory Committee on the
Regulation of Child Care Facilities Minutes
Thursday, October 9, 2025
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
In-person as well as Virtual Meeting
DSS State Office Rm. 307
1535 Confederate Ave. Columbia, SC 29201

Members Present:

Person:

Lisa Corning– Chair in person
Chasity Lesley

Virtual:

Tammy Compton
Jessica Sharp
Althea Benson
Tami Nix – left at 11:10 am
Reginald Williams – joined at 11:17 am
BJ Norris Long
Felicia O’Neal

QUORUM reached with 8 members

Members Absent:

Edward Brashier, Caroline Mullins, Brandy O’Neill, Rachel Ellis, Bonnye Hughes
Peebles

Staff to Committee:

Cynthia Lara, Rebekah Louis, Melissa Outen, Karla Juarez

Guests:

Princess Hodges, Assistant General Counsel
Laura Drew, 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
Connelly Anne Ragley, DSS Communication of External Affairs
Hannah Sane, SC Endeavors Department Head
Karen Morgan, Northway Academy Preschool
, Director April McDaniel, Child Care Licensing Program Manager
Cathy Kovacs, ABC Quality Program Manager

Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 am. Lisa Corning, Chair in place, called the roll. 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 September 18, 2025 meeting. It was moved by Chasity Lesley to approve, seconded by Jessica Sharp. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Lisa Corning asked if there was a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting, October 9, 2025. The motion was made by Chasity Lesley, seconded by Jessica Sharp. All in favor, none opposed; so, moved.

Old Business

Connelly Anne Ragley discussed the list of concerns of the Child Care Regulations that were presented by Rep. James Teeple from the House Regulations Committee. DSS State Director Catone, Connelly Anne Ragley, Michele Bowers, Cynthia Lara and Rep. James Teeple met together to discuss the concerns he has with the Proposed Amendments for this year to Document 5314 (currently the proposed amended regulations for DSS). The Advisory Committee went over every concern that was brought up during the group meeting.

The first 5 items have nothing to do with regulations, so we jumped down to the following concerns:

1. 114-500 General Provisions

- a. Break in Service: When a staff member has not worked in a licensed, approved, or registered childcare 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.

- **Move time of 6 months to one year** This is a federal law related to background checks...

No discussion was brought up due to this being a federal law

2. 114-501 Definitions

- a. (17) Infant: A child under 12 months of age – **Cut; unnecessary** Infants and toddlers must be in a Fire-rated room. Cannot be deleted.
- b. (47) Two-year olds: A child 24 months of age or older but younger than 3 years of age – **Cut; unnecessary** Infants and toddlers must be in a Fire-rated room. Cannot be deleted.

No discussion was brought up; cannot be deleted

3. 114-502 Procedures

- b. E (1) A license/approval may be denied, revoked or not renewed by the Department if the owner or director or staff member has been determined to have abused or neglected any child as defined in Section 63-7-20 S.C. Code of Laws, as amended.

The committee has decided to check with legal and OGC then discuss again at next meeting

4. 114-503 Management, Administration and Staffing

- a. A (1) The center shall display the current license/approval as well as any violations in a prominent public place in the center. The front and back of the license/approval shall be displayed if deficiencies are listed.
 - i. **MUST CLARIFY THAT VIOLATIONS ARE ONLY TO BE POSTED IF THE CENTER IS ON A PROVISIONAL AND IT PREVENTS THEM FROM OBTAINING A REGULAR LICENSE. NOT FOR CENTERS ON A REGULAR LICENSE.** They need to post their license to show the public that they are operating appropriately. **Leave as is.**
- b. D (b) Child or staff occurrences of communicable diseases that the SCDPH requires to be reported in its School Exclusion List
 - i. **Add where to find it: dph.sc.gov**
- c. D (2(f)) Charges or convictions of crimes against the owner, director, or any staff person
 - i. **Remove – at least for charges that do not pertain to caring for children** This is currently in law. § 63–13–40. Background checks for employment. (A)(1) A licensed, approved, or registered childcare facility, or any childcare provider that delivers services for which Child Care and Development Fund financial assistance is provided, may not employ a childcare caregiver or other staff member if that person is required to register or is registered with the National Crime Information Center National Sex Offender Registry, the state sex offender registry pursuant to Section 23–3–430, or the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect or has been convicted of: (a) a crime listed in Chapter 3, Title 16, Offenses Against the Person; (b) a crime listed in Chapter 15, Title 16, Offenses Against Morality and Decency; (c) the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, contained in Section 16–17–490; (d) unlawful conduct toward a child, as provided for in Section 63–5–70; (e) cruelty to children, as provided for in Section 63–5–80; (f) child endangerment, as provided for in Section 56–5–2947; (g)(i) the felonies classified in Section 16–1–10(A), except that this prohibition does not apply to Section 56–5–2930, the Class F felony of driving under the influence if the conviction occurred at least ten years prior to the application for employment and the following conditions are met: (A) the person has not been convicted in this State or any other state of an alcohol or drug violation during the previous ten-year period; (B) the person has not been convicted of and has no charges pending in this State or any other state for a violation of driving while his license is canceled, suspended, or revoked during the previous ten-year period; and (C) the person has completed successfully an alcohol or drug assessment and treatment program provided by the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services or an equivalent program designated by that agency; (ii) a person who has been convicted of a first-offense violation of Section 56–5–2930 must not drive a motor vehicle or provide transportation while in the official course of his duties as an employee of a childcare center, group 6 § 63–13–40 SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN’S CODE childcare home, family childcare home, or church or religious childcare center; (iii) if the person subsequently is convicted of, receives a sentence upon a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere, or forfeits bail posted for a violation of Section 56–5–2930 or for a violation of another law or ordinance of this State or any other state or of a municipality of this State or any other state that prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, drugs, or narcotics, the person’s employment must be terminated; (h) the offenses enumerated in Section 16–1–10(D) if the crime was a felony or if the victim was a minor; (i) a violent crime listed in Section 16–1–60 if the crime was a felony or if the victim was a minor; or (j) a criminal offense similar in nature to the crimes listed in this subsection committed in other jurisdictions or under federal law. **Leave as is.**

- d. G (7(c)) The name, address, telephone number of the child's physician, and the emergency care, medical and dental care provider.
- i. Dental care provider should be only if applicable or cut altogether. Majority of DSS licensed aged children are too young for dental services. This is an inaccurate statement. Leave as is.
- e. H (1) Names, positions and hours of duty of staff members;
- i. Hours of staff duty should be removed; this is usually a revolving time frame to accommodate call outs and ratios. Leave as is.
- f. K (a) The director and staff shall not have been determined to have committed an act of child abuse or neglect. is the same as (c) No child care center shall employ or retain an individual who has been determined to have committed an act of child abuse or neglect.
- i. Cut C see (d)(2)f above. It is a federal law. Leave as is.
- g. K (4(a)) A caregiver who begins employment in a licensed or approved childcare center in SC after June 30, 1994, must have a high school diploma, a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State Board of Education, Certificate of Completion, or a SC High School Employability Credential. Within 30 days of being employed, a caregiver must complete fifteen hours of health and safety service provider training. The caregiver shall be directly supervised for a period of at least 30 days by a staff person with at least one year experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved childcare facility and until such time as the caregiver has completed the required health and safety service provider training, provided the caregiver is also in compliance with Section 63-13-40 relating to required background checks.
- i. Cut: A caregiver who begins employment in a licensed or approved childcare center in SC after June 30, 1994, must have a high school diploma, a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State Board of Education, Certificate of Completion, or a SC High School Employability Credential. There are still individuals who are older and may be unable to get their diploma. This is a state law. Leave as is.
- h. K(4(b)) A caregiver who has a high school diploma, a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State Board of Education, Certificate of Completion, or a SC High School Employability Credential and at least six months experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved facility and is employed as of July 1, 1994, in a licensed or approved childcare center in SC is exempt from the requirement to complete fifteen hours of health and safety service provider training within the first thirty days of being employed.
- i. Cut: A caregiver who has a high school diploma, a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State Board of Education, Certificate of Completion, or a SC High School Employability Credential AND is employed as of July 1, 1994, in a licensed or approved childcare center in SC There are still individuals who are older and may be unable to get their diploma. This is a state law. Leave as is.
- i. K(5(d)) Caregivers who receive training in excess of fifteen hours per year may carry over eight hours to the following year in the category earned.
- i. Should be all hours in excess of 15 may carry over to the following year. This would remove the annual training requirement. Leave as is.
- j. K(5(g)) Records of training received shall be kept on the premises and include the name of the person trained, the person or persons conducting the training, date, number of hours, location, and the competency area of the training.
- i. Location is not needed Strike out and change it to:
- Record of training received shall be kept on the premises and include the name of the person trained and their professional development learning record available from SC Endeavors.

Vote from Committee on changes to the verbiage:

Lisa Corning - yes
Chasity Lesley - yes
Tammy Compton - yes
BJ Norris Long - yes
Althea Benson - yes
Tami Nix – no
Jessica Sharp - yes
Felicia O’Neal – yes
Seven in favor, one opposed, so moved.

Tami Nix needed to leave the meeting at 11:10 AM. There was no quorum after her departure.

Quorum met when Reginald Williams joined at 11:17 AM so the meeting continued at 11:18 AM.

5. 114-504 Supervision

- a. D(2) Portable wading pools should not be permitted
 - i. **Would like to have them available with up to 3 inches of water for 3 and 4 year olds if possible.**
Splash pads, yes, wading pools will allow for possible drownings.

At first, there was a discussion to skip and will come back to it. It was determined that “drownings” was not the appropriate place to compromise. After further discussion, **it was determined to Leave as is.**

6. 114-505 Health, Sanitation and Safety

- a. F(1) Each room in which children who wear diapers are cared for shall have its own diaper-changing area adjacent to the hand-washing sink.
 - i. **This has been shown to be different amongst DSS specialists in what adjacent means. Would like to change it to within 10 feet of handwashing sink.** That would promote diseases in the facility. They need to wash their hands, and the sink should be next to it or adjoining. We can change adjacent to next to or adjoining. **Leave as is.**

Break from 11:31 AM to 11:36 AM. Roll called and quorum was met. Meeting continued.

Vote from Committee on leaving the verbiage as is:

Lisa Corning - yes
Chasity Lesley - yes
Tammy Compton - yes
BJ Norris Long - yes
Althea Benson - yes
Reginald Williams - yes
Jessica Sharp - yes
Felicia O’Neal – yes
All in favor, none opposed, so moved.

- b. G(1(B)) (At the bottom of this part) A new health assessment shall be obtained by the director and staff at least every four years after the initial assessment;
 - i. Change to every 5 years to align with Fingerprinting renewal timeline. Eases the burden of renewals on longer term staff. These requirements were from DHEC back in the day. We would like to keep it as they are, even though DHEC/DPH no longer reviews this.

G(1(B)) (At the bottom of this part) A new health assessment shall be obtained by the director and staff at least every four five years after the initial assessment;

Vote from Committee on changes to the verbiage from four years to five years:

Lisa Corning - yes

Chasity Lesley - yes

Tammy Compton - yes

BJ Norris Long - yes

Althea Benson - yes

Jessica Sharp – yes

Reginald Williams - yes

Felicia O’Neal – yes

All in favor, none opposed, so moved.

7. 114-506 Program

- a. (2(9)) Napping expectations and time periods shall be developmentally appropriate and meet the needs of the individual child.
 - i. Cut “meet the needs of the individual child” How is this safe for children? Children have individual needs. Leave as is.

8. 114-507 Physical Site

- a. A(3) Safety glass shall be used on clear glass windows and doors that are within thirty-two inches above floor level and that are accessible to children. Decals shall be applied to all glass or sliding patio doors and placed at eye level of the children being cared for at the facility
 - i. Cut “Decals shall be applied to all glass or sliding patio doors and placed at eye level of the children being cared for at the facility” No, children run into the glass or sliding patio glass doors. This is a safety measure! Leave as is.
- b. A(4(B)) At least twenty-foot candles of light shall be required on all work surfaces in food preparation, equipment washing, utensil washing, hand-washing areas, and toilet rooms.
 - i. Cut These were all requirements of DHEC back in the day to ensure that staff was safe, and they could see what they were doing. Leave as is.
- c. A(11(c)) Electrical outlets shall be securely covered with childproof covers, safety plugs, or other safety barrier to prevent electric shock when not in use in all areas accessible to children
 - i. Add “unless otherwise directed by DSS Fire Marshal” since there is now a new type of outlet that doesn’t need them. Not everyone has this new type of electrical outlet. Leave as is.
- d. B (1) The facility should provide at least seventy-five (75) square feet of outdoor play space per child. Where outdoor space is insufficient at the center, the director and/or staff may take the children

outdoors in shifts or utilize parks or other outdoor play areas which meet safety requirements, and which are easily accessible.

- i. **Change 75 feet to 50 feet** This was a previous DHEC requirement, but this is in an effort to pack the children on the playground. **Leave as is.**
 - e. B(6) Outdoor recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable. Recalled products listed by the CPSC shall not be accessible to children.
 - i. **Cut all or cut** Outdoor recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable. **And replace with "equipment rated appropriately for weight and age."** No, this is a safety measure and should be allowed. **Leave as is.**
 - f. B(9) Swings shall be located to minimize accidents and shall have soft and flexible seats
 - i. **Cut** No, this has a requirement to ensure the safety of children. SEE the Safety HANDBOOK from the CPSC. **Leave as is.**
 - g. B(8) Stationary outdoor equipment shall be firmly anchored and shall not be placed on a concrete or asphalt surface. No trampolines shall be permitted at the facility.
 - i. **Change "firmly anchored" to "stable"** No, this has a requirement to ensure the safety of children. SEE the Safety HANDBOOK from the CPSC. This keeps children safe and lessens accidents with the equipment. **Leave as is.**
9. 114-509 Infant and Toddler Care, Care for Mildly Ill Children, and Night Care
- a. (5(f)) Infants shall not sleep anywhere other than a crib and this includes, but is not limited to, bouncy seats, swings, highchairs, sofas, or car seats.
 - i. **Add after a 5 min time frame of them falling asleep** **Leave as is.**
 - b. 6(d) Infant and/or toddler tables with molded bucket seats shall be prohibited.
 - i. **Taken out** This should have already been removed

Vote from Committee on leaving the verbiage as is:

Lisa Corning - yes

Chasity Lesley - yes

Tammy Compton - yes

BJ Norris Long - yes

Althea Benson - yes

Jessica Sharp – yes

Reginald Williams - yes

Felicia O’Neal – yes

All in favor, none opposed, so moved.

Next Meeting

We will need to go back and review the response from the OGC for #3 with the committee.

The next scheduled meeting will be November 6, 2025, and a back up date of November 10, 2025, if we do not have a quorum for the November 6th meeting, then December 15, 2025.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Chasity Lesley, seconded by BJ Norris Long. All in favor, none opposed. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.