



Meeting Minutes



Meeting Title:	Child Care Advisory Council Meeting	
Meeting Location:	Face to Face at 143 B LeFleur's Square, Jackson, MS 39211 and by Zoom	
Meeting Date:	May 15, 2026	
Time:	1:00P.M.	
Called to Order	1:05 P.M.	
Next Meeting Date/Time/Location:	August 21,2026 1:00P.M. in Face to Face at 143B LeFleur's Square, Jackson, MS 39211 and by Zoom	
Meeting Adjourned:	2:25 P.M.	
	<u>Council Members Present</u> Matthew Williams Regina Harvey Michele Rittenhouse Dr. Gene Puckett Jamila Taylor Tonya Jones Shertia Dobbins	<u>Council Members Absent</u> Vincent Burke Cynthia Lewis Dr. Rhemalyn Lewis Marneshia Cathy Jami Ferrell
	<u>MSDH Staff Present</u> Marlinda Beck-Lee Tera German Glenn Wood Christopher Derrick Laura Goodson	<u>MS Department of Human Services Staff</u> Chad Allgood
Attendees:		

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	Old Business	NOTES
1.	Welcome and Call to Order	Matthew Williams called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Christopher Derrick introduced himself to the council as legal counsel for the Mississippi State Department of Health, Child Care Licensure Program.
2.	Quorum	A quorum was established with seven council members present.
3.	Approval of February 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes were approved as presented.
4.	Regulations	Laura Goodson reported there were no regulatory updates. She stated that the Mississippi State Department of Health Child Care Licensure Program and the Mississippi Department of Human Services would collaborate through joint work sessions to review and revise the regulations.
5.	Emergency Preparation	The council discussed extending the May 31, 2026, deadline for emergency supply backpacks in each classroom. Templates and guidance regarding required emergency supplies had been distributed to childcare centers. So that licensing officials provide technical assistance rather than cite centers for noncompliance while implementation continues. Laura Goodson stated she would coordinate with Tera German regarding additional communication on the requirements. It was also discussed connecting childcare centers with local emergency management agencies for additional support.

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	New Business	NOTES
1.	By-Laws	Council members agreed to review the proposed bylaw revisions before the next meeting, when a vote on the amendments is expected.
2.	MSDH and MDHS Subcommittees for Regulations	Matthew Williams encouraged council members to volunteer for subcommittees that will assist in reviewing and revising Child Care Licensure regulations. Dr. Chad Allgood discussed beginning the subcommittee work in mid-to-late June and outlined plans to finalize committee membership.
3.	Public Comments	A council member suggested using artificial intelligence (AI) to assist with drafting regulatory language. The council discussed the potential benefits of AI while emphasizing that the final regulations should remain clear and easy to understand.
4.		
5.		

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New Business	NOTES

Matt Williams

Council Vice Chairperson

Lara Herman

MSDH Interim Director of Childcare Licensure

8/31/2026 | 2:11 PM CDT

Date

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