

Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, December 2, 2021

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
Vacant	Camp Leader	Vacant
Dr. Jed Miller	MDH	Present
Meena Suri	Camp Owner/ACA Accred.	Present
Melita R. Bell	Camp Owner/Manager - Nonprofit	Present
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	Present

MDH Staff Present

Linda Rudie
Tylvia Koromah

Introductions

Neil called meeting to order 10:05 am. Dolores was absent from the meeting.

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

Update on open council positons/attendance/ethic

Linda reported Kelly Campbell will resign for personal reasons and her position will open in January. The position is for the National Camping Organization, posted on the webpage. The position of camp leader is open. The individual shall be a camping leader with professional experience, but who is not a youth camp owner or manager. Position information is available on the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council website page. Contact Linda if someone is interested in the position.

The term for council members Allison and Virgil will expire in June 2022. Both have reapplied for their position. Applications have been received for the National Camping Organization and Camp Leader. Contact Linda regarding these positions or visit the MDH website for the YCSAC web page. She maintains a list for anyone interested in joining the council in the future. This council has been good in attendance and keeping things moving along.

FBI Fingerprinting Status Update

Neil reported that the council submitted a letter to the Maryland CJIS office. No response. Last year we did get a quick response regarding the COVID questions from MD Health Dept. Linda commented that the department has been working with the CJIS department. We did know about the issue but did not know about the letter that was sent to camps. At this time, there are no further updates. The department is meeting monthly. Neil added that there has been no response to the letter. He has sent 2 emails. We will continue to contact you. Has anyone requested prints lately? Someone from the public responded yes, but no FBI response. Linda commented that the department received our last response from the FBI on 11/18. Not sure if we have been cut off. Private camps and local camps operated by local departments may be in 2 different situations. She is working on a contingency plan for the summer. Neil added that this is critical to all.

Public question: Fingerprint checks are very expensive. The camp paid \$7,000.00. Do we still have to do them and not get the results? Linda responded yes; the fingerprint checks still have to be done. You will get the MD results. Worst case result is that you will not get the FBI results. Neil added that the Family Law Article mandates to take FBI and State fingerprints. Linda responded yes.

Mental Health Sub Committee Status Review/Reset for Summer 2022

Allison reported that the subcommittee held a meeting. The goal of the Mental Health Subcommittee is to help prepare camps to best support youths and their counselors. The subcommittee decided not to go with the regulation change. Instead, we will give camps as many resources, which include possible online support in training, and provide best camp practices. Best camp practices all available on the MD website YC webpage. The subcommittee put together a resource document that has 4 local organizations, their website, and their missions. All 4 have great training program links to various training and certificates. She requests that MDH post the websites to the YC webpage.

Allison asked Linda if a motion is needed to have a checkbox added to the online incident report. It is on the paper documents. Linda responded that she would check the regulations. It is not specified in the regulations. To add to the online form, she has to add to the statement of work for Information Technology (IT). Instructions are needed as to when to check the box. Allison referred to mirror section B of the paper document. Linda added that the camp has to fill out the incident report or the injury that sends someone to the hospital. Does the committee want to add a checkbox that the incident is a mental health issue. Allison responded yes. The idea is to gather mental health data.

Neil commented that it can be more than just mental health. Allison reported yes, you can select two. Neil suggested a separate question. Linda commented that on the form written if the incident is intentional. Instructions are needed. Virgil added that Youth Mental First Aid is geared toward the youth population and for those that work directly with the youth within the camps.

This is different from adult training. Allison commented that there are not a lot of sites that have these trainings. We will make sure the ages align with the camp population.

Linda responded that she did not go through the websites to vet the information. She sent this through the process for approval to Communication and Dr. Mitchell.

Dr. Miller commented on the current incident document that is posted on MDH. Section b: states to check one. We want more than one check. May want to change the PDF form to all that apply in the directions. Linda added that the paper form will need updating. But request camps to submit the incident form online.

The council members agreed to have 3 separate questions:

1. Injury, Illness or Medication Error – Select one
2. Epinephrine Yes or No
3. Mental Health Yes or No

Neil commented that someone from the public asked to define illness. Linda cited COMAR 10.06.01. Reportable diseases or conditions. Neil added that Epi is independent of illness. Linda added, this summer camps were asked if they had only one Covid to report it.

Neil thanked Allison and the subcommittee for working on this and the progress that is made. It's been a discussion for a while. Asked if Linda will give an update as to adding this online at our February meeting. Linda responded that an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Annual Report Letter Discussion

Neil will have a subcommittee to work on the annual report offline. The letter is from the council to request funding, report on annual report data, and the opportunity to make a request. Last year the focus was on COVID. Are there any additional topics? Maggie suggested to include something about the FBI and the challenges it can present. Dr. Jed commented that we should report how well the camps did with COVID. It should be highlighted that camps know how to pull off in this. Virgil asked how often is the letter written. Neil commented that the regulations require a letter once a year. If needed, we can submit additional letters during the year, such as the COVID letters that we submitted to MDH last year. Neil requested for volunteers to help with the letter. Virgil, Allison, and Maggie will work on the letter and send it to the council for approval.

New Business

Virgil is interested to find out how many venues are open for live meetings or working on a hybrid schedule. Linda commented that we are still virtual. Other departments are opening meeting rooms for the 2022 calendar. It depends on the office and locations. There are more people at offices. MDH is mostly teleworking. Neil asked if the MDH training will be available virtual next year. Linda thinks that the training will be virtual because they are more convenient. There are 3 trainings available.

Linda emailed camps reminders who have not submitted or completed their AR. 30 started but need to complete. The checkbox locks the report. Need information to finalize the AR. What date should we close for this data. It was agreed to close for data Mid-January. Neil requested that camps complete their reports. The information is very important to report for council 2021 data. Linda pulled reports of camps that had covid incidents. The report is being reviewed by Dr. Mitchell for approval to release. The council may use the information in the report or add a page to your report.

Adjournment

Virgil motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. *Motion seconded by Maggie.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

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

Approved on _____ By:

And

Neil S. Berlin, Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council