

Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Google Meet Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Minutes

YCSAC Member Attendance

| Name | Representation | Attendance |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Allison Abbondante | Camp Owner/Manager-For Profit | Present |
| Cassandra Casey | Camp Owner/Manager | Present |
| LaPortia Barrows | Maryland Department of Health | Absent |
| Meena Suri | Camp Owner/ACA Accred. | Absent |
| Anne Irwin | Public | Present |
| Virgil Boysaw, Jr. | Local Health Department | Absent |
| Vacant | Camp Leader | Vacant |
| Vacant | Local Health Department | Vacant |
| Vacant | Camp Owner/Manager - Nonprofit | Vacant |
| Vacant | National Camping Organization | Vacant |
| Vacant | National Camping Organization | Vacant |

MDH Staff Present

Brian Flynn

Tylvia Koromah

Introductions

Allison called the meeting to order 10:01 am. and requested a motion to start the meeting. Motion approved by Cassandra and Anne. Council members introduced themselves and stated their representation on the council. Allison Abbondante represents the camp owner/manager-for-profit. She has served for six years and this is her final year on the council. Cassandra Casey represents a non-profit camp manager. She is in her second term. Anne Irwin represents the public, no longer affiliated with the camp leader position. Amy M. Schisler represents the National Camping Organization, Girl Scouts. She is an official council member July 1.

Allison requested for a motion to approve the agenda. Cassandra and Anne approved the agenda.

Allison requested council's approval of March Minutes - Amy requested the correction of her last name. Tylvia noted the request and will make the correction. Minutes, with corrections, were approved by Cassandra and Amy. Minutes will be posted to the council webpage.

Update on Open Council Positions/Attendance

Tylvia reported that Amy's official date to begin on the council is July 1. Cassandra has been approved for reappointment. There has been a lot of movement regarding the council positions. She will keep Allison updated. But no further information is available at this time about the following positions:

- National Camp Organization - The individual shall be a camping leader with professional experience, but who is not a youth camp owner or manager.
- Public - The individual shall be a member of the public.
- Camp Owner/Manager - The individual shall be actively engaged in the ownership or management of a nonprofit youth camp.

Annual Report Data and Letter 2023 - Allison sent the information to the Governor's office this morning. The council approved the annual report in March.

Selection of Chair and Co-Chair for Council - Allison offered to Chair the council in her last year. Cassandra and Anne accepted her request to Chair 2024-2025. Cassandra was nominated at the last meeting for Co-Chair. Allison and Anne accepted the nomination for her to Co-Chair.

FBI Fingerprinting Status Update - Brian reported that he recently had a meeting with CJIS and there has been some movement. MDH has to be approved to receive background information for CJIS and FBI. The FBI has been slow in responding. This agency reviews all applications for states. There are some possible changes to the approval process for this year, but there is no anticipation of any issues for the current camp season. No additional updates. Brian hopes this takes place in the fall to give MDH the time that we need. We are still working on hiring additional staff for this background task. Our database has been updated to accommodate this change. Consideration has been given to safeguard information from the legal aspects.

Discussion of Medication Administration - Allison stated that at the last meeting we discussed the fiscal impact on camps with the medical training every year. It was discussed that perhaps there can be a regulatory change. Cassandra did a little bit of research for some camps in Massachusetts. Allison looked at the COMAR regulation, which she added to the chat. The specific language is that medical administration training must be completed on an annual basis in a training course approved by the department. The question is if there is a refresher course that could be approved by the department that would count.

Cassandra stated that there isn't a refresher course. It's the same six hour course that is taken through the office of child care. She has multiple members of her staff taking it every year. She has looked into writing a refresher course. Her understanding is that because she is not a registered nurse, she would not have their backing. She mentioned that the community college offers the office of child care. The college has trouble finding RNs because they're concerned that their license will be in jeopardy if somebody they teach makes medication errors. To

alleviate those concerns or streamline, Brian mentioned that he thought there was a refresher course that had been approved. The training that Cassandra found was online in New England. It was either Massachusetts or Connecticut and they didn't know if there was the availability to do something like that as an educational institution. She can help with making the information available to the community colleges.

Brian stated that he did not check on the refresher course but would do so at the close of this meeting and communicate with the council. He commented that we will have to reach out to the board of nursing. It is not up to MDH or our office. We would have to write new regulations. There can be no changes to this law without consulting the board. Allison commented it was a huge undertaking to get the medication administration. We will keep this topic for next year.

Michael McNeely stated (1) there was a difference between the eight hour course and a four and three hour course. He did not know if it was considered a refresher course. (2), Massachusetts and Connecticut are not compact nursing states. Anything from those States would not be recognized by the nursing board. As of April 9 2024, there is a new list. Keep in mind when you're looking for certain things it has to be acceptable to the nursing board. So try to find states to have similar things and are compact States. Some states that are not compact are Alaska, Hawaii, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, New York and Massachusetts, Connecticut, Nevada, California, and Oregon.

Allison thanked him for the information. We will keep that in mind as we're doing a little bit of research making sure we're looking for compact States, as we work to find the best recommendation for the state.

New Business

Allison reported that the helmet regulation HB0113 passed. It doesn't really apply too much to youth camp since we already have a riding helmet requirement for equestrians, but it was something that was brought up in our previous meeting. All minors have to wear helmets. This is good to know for anyone who has horses outside of your youth camp. This new requirement goes into effect October 1.

Also, regulation SB0452 passed. It doesn't impact youth camps. It is more for rope courses, zip lines, and trampoline parks. This is in regards to their negligence and liability waivers. It has not been signed off by the governor yet, but it's pretty close. For anyone who falls into the ropes course category, there's some language to be aware of. Just kind of keeping tabs on everything.

No more new business from the council or the public. Allison stated that the next meeting is May 2 to approve the April meeting minutes only so that the minutes are posted prior to the fall meeting. There is no agenda for this meeting. This is still a public meeting and the meeting link

will be available on the webpage. We still need quorum to have the meeting. Council members please put this on your calendar. Next big meeting is October 10th. Allison wishes everyone a good camp season.

Brian reported that the youth camp regulation virtual training is scheduled for Friday, April 12@ 9-4. A hot topic is scheduled for April 23 .

Adjournment

Allison requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35. Accepted by Cassandra and Anne.

Respectfully Submitted By,

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

Approved on May 2, 2024 By: Meena Suri and Cassandra Casey

And

Allison Abbondante, Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Cassandra Casey, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council