

Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2021

YCSAC Member Attendance

Name	Representation	Attendance
Allison Abbondante	Camp Owner/Manager-For Profit	Absent
Dolores A. Hooban	Public	Present
Andrea Haley	Local Health Department	Present
Vacant	Camp Leader	Vacant
Dr. Jed Miller	MDH	Present
Meena Suri	Camp Owner/ACA Accred.	Absent
Melita R. Bell	Camp Owner/Manager - Nonprofit	Absent
Kelly Campbell	National Camping Organization	Present
Maggie S. Harris	Camp Owner/Manager	Present
Neil S. Berlin	National Camping Organization	Present
Virgil Boysaw, Jr.	Local Health Department	Absent

MDH Staff Present

Linda Rudie
Tylvia Koromah

Introductions

Neil called meeting to order 10:05 am. Allison, Meena, Melita and Virgil were absent from meeting.

Neil will continue as chair. Kelly will not continue as co-chair. Kelly motioned that Neil continue as solo chair. Andrea seconded the motion.

Update on open council positions/attendance/ethic

Linda reported that Neil, Meena and Janet were reappointed July 1. However, Janet resigned from the position. There are a total of 10 council members. Andrea Hamlin is new to the council. She fills the council's local health department position.

Janet Rose resigned from the camp leader position. Council is in search of an individual to serve on the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council, to fill the camp leader vacancy. The individual shall be a camping leader with professional experience, but who is not a youth camp owner or manager. The individual will start as soon as selected through the Governor's appointment office. Position information is available on the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council website page (<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/CHS/Pages/YCSAC.aspx>). Contact Linda (linda.rudie@maryland.gov) if you know someone who is interested in the position.

The term for Council members Allison, Virgil and Kelly will expire in June 2022. The positions are Camp Owner, Local Health Department and National Camping Organization. Let Linda know if you interested in reapplying. It takes a while to go through the Governor's appointment office. We request that applications be submitted now. Visit the Governor's appointment page. Your time is greatly appreciated in helping MDH.

Linda did not have the attendance report. The financial statement is due in April.

Summer 2021 Review Topics

COVID Case/Outbreak Review from Summer 2021

Linda worked with two sets of data.

(1) Camps who had campers or staff tested positive at camp were required to fill out the incident report. Complete an incident report for each person who tested positive. In the youth camp portal data, there were 132 incidents of COVID, over 49 camps, 6 of those camps are residential. Camps should enter one incident per person identified being COVID-19 positive.

2) Outbreak division at the LHD has a different definition of outbreak. LHD defines outbreaks with two or more in the same group or had contact at the camp. If there were 2 positive cases and they were siblings it was not included as an outbreak. There were 28 official outbreak investigations, 4 were residential and were over various counties. There were 156 people total between campers and staff. There were a few cases with staff before campers arrived and a few cases on the bus. Camps closed either the class or the cohort. Three camps closed for a time period all together, which depended if they had multiple groups' exposure. Three different programs were unlicensed camps. Time period for the outbreaks 6/25-8/24.

Neil commented that we will approve the minutes off line to get this data posted on the website. This data will be available in the minutes. Linda will check to see how to post data on the website.

Annual Report Preliminary Data Review

Neil asked about the annual reports for 2021. Linda responded that Camps need to submit both annual reports and incident reports. There were 814 licensed camps and 568 annual reports have been received for 2021. Neil commented that there were 1200 licensed camps pre-pandemic 2019. MDH is following up on applications and enforcements.

Summer 2021 MDH Camp Visit Highlights

This summer MDH (with 20 summer inspectors) did more virtual visits to review documents. The inspectors reviewed and scheduled an onsite if possible. There were 828 active camps, 846 applications were received and processed; 46 of those the program did not operate and the applications were terminated. 48 have critical issues and have not been approved. MDH is

sending out notices – and if the violations are not resolved within a specified time, the 2021 application will be denied. If the 2021 application is denied and the camp applies to operate in 2022, all corrections must be made. The camp will have to reapply for 2021 in addition to the 2022 application. When the camp reapplies for 2022 there is an applicable fee. Summer staff have finished for this year. MDH Staff are working on applications.

Question from the public: If the camp has a single case of COVID but was not an outbreak, should it be reported on the incident report as an individual incident? Linda responded with yes.

Neil suggested clarifying an outbreak and an individual incident with the camps in an email. Linda responded that MDH wanted to have good information on how much camps were dealing with COVID. Notes can be added to the report regarding the incidents. All the information is helpful.

Question from the public: Any deaths reported this year? Linda reported that she was not aware of any deaths at camps.

Kelly asked do we know the numbers compared nationally to other health departments and camps. Linda responded that she does not have that information. It is a good question for the Outbreak Office. She will find out if there is any more tracking information. Neil will reach out to American Camp Association (ACA). The summer was difficult, but very successful. Linda added that she may ask the Outbreak Office identify childcare numbers, if available from June through August.

Neil asked based on the number of COVID incidents and outbreaks how many camper days are in the annual reports. Linda reported as of October 4 there are 1,486,754 camper days.

Jed Miller noted that outbreak criteria can vary across states, so getting data on number of children impacted might be helpful as well.

Moving Forward to Summer 2022

Mental Health Sub Committee Status Review/Reset for Summer 2022

Neil reported that Allison was not present. She will pull the subcommittee together before the December meeting to give a good update for 2022. Maggie asked if it is possible to check to see about the money from the Department of Education earmarked for mental health programs. Is it possible for camps to obtain any of those resources? Linda responded that she will check. Maggie will send the act which references this fund. The funds would be great for the camps for the next two summers.

Neil added that the discussion of mental health has been a discussion for a couple of years and we are hoping to reset for 2022. Linda added that she had some folks working on mental

health but ran out of resources to get things in place for this past summer. She is glad that Allison will move forward.

FBI Fingerprint Status Update

Neil reported that Camps received a letter from Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS). The letters were sent in September that camps will no longer get the FBI results because of an audit. There is a COMAR requirement for camps to get a FBI and State background. Linda responded that MDH was aware of some of the issues but did not know that the letter was going out. The letter went to childcare operators and MDH received the same letter. Results are given to government agencies. MDH may not receive FBI results. We are working with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the agency over CJIS. Going forward CJIS will not provide the federal background to most camps. MDH is working on solutions. We receive backgrounds checks for Personal Administrator. We do not receive backgrounds checks for other camp workers. The camps will not get the information and MDH does not have the resources to obtain the information. We are working to get authority and processes in place. This may include putting forth legislation.

Neil requested that the council write a letter to CJIS requesting not to change the process until an alternate is in place. Jed inquired if it has ever been the practice where the individual receives the results themselves and turn it over to the camp. Or is it prescribed that results go directly to the camp. Neil responded that individuals do get results – along with camps. However, it is not standard practice to have the individual provide the results as they are to go directly to camps at this point. Jed continued and asked whether it is required to have backgrounds from the individual home states, as well as MD. COMAR requires a FBI and a State background. If an individual is working in MD, a MD background check is required.

Linda commented that as we look into the background checks, consider if there are other updates needed to the act. Consider background requirements for volunteers. Linda asked if anyone had any thought or comment. MDH does not require background checks for volunteers. Linda added that for some it is financial concern.

Neil added that responses from the chat room agree that any one working with campers should have a background. Cost varies for \$35.00 to \$60.00.

Kelly asked where can folks who have not received this letter find a copy of the letter. The letter also mentions that a second letter will sent. Neil commented that the letter was sent to all who have an authorization number. Linda added that it was sent to the camp's CJIS/Authorization number contact email address. If there are any questions, contact CJIS.

Neil will start to write a letter to CJIS off line and pass it through the Council for approval.

Camp Health Supervision Discussion

Linda reported that she had two camp health supervisors available to suggest to camps. At this time, they are no longer available. Please contact her if anyone has any health supervisors

contacts that MDH can share with camps. MDH does not endorse or recommend. Kelly asked are camps required to have a health supervisor. Linda responded yes. The Health Supervisor must be available for consultation during camp hours. The HS must be licensed to practice in MD, a registered nurse, physician or certified practitioner. Kelly asked what happens if camps do not have health processes in place. Linda commented that it is a critical violation that will have to be corrected.

New Business

Kelly opened the floor for new business for now or future business.

Question from the public: What defines a camp. A parent spoke of concerns of the camp where her daughters attended. Their health procedures were questionable. Neil responded that COMAR gives definition of camps. Council can start to address. The parent will review and provide specifics of the troubling experience of the camp. Neil offered his contact information and Linda as well. We can add this discussion to the agenda. The parent appreciated this forum. Neil added that we are mandated by COMAR to have meetings. He is thankful for the working relationship with the camp folks and MDH.

Neil commented to for the public to use the youth camp search to locate camps. The link is available on the YC webpage. Linda added that any parent can search by county, activity and the status of the camp. Camps were reminded to complete information that is seen publicly. Login into your portal and add the information that you what the public to know.

Question from the public asked what can we use to show that we are licensed since we cannot have logo. Linda suggested to put a link to the search to verify your license.

Adjournment

Kelly motioned to adjourn meeting at 11:15 a.m. *Motion seconded by Maggie.* Neil thanked Kelly for her work with the council.

Respectfully Submitted By,

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

Approved on _____ By:

And

Neil S. Berlin, Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council