

Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 2020

YCSAC Member Attendance

Name	Representation	Attendance
Allison Abbondante	Camp Owner/Manager-For Profit	Present
Anita D. Anderson	Camp Owner/Manager-Non Profit	Present
Carla DeWitt	Public	Present
Gabriel Houghton	Local Health Department	Present
Janet Rose	Camp Leader	Present
Kelly Campbell	National Camping Organization	Present
Maggie S. Harris	Camp Owner/Manager	Present
Meena Suri	Camp Owner/Manager - ACA	Present
Monika Piccardi	Maryland Department of Health	Present
Rabbi Rami Schwartzer	National Camping Organization	Present
Virgil Boysaw, Jr.	Local Health Department	Present

MDH Staff Present

Linda Rudie
Tylvia Koromah

Introductions

Rami Schwartzer hosted the online zoom meeting and explained the platform of the meeting. The meeting is recorded for the purpose of crafting the minutes. Zoom maintains a record of the participants, which will be used to record Council member attendance. The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Approval of April 2019 Minutes

Minutes from the YCSAC meeting on February 6, 2020 were reviewed.
No corrections or suggested changes to the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from 02/06/2020 as written by Anita D. Anderson.

Motion seconded Virgil Boysaw, Jr.

Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Open Council Positions/Attendance

Linda Rudie reported that Maggie Harris will continue on the Council. The Governor's office has requested that some members may have to stay on the Council until the new Council members can be sworn in. Rami is happy to stay on as long as needed, since he can communicate from a distance using Zoom as a meeting platform. The replacement appointments were approved for Monika Piccardi and Anita Anderson. Monika will stay on until further notice. We do not need

any more applications at this time. Council members were reminded to submit ethics forms and financial documents.

Annual Report Letter

Carla DeWitt reported that the Council received comments from the clearance process. The only recommended edit was the addition of the citation following the word “obligation” in paragraph 1. The letter was circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. Carla asked for a motion to approve the Annual Report letter. *Motion was given by Kelly Campbell and seconded by Virgil Bosaw, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.*

Licensed Camp List for Database

Linda reported that the camp list is still in progress.

Potential Meeting Dates

After Council discussion the proposed 2020/2021 meeting dates as listed below were approved. Thursdays were approved to accommodate Linda’s schedule.

- Oct 1, 2020
- Dec 3, 2020 (snow date Dec 10)
- Feb 4, 2021 (snow date Feb 11)
- April 1, 2021

New Business

Linda reported that the Governor has ordered social distancing. Our office is discussing how to help youth camps during this difficult summer season. Help will depend on the timing of adjustments and the data on the number of COVID-19 cases. Camps should expect to make some adjustments to the gatherings of people. Opening of camps will depend on when the school year will end. It was noted that:

- Camps that go online do not require a youth camp certificate.
- The timing of the adjustments is based on the end of the school year and the data of confirmed cases. Decisions will be posted on Youth Camp webpage. It takes time for the approval of managers. Adjustments will be similar to the Office of Childcare where services are provided for parents who are essential workers — perhaps starting with smaller groups and then, if data continues to move in a positive direction, with larger groups.
- The State has not made decisions regarding fees paid, including how to adjust current fee amounts and due dates.
- Maggie Harris pointed out that there are some federal regulations regarding children under 13. Linda will put a link on the webpage to the Federal Trade Commission regarding this regulation.
- The office of Center for Healthy Homes and Community Services (CHHCS) will send Council member notices of website updates.
- Field trips need to be conducted according to what is current in the Governor’s order regarding gatherings of people. Special preparation will have to be made, considering that national and state parks do not have every restroom open.

- Posted on the youth camp website page is an Interim Guidance on Planning for COVID-19 discussing infectious disease.
- Medication Administration classes are in discussion. Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will look for classes that are offered online.*
- As far as training employees, camps should consider how things have been ramping down in the last six weeks. As parts of the emergency order are lifted, that should be an indication as to when camps may open.
- There are requirements in our youth camp regulations regarding acute infections. Camps should start with the same procedure as an acute illness. Information will be provided as to what is the next step is if self-quarantine at home is needed. MDH will work on putting the information together.
- In the Governor's order, public pools and aquatic centers are closed for public use. Pools for youth camps fall under the category of public pools.
- Online training for CPR is allowed for this summer certification.
- The decision to allow programs to open will be based on the Governor's orders of allowing gatherings and those orders are based on the COVID-19 number of cases.
- COVID-19 will be added as a reportable incident to the local health department.
- Most counties are not sending anybody out for non-essential business. Recreational programs are considered non-essential.
- The operation of sport camps is not yet determined. If the program cannot operate within the guidelines of social distancing, there is a good possibility that the program will not be allowed.
- Social distancing in camps is to keep children separated, which of course is counter-intuitive to a camp environment.
- Family camps are not required to be licensed; it is not under the scope of Youth Camp.

Rami asked the meeting participants about camp alternatives. He suggested break-out groups for this discussion after this meeting for attendees who are interested. Many participants were interested. Rami asked if perhaps the Council could decide to schedule meetings with camp operators, or anyone interested, to brainstorm ideas via Zoom. He will be happy to volunteer the Zoom account. Linda agreed to send out meeting notices to the camps.

Mental Health Plan

Rami reported that a draft recommendation was introduced and reviewed at the Council's last meeting. The purpose of the recommendation is to help raise the safety level around mental health in the camps around the state without putting an additional undue burden on camps. The subcommittee suggested to add a checkbox on the incident report to indicate a mental health incident.

At the last meeting MDH advised that we address how to suggest the regulation change. It was noted that the recommendation will not be addressed until next year's State Session.

* After the meeting, Linda shared that the Medication Administration training must be completed in person and online offerings will not be accepted as a certified training.

The suggestion is to add one sentence to the existing regulation COMAR 10.16.07.03.A, which mandates that camps have a written health program. MDH will advise on what that includes based on the two-page document discussed at previous meeting.

Virgil asked if the local health department is responsible for enforcing the mental health plans in their jurisdiction. Cecil County has a core service agency that deals with mental health. Linda stated that the Council is recommending a change in the youth camp regulation. The change will be put out for public comments and follow the approval process. When finally adopted, the enforcement comes from the State Health Department under the Youth Camp Program. The office in Cecil County may be a good resource that we can direct people to as they try to come up with plans and procedures about how to handle issues that come up. The Office of CHCS supports the change to the regulation and will start the promulgation process. Linda will review the details to determine if anything else needs to be added.

Carla asked that Janet give a thorough review for grammatical edits. Linda stated that the Council is to vote to request that the department promulgate this change. The department will make non-consequential changes to the language of the proposed regulation change and follow the process. The letter should be presented on letterhead.

Carla requested for a motion to send the letter with pending administrative and grammatical changes. Rami and Carla will sign the letter as co-chairs and forward it to Linda.

Motion given by Kelly Campbell and motion seconded by Monika Piccardi. Motion passed unanimously.

Rami acknowledged Allison, his subcommittee partner, who worked with him on the mental health recommendation.

Adjournment

Carla requested for motion to adjourn meeting at 11:20 a.m. *Motion given by Virgil Boysaw, Jr and motion seconded by Janet Rose. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

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

Approved on _____ By:

And

Carla DeWitt, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Rami Schwartzter, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council