

# Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Web Ex Meeting

Thursday, December 01, 2022

## YCSAC Member Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Allison Abbondante	Camp Owner/Manager-For Profit	Present
Dolores A. Hooban	Public	Present
Andrea Haley	Local Health Department	Present
Cassandra Casey	Camp Owner/Manager	Present
LaPortia Barrows	Maryland Department of Health	Present
Meena Suri	Camp Owner/ACA Accred.	Absent
Melita R. Bell	Camp Owner/Manager - Nonprofit	Present
Matthew Lewis	National Camping Organization	Present
Anne Irwin	Camp Leader	Absent
Vacant	National Camping Organization	Vacant
Virgil Boysaw, Jr.	Local Health Department	Present

### MDH Staff Present

Linda Rudie

Tylvia Koromah

### Introductions

Allison called the meeting to order 10:02 am. Council members introduced themselves and stated their representation on the council. Meena and Anne were absent. Allison requested a motion to start the meeting. Matthew motioned approval and Cassandra second the motion.

Allison requested a motion to approve the agenda. Cassandra motioned to approve and Portia second the motion.

Allison requested approval for the October minutes. Cassandra requests typo/grammatical changes. Portia and Melita approved the content. Allison commented that the errors will be corrected. Linda commented that Tylvia made the corrections that were sent and asked that the council double check the minutes.

### Update on Council positions

Linda announced that she is retiring in February. This is her last council meeting. She introduced the CRCEHS staff. Tylvia is the host of the meetings and prepares the minutes. Brian Flynn and Michael McNelly are the 2 supervisors who will temporarily assist in a few council duties. Lindsey Linthicum and Nicole Along-Smart are the 2 regionals. A staff member will take on some of the agenda items.

Currently, the council has one opening for a representative from the National Camping organization. She has not heard of anyone interested in the position. There may be a bit of delay until after the new elected Governor is in position. Anyone interested should contact Linda. After the end of the year, contact someone in her office.

Tylvia will provide the attendance report at the end of the year. There may be 2 council members who will miss the 50 percent attendance.

Melita asked what is needed for someone from her office to transition to her council position. Linda commented that the individual will have to apply for the position, and she will have to send a letter of resignation.

Allison thanked Linda for her work in the council and wished her well.

### **Requesting Governor's citation for Neil Berlin**

Allison shared with the Public that Neil Berlin was a long time member and chairman of the council and the director at Camp Airy, who passed away in February. Greg Joseph, former chairman of council, and Linda were working on the governor's citation. Linda reported that the citation was issued and given to Scott Black (Camps Airy & Louise) to present to Neil's family. Greg thanked Linda for her work and effort in the YC council and wished her well. Scott thanked Linda and Greg for the citation. It was presented to the family and received with very happy tears. Allison thanked them for all their hard work. It was nice to honor someone who was so beloved.

### **Communications update & MDH Youth Camp Online look up**

Allison mentioned concerns from the public last year that some camps were bypassing certain regulations. It was suggested to contact Communications for options to inform the public about the camps that are registered with MDH. Linda had no updates at this time. She will work on scheduling a meeting with Communications for council members to attend. Allison asked if anyone was interested in attending the meeting. Cassandra volunteered. She mentioned that she is interested in perhaps a one pager that is consistent in a message to inform the public about the registered MD camps. Andrea volunteered to attend the meeting. Linda commented that someone from her staff will attend the meeting and follow-up after the end of the year. Allison offered to help Linda.

### **Annual Report Data + Letter**

Allison stated that the council submits an annual report letter every year to the Governor to request for funding. She will put that together for the February meeting. She asked Linda if anyone could provide the data. Linda responded that Lindsey will give the data. Lindsey presented the report. The report is broken down by for each county, number of applications and annual reports received. This does not account for camps that operated without submitting an application. We do have a letter to send out to camps that have not submitted their AR. 74% of the ARs have been received. There were over 2 million camper days this year.

Allison asked about the Covid outbreak numbers. Lindsey responded that illness has to be totaled. They are included in illness and not Covid. Allison requested a copy of the data to draft her letter. Lindsey will send the report.

### **FBI Fingerprinting Status Update**

Linda had no updates and asked the group if they received any notices. MDH is aware of the issue and has been trying to find solutions if CJIS stops sending FBI information to camps. Keep looking for any updates in February and be aware of any bills in the legislature. Let our office know if you get any information from CJIS.

CJIS is working to straighten out their records, to match childcare and summer programs. CJIS may request that you have two different authorization numbers. One under childcare licensing and one for licensed summer camp programs. The authorization number is connected to the licensing agency. No official movement from CJIS yet. There is a form on our webpage to get your new authorization numbers. Camps have to be proactive to get your information. Contact the CJIS office for questions. The help desk for CJIS 410-764-4501.

Allison commented that we will keep this topic on the agenda.

### **New Business**

Allison asked the council if there were any new businesses. The public had a problem in reporting the Covid outbreaks this past summer. They filled out the incident report, but that did not apply to Covid. Is there a more formalized way to report?. Allison responded that it was not necessary to report each covid case, but report if there were 2-3 persons per incident. This is categorized as an outbreak. Linda commented that the incident report is to be submitted in the YC portal. Fill out one incident report for the outbreak. Contact your local health department about the outbreak. Counties may vary in this report. Someone from her staff will provide the number of Covid outbreaks at the February meeting, as reported by the outbreak office. The outbreak office provides a report as to the number of official outbreaks.

Linda suggested that the council schedule a quick meeting in May to approve the April minutes, so that the minutes are approved and posted before the October meeting. Allison agreed that we can schedule a meeting in early May before the summer. Greg asked if this can be done electronically, instead of an open public meeting. Linda responded it has to be an open public meeting.

Allison will work on the draft annual report letter offline in the next few weeks and send it to council members and we will work on the blurb for the communication offline.

The council members thanked Linda for all of her help in the Council and wished her the very best.

**Adjournment**

Allison requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:03am. Motion was given by Virgil and second by Cassandra. Next meeting is February 2. Have a wonderful holiday season, whatever you are celebrating.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Tylvia E. Koromah, Secretary of CRCEHS  
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Approved on February 2, 2023

By: Council Members

And

Allison Abbondante, Co-Chair  
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Virgil Boysaw, Jr., Co-Chair  
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council