

AB 176 CHILD CARE CENTER WORK GROUP

Meeting Minutes – Friday, July 11, 2025



Work Group Leadership

Crystal Sujeski, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, CDA-DC, Chair
Lya Johnson, DSS – CCL, Licensing Program Manager III, Co-Chair

CAL FIRE – OSFM Support

Jena Garcia, OSFM-CDA Supv.

** Attendance is recorded. Attendance Log is available upon request.*

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:30 AM

A. Welcome/Introductions

Crystal Sujeski/Lya Johnson

i. Purpose of the Work Group:

1. Formed under Assembly Bill (AB) 176 to advise the Office of the State Fire Marshal on code change proposals and regulation development for the California Building Standards Code.
2. The meeting is focused exclusively on child care centers.
3. Family child care homes are not within the scope of this discussion.
4. Questions and concerns related to child care centers should be held until the roundtable/public comment period at the end of the meeting in order to keep the meeting moving efficiently.

ii. Agenda/Minutes Reviewed

Crystal Sujeski

1. Reviewed - How to access and subscribe for OSFM Work Group notifications and emails.
 - a. [Workgroups | OSFM](#)
 - b. [Subscribe to Newsletter | OSFM](#)

2. OLD BUSINESS –

Sujeski/Johnson

A. Side-by-side Code Comparison – Posted

- i. Copies provided to Sub-group leads

3. NEW BUSINESS

Crystal Sujeski

i. Sub-Work Groups – Organize / Update /Timeline

i. Definitions- [Cortney Nelson](#)

1. Meeting held July 8th, only Child Care reps. Group needs future participation from Fire Reps.
2. Code Comparison of definitions Title 22 vs 24
 - a. Child-Care
 - b. Child-Care Center and various other terms such as Day Care Center or Center
 - i. Family Child Care Homes vs Family Day Care Homes

- ii. Which is more exclusive. Child Care is what is being used. Day Care is a term that was used due to previous regulations. Thoughts are we care for the “child” not the “day”.
- c. Child- No issues. Is defined as under the age of 18 yrs of age.
- d. Infant –
 - i. mobility, unable to evacuate without assistance of another person.
 - ii. May impact the number and ages.
- e. Toddler-
 - i. 18-30 vs 36 months vs under the age of 2 yrs infant overlap.
 - ii. Max group size of 6.
- 3. Next meeting proposed for early August, before the next Work Group meeting.
- 4. Meeting notes reviewed (attached)
- ii. Occupancy Classifications – [Melanee Cottrill](#)
 - 1. First meeting held. Discussion focused on the following items
 - a. Identifying challenges with existing code language
 - i. Which version of the code should be used to evaluate.
 - 1. Crystal Sujeski – Shared where to access the digital code though CBSC and ICC of the 2025 Title 24 which should be used.
 - a. [Codes](#)
 - b. [February 26-28, 2025, Commission Meeting](#)
 - c. [CBSC timeline](#)
 - ii. Request Side by side code comparison
 - iii. Need to interface with the “Definitions” sub-group since the “occupancy classification” is largely dependent on the definitions.
 - iv. Gaby Manzo – Code documentation comparison (attached)
- iii. Chapter 4- [Special Detailed Requirements Based on Occupancy and Use](#) – [Patricia Rock](#)
 - 1. Meeting held
 - a. Group Discussion included Section 436 and 452 review and working on a side by side comparison for Group I-4 and E located above the first floor and recommendations.
- iv. Mitigating Factors - [Michael Duarte](#)
 - 1. Meeting held 7/10/2025
 - 2. Group discussed past experiences that mitigation factors could have been beneficial
 - a. The best practice is to contact building and safety and the fire department before you file your application with Community care licensing. There's a pre inspection form that you can complete before the fire department. This is free, but you don't have to have an application filed with community care licensing to request a service. Here is a link – [LIC 9092](#)

- b. Additional safety equipment or evacuation equipment or specific documentation
- c. Evacuation cribs and aprons
- d. Alternate means does not mitigate the need of fire sprinklers
- e. Waiver or greater flexibility for zero to 5 restrictions.

3. ROUNDTABLE / PUBLIC COMMENT

Crystal Sujeski

- A. Maribel – Clarification and awareness pertaining to [IB 24-012](#)
- B. Subhash Varma- How do we know when we need fire sprinklers.
 - i. Consult with the Licensing Analyst to support in communicating with the local fire department.
- C. Kevin Reinerston –
 - i. More participation from fire officials in is Work Group would be beneficial
 - ii. Encourage everybody to submit the pre-inspection form for a change or new business before submitting an 850 Fire Clearance.

4. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Crystal Sujeski

- A. Second Friday of each month starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 10 AM.
 - i. Next Meeting – Sept. 12, 2025, 8:30-10 AM
 - ii. Requested agenda items from participants to be reported to jena.garcia@fire.ca.gov

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 10:00 AM

Crystal Sujeski

If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:

<https://youtu.be/4Dsdcmi9S1c>