

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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MINUTES
Residential Care Facility Advisory Committee
February 24, 2011
Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento/Monrovia, California

PRESENT:

Ernie Paez, Chair, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) (teleconference)
Joe Garcia, Tulare County Fire
Tricia Nishio, Department of Social Services (DSS-CCL)
Denise Johnson, CRCAC
Heather Harrison, California Assisted Living
Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department
Doug Pancake, Irwin Pancake Architects
Scott Miller, L.A. City Fire Department
Joe Rodrigues, Department of Aging (CDA)

PARTICIPANT:

Debbie Vanek San Ramon Fire Dept. (teleconference)
Ellen Makenna, Board and Care Owners Association
Paulette Moses, Board and Care Owners Association
Larry Williams, Ventura County Fire
Michele Krieg, Ventura County Fire

ABSENT:

Diane Arend, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)
John Avis, Department of Social Services (DSS-CCL)
Laurie Almany, Board and Care Association
Thomas Stahl, Department of Social Services (DSS)
Richard Friend, Friend's Home Care
Cristina Flores, San Francisco State University
Rocque Yballa, California Fire Chiefs Association
Vickie Sakamoto, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)

STAFF: Kevin Reinertson, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)
Steve Guarino, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ernie Paez, Chair, called the meeting to order at **1008** hours at State Fire Marshal Sacramento Headquarters and State Fire Marshal Monrovia Regional Office.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Each attendee gave a brief description of their background and the organization they represent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. **Ernie Paez** – Recommending that the Committee approve Walter Brandes, So Cal Fire Prevention Officers Association, Laurie Albany, Board and Care Association, San Fernando, Pat Stranahan, Mario Boward & Associates Consulting, and Steven Fairly, Melchiori Construction Company Inc, Private Builder, Shelton Dent, DSS and Scott Miller Fire Service Rep, as voting members of the SFM Residential Care Advisory Committee due to vacancies. Joe Garcia made a motion to approve, Steve Guarino second and all were in favor. Ernie Paez will update the roster. Ernie asked the committee if we should continue to have quarterly meetings. All members agreed to keep the meetings quarterly. Ernie talked about moving the ramps committee package forward through the SFM process and review. Joe Garcia talked about the power-point presentation and stated that the issue of distribution and updating still has not been concluded. The presentation and handouts is being updated to the 2010 CBC. Trish Nishio, DSS requested an updated version. Doug Pancake stated that he would like to continue with the Day-Care Ad-Hoc Committee and continue as the Chairperson. Joe Garcia, Larry Williams, Ventura County, Scott Miller L.A. City, Steve Guarino, SFM, Michelle Nachtmann, SFM will be continue to be involved. Ernie Paez mentioned that the Drug and Alcohol Programs Ad-Hoc committee will be on hold until the SFM can meet with Drug and Alcohol Programs administration in Sacramento.
2. **Kevin Reinertson** – Gave a code update and talked about the new interim code cycle (18 month cycle). He stated there were very few changes to residential care facilities. Some further cleanup is being conducted for the change that occurred with the I-1 occupancy to the R-2.1 occupancy. He stated that he is looking at returning the current 2hr. occupancy separation requirement back to the old 1 hr. occupancy separation requirement in Table 508. Kevin will send out the information to me to disseminate to the committee members for comments. Joe Garcia questioned why 425.8.4 corridor widths for R-3.1 was omitted from the 2010 code. Kevin was going to look into it however; he stated that you should refer to Chapter 10 for the 36" required width for R-3's.
3. **Heather Harrison** – Requested that the committee provide some clarity on the use of window stops for facilities that house patients with dementia. She stated that CAALA has some concerns with patient safety and the ability of the facilities to use window stops so that the patient will not open and possibly fall out the window or leave the facility through the window. Ernie showed the committees some pictures of window stops that are currently being used. Further discussion ensued about **CBC Section 1029 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings**. After extensive conversation it was agreed by the committee that a formal request will be submitted to the SFM Code Interpretation by the RCF Committee. Heather Harrison made a motion that Doug Pancake draft a letter to the code interpretation committee. Joe Garcia second that motion, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

4. **Joe Garcia** – Discussed the new California statute SB 840 which amended Health and Safety Code 13262 requiring carbon monoxide detectors be installed in existing single family dwellings on or before July 1, 2011 and for all other dwellings units on or before January 1, 2013. Tricia Nishio asked the committee when an inspector goes out on an 850 Fire Clearance request does the inspector check the smoke detectors and if so would that inspector now be obligated to

5. check the carbon monoxide detector and or make sure that the facility is equipped with a carbon monoxide detector prior to signing the 850. Most of the committee members think that the fire service will have to still sign the 850 whether the facility has a CO detector or not. Kevin stated that this should be vetted through legal and Housing and Community Development. Kevin also stated that each local jurisdiction should handle individually. It was suggested by the committee that SFM issue an information bulletin on this issue. Joe Garcia volunteered to formulate a letter on behalf of the RCF Committee requesting the SFM provide clarification on this issue. Scott Miller motioned that the Committee submit a letter to the SFM requesting clarification, Joe Garcia second that motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

V. **ROUND TABLE**

Joe Garcia - stated there is a new building official for Tulare County. He also updated the committee on the convictions and prosecutions of the owners of American Fire Protection. Joe stated that he would send out news release to all members.

Dave Dodds - briefed the committee on the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center and the new SB-962 homes.

Tricia Nishio – DSS will be looking at CPR requirements for staff in residential care facilities.

Christine Reed – briefed the Committee on the RCF handbook that Nor Cal is working on.

VI. **ACTION ITEMS**

- After RCF Presentation is updated with the 2010 Codes post on SFM web-site.
- SFM staff meet with Drug and Alcohol Administration in Sacramento.
 - Getting a better understanding of their functions and whether or not they are a licensing agency.
 - What statutes are applicable to their clients?
 - Whether or not they are a type of facility that falls under the residential care facility classification or something other.
 - Do they in fact require an 850 Fire Clearance for their facilities?
- Kevin will send rule making package to Ernie to disseminate to committee members for comment. (done)
- Doug Pancake will formulate the request for the RCF Committee and send it to Ernie to move it forward to the Code Interpretation Committee.
- Joe Garcia volunteered to formulate a letter on behalf of the RCF Committee requesting the SFM provide clarification on the carbon monoxide detector vs. 850 issue.

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VII. SET MEETING DATE(S)

Next meeting [May 26, 2011](#) 10:00am – 2:00pm at the South SFM Monrovia Office 602 E. Huntington Dr. Suite A, Monrovia Ca. 91016

Conference room will be available for Northern participants at the SFM Headquarters Office 1131 S. Street Sacramento Ca. 95811. [Conference Phone # \(877\) 213-9444 Participant Code 821139](#)

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1210 hours.

Meeting Minutes Developed by:
Ernie Paez, Chief
Fire & Life Safety Division
CAL FIRE/OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
602 E. Huntington Dr. Suite A
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