

Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Virtual WebEx Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 2022

YCSAC Member Attendance

Name	Representation	Attendance
Allison Abbondante	Camp Owner/Manager-For Profit	Present
Dolores A. Hooban	Public	Absent
Andrea Haley	Local Health Department	Present
Anne Irwin	Camp Leader	Present
Meena Suri	Camp Owner/ACA Accred.	Present
Melita R. Bell	Camp Owner/Manager - Nonprofit	Present
Megan Straumanis	National Camping Organization	Present
Maggie S. Harris	Camp Owner/Manager	Present
Virgil Boysaw, Jr.	Local Health Director	Present
	Camp Director	Vacant
	MDH	Vacant

Maryland Department of Health Staff Present

Linda Rudie

Tylvia Koromah

Call to Order

Linda called meeting to order 10:05 am. Council attendance was recorded.

Review Agenda

Approved minutes are posted for the public on the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council webpage. Linda asked the council if there was anything to add to the agenda. Greg requested that the following be added:

- (1) Meredith Schlüssel from MDH is in another meeting but plans to join this meeting to discuss the rapid tests. Perhaps she will be given the time to talk in this meeting.
- (2) Proclamation to honor Neil Berlin for all his work given to camps and the council.

Linda is chairing because Neil passed away. She requested the council to approve the agenda updates. Allison accepted the updated agenda and Maggie second the updated agenda. All council members accepted.

Selection of New Council Chair

Linda reported that Neil Berlin, executive director of Camps Airy, passed away in February. He was a huge advocate for youth camps. He will be missed. Also, he was our council chair. Is anyone in the council interested in this position? Linda is not able to keep chairing because she is not a member of the council. Allison has co-chaired in the past and is willing to co-chair. Virgil

agrees to assist Allison to co-chair. Linda commented that all the persons on the council are very dedicated to the council. Maggie accepted the co-chair of council from Allison and Virgil. Andrea second the motion. The council members accepted. Greg thanked the council. Neil will be greatly missed.

Linda continued to facilitate this meeting.

Update on Open Council Positions

Linda reported that Allison is starting her second term. She has been confirmed. Kelly resigned at the end of last year. Megan Straumanis has filled her position of National Camping Organization. Megan stated that she has not been confirmed yet. Virgil started his second term. He received his confirmation. Maggie Harris, from Anne Arundel Community College, will resign in June. This is her last meeting. She will retire. Linda thanked her for service in the council and is working to fill the vacancy. A candidate has applied for Neil's position and is working through confirmation for the appointment. Anne Erwin has filled the vacant camp leader position. Anne commented that she is a teacher in Silver Spring, and she operated a camp for 19 years. She ended the role when covid started but continues to teach. The third vacant position is the MDH position, left vacant by Dr. Miller. MDH will look for a replacement.

Public: How does someone join the Council? Linda stated to contact her at linda.rudie@maryland.gov. Visit the MDH website for the YSCAC web page. Council member positions are defined in the Youth Camp Act for Maryland. There are specific roles for each member. The council is represented by MDH, camp leaders, local health department, camp directors and the public.

FBI Fingerprinting Status Update

Linda reported that CJIS sent out notices last fall regarding cutoff from receiving federal criminal history records. CJIS is working on correcting technical issues. Camp operators, who are not a government agency, are not authorized to receive the federal background information. Linda shared the March 29, 2022 letter from CJIS. Latest update is that non-criminal justice agencies, which are youth camp operators, were sent this notice from the CJIS office. They will begin the process that the non-governmental entity (operator of the summer camp) will only receive state criminal information for your employment and licensing to adhere to the current federal law, public law 92-544. They are undergoing the authorization number modification. Linda contacted the customer service manager, Ms. Harrison, at CJIS. The camps do not have to take any action regarding this modification. The Fall 2021 execution date has been postponed and has not been re-established. Right now, the camps will see no change in the criminal history process. Camps will still receive the State and the FBI criminal histories as camps use their authorization number. MDH and CJIS are still working to get in compliance with Federal regulation.

Linda answered a few questions from the public.

Linda stated that on April 26, there will be Camp Director Training. Details will be available on the youth camp webpage once all has been confirmed. There are 3 YouTube videos, and one is

about the background check. Please review those videos, prior to attending the training. The link was added in the chat.

Linda thanked everyone for their patience in this matter. As soon as we have instructions and procedures, we will share it with camp operators.

COVID rapid tests

Greg Joseph operates Sandy Hill Camp and served on the council for 2 years. He also chaired the council for a while. He is the coordinator of the MD Camp Coalition which was formed with the State during COVID. He has been in contact with Meredith Schlussel regarding free rapid tests. The State provided these tests last summer and will distribute free rapid tests this summer. She has created a form for camps to submit the request.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/474845df5ba846ef83a3e5ad9ab15>

All tests are rapid antigen tests. If you want the free tests from the State, click on the form link, provided. The over the counter expires in August. Binax is good through September. A 2-week lead time is requested. Please direct all questions to Meredith at MDH

meredith.schlussel@maryland.gov.

Proclamation for Neil Berlin

Greg stated that Neil was one of the key persons who initiated the conversation with what has become the camp coalition. He was the camp director for Camp Airy. Greg suggested that we recognize the tremendous contributions that Neil had given to the council and to ACA. Greg is not on the council but asked Linda if there is a way to recognize him for his significant contributions to camps, outside of the public. Linda responded that she would check into this and asked if the council will make a motion to pursue the proclamation for Neil. Allison agreed and offered to help. Perhaps this is something we can do off-line. Next meeting is not until October. Linda suggested that the council have a motion to the general idea and discuss the specifics later. Allison motioned to accept and Virgil second the motion. The council accepted this idea. Greg thanked all. He is greatly missed in the organization.

Linda demonstrated the camp search option.

Public: Are there any state regulations regarding COVID? Linda responded that there are no changes to current regulations. The department recommends following any CDC guidelines on operations regarding COVID. Keep checking CDC for any updates. Also, check with the American Camp Association, which provides a field guide. Allison provided a link to the ACA Field Guide:

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/field-guide-camps>

Public: Stated that on a town hall meeting call with CDC ACA last week, it was stated that they will not issue updates for camps for this year. Follow the K-12 school updates and check for updates in the next few weeks. Greg provided links to the recording of the town hall meeting and to the CDC website.

Handouts Link March 29 Town Hall <https://acacamps.box.com/s/qilkc80qzdkf8ebdra0qpi0xea6hjoge>

Recording Link March 29 Town Hall <https://vimeo.com/693708696>

Schools, Child Care, and Colleges | COVID-19 | CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html?msclkid=56c4dfdcaece11ec994a603904897955>

COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?msclkid=42d1893bab8011ec88a9421a0d6a2336>

Prioritizing Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for COVID-19 | CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/prioritization.html?msclkid=0761ce48ab8d11ec8ca75f4dc56b52ba>

Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

Public: How do camps register for the camp portal search? Linda responded that every camp that is licensed is on the portal. Search by camp name or county. If it is not listed, contact our office.

Linda requested that Tylvia update the webpage regarding the rapid test, ACA field guide and town hall meeting.

Linda introduced her staff: Tylvia, Brian, Michael, Nicole, and Lindsey.

Allison asked if the fall meeting will be virtual or in a location. The scheduled dates are October 6 and December 1. Linda asked the council for preference. Allison likes in-person meetings. Someone from the public suggested a hybrid option. Especially for those who travel a distance. Allison stated that she will explore if we have technology for a hybrid. Allison asked Maggie for the contact for AACC. Maggie will get back to Allison. Allison suggests getting location information before deciding on meeting logistics. She thanked Maggie for her work in the council.

Public: Is there a contact for workman compensation contact? Linda responded that she does not have a contact. Nichole offered to help.

Adjournment

Maggie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Motion second by Allison.

Respectfully Submitted By,

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

Approved on 10/06/2022 By: Virgil Bogsaw, Jr. and LaPortia Barrows

And

Linda Rudie (substitute chair)
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council