

**PINELLAS COUNTY LICENSE BOARD
FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS & FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING INCREASES/ADDITIONS TO MINIMUM STANDARDS
FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

August 27, 2025

Immediately Following the Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida

A. Introduction – The public hearing was called to order at 6:28 p.m. Faith Bornoff, M.Ed., Executive Director & Colleen Flynn, Esq., PCLB Attorney

Board members:

Name	Title	Status
Celeste Fernandez	Board Secretary	Present
Vince Nowicki	Pinellas County Commissioner	Present
Dorothy Duvé	Board Member	Present
Lynn Gibson	Board Member	Present
Jennifer Mekler	Board Member	Present
Dr. Susan Weber	Board Member	Present
Brandy Downing	Ex-Officio Member	Present
Kristen Gnage		Present

Attorney

Name	Status
Colleen Flynn, Esq.	Present

Advisory Committee Members:

Name	Status
Chris Steurnagel	Present
Elizabeth Krakowski	Present
Nancy McGreevy	Absent
Pamela Hinson	Present
Rob Lovelace	Absent
Shelia Haugabook	Present

Staff Members present:

Name	Title
Faith Bornoff	Executive Director
Tammy Sharpe	Centers Supervisor
Julie Oliver	Homes Supervisor
Aracelis Serrano	Administrative Assistant

Ms. Bornoff explained that the public hearing is being held for the public to comment on the increases to the regulations, including certain fees that the Board voted on at the last meeting. She explained that there will not be a vote tonight as this is just the public's opportunity to make any comments after they received the mailing with the proposed increases to the regulations.

Ms. Flynn explained the process for the Board to pass increases to the regulations. At the prior meeting the Board made a finding of necessity to increase certain regulations. PCLB then mailed a notice of the proposed increases and of this public hearing to all providers. This public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed increases and then the proposed increases will sit silently until the December Board Meeting at which time the increases will come before the Board for a vote. In order for the Board to pass increases to the regulations there must be an affirmative vote of 5 out of 7. The proposed increases if passed will go into effect January 15th of 2026.

The public had an option to email or send written comments to PCLB on the proposed changes to the regulations. PCLB did not receive any written comments. Each proposed regulation will be announced separately and anyone who wishes to comment on a proposed regulation may do so in accordance with the rules governing public comment.

B. Public Hearing for Proposed Increases/Additions to Minimum Standards for Children's Centers

I. Increase fee for Child Care Center Application Fee including changes to Application

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation. There was no public comment.

II. Increase Fee for Child Care Center License

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.
There was no public comment

III. Increase Fee for Preliminary Site Inspection (non-Mandatory)

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.
There was no public comment

IV. Increase Fee for Child Care Center filing petition for a variance or waiver

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.
There was no public comment

V. Add a new regulation requiring fee for Child Care Centers Exemption from licensure verification

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.
There was no public comment

VI. Add a new regulation requiring fee for reinspection(s) for Child Care Centers

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.
There was no public comment

VII. Add a new regulation providing an annual increase of 3% for fees for Child Care Centers

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.
There was no public comment

C. Public Hearing for Proposed Increases/Additions to Minimum Standards for Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes

I. Increase Fee for Family Child Care Home and Large Child Care Home Application including changes to Application

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.

Public Comment:

Brittney Patillo questioned the reason for the increase in fees to homes as homes are restricted to six kids and the cost of living is increasing. She questioned the whether PCLB staff has to come out to homes as often and why couldn't they do things electronically to avoid the increased costs to PCLB.

Commissioner Nowicki responded thanking her for her comments and advising that most of the fees haven't been raised in five or six years. He explained that he sits on several boards as a County Commissioner and pointed out that it costs more to operate a pet store than it does a child care center. He also explained that the fees for childcare homes in Pinellas County are still a lot lower compared to a lot of other counties in the state.

Ms. Gibson also thanked her for her comments and acknowledged the high cost of living and the increasing costs that home providers are currently facing. Faith Bornoff explained that staff does send electronically items back and forth with providers PCLB is required by DCF contract to perform a certain number of inspections of each home each year. Homes currently must have two inspections each year and staff is required to complete those inspections.

No other public comment.

II. Increase Fee for Family Child Care Home and Large Family Child Care Home filing petition for variance or waiver

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation. There was no public comment.

III. Increase Fee for Family Child Care Home and Large Family Child Care Home to add overnight care

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation. There was no public comment.

IV. Add a new regulation requiring fee for reinspection(s) for Family Child Care Home and Large Family Child Care Home

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation.

Public Comment:

Brittney Patillo requested clarification on the reinspection and whether this applied to an initial inspection.

Faith Bornoff explained that this regulation applies to a reinspection after a violation. The first reinspection is included and the fee for reinspection would occur after the first reinspection if the provider had not corrected the violation and staff had to go out and complete another reinspection.

No other public comment.

V. Add a new regulation providing an annual increase of 3% for fees for Family Child Care Home and Large Family Child Care Home

Ms. Fernandez called for any public comment on the proposed regulation. There was no public comment.

D. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.