

Minutes of the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council
Anne Arundel County Community College
CALT 100
101 College Parkway
Arnold, MD 21012

February 6, 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	Absent

MDH Staff Present

Linda Rudie
Tylvia Koromah
Eamon Flynn

Introductions

Carla DeWitt called meeting to order at 10:00am. The meeting is recorded for the purpose of crafting the minutes.

Approval of April 2019 Minutes

Minutes from the YCSAC meeting on December 4, 2019 were reviewed.
No corrections or suggested changes to the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from 12/04/2019 as written by Gabriel Houghton.

Motion seconded Allison Abbondante.

Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Open Council Positions/Attendance

The following positions end June 30, 2020. Linda reported:

- A candidate is waiting for State approval to take Monika Piccardi's position, representing Maryland Department of Health.

- A candidate is needed for Carla DeWitt's position to represent the public. The public is someone who is not affiliated with camps. There is one person who contacted Linda. She will follow-up.
- Anita Anderson's position, representing Owner Manager, will be available. Candidate needed.

Board members are required to submit ethic forms and financial documents. Financial documents are due by April 30, 2020.

In Annapolis, the Senate passed approval for Allison, Virgil, Kelly and Maggie.

Annual Report Letter

Rabbi Rami Schwartzer reported that the content remains the same as discussed at the last Council meeting. It has since been reviewed for typos and grammatical corrections. The AR letter will be sent to Linda and she will forward it to the State clearance process. Monica Piccardi motioned and Anita Anderson seconded to submit the draft to the State for review. Vote was unanimous in favor of submitting the draft. Once the draft is cleared, the AR will be motioned on to be approved for submittal.

Mental Health Plan

Rabbi Rami Schwartzer 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 on an additional undue burden on camps.

Eamon Flynn from Maryland Department of Health, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration stated that feedback is always appreciated. He suggested that the Council clearly articulate their goals. The State review process for regulation changes can take at least a year. A draft is prepared for stakeholders for an informal comment period. Mental health counselors and mental health professionals may provide input. Once feedback is received, changes are made, and the draft is submitted for a 30-day formal comment period to the Maryland Register, Division of State Documents. After that period, all comments are reviewed. The requested regulations changes can be written in the Annual Letter or submitted separately.

The State Legislative session is January – April. Regulations are drafted April – October. If the recommendation is submitted in April, the State will work on it in the summer, and if all goes according to plan, the recommendations should be effective before the next Council session. The Council agreed to develop the letter virtually, present it at the April meeting for comments and then send to Linda Rudie to submit to the State.

The purpose of the recommendation is provide a level of preparedness. It is not necessary to require certain kinds of training, but there are things that can be available to all camps that will enable them to have a mental health plan of some kind.

Carla DeWitt stated that a list of mental health information websites was circulated among the Council members, and she asked if this information can be made available to the public online. Linda Rudie shared that she will locate an area on the CHHCS webpage to post the list.

Licensed Camp Database

Linda Rudie commented that the priority for the Department was to get the online application up and running. Email messages were sent to Community Users this week. The online application is now available. The next goal is to work with IT to create the licensed camp list. Scheduled to start working on list in May or June. Many offered suggestions to include in the list.

Meena Suri asked if paper Annual Reports are accepted. Linda Rudie commented that CHHCS requests that these documents be submitted electronically. If there is a problem with submission, the Department will enter the report.

New Business

- Linda Rudie reported that there is an ImmuNet site in the Department of Health. It is available for parents to view their children’s immunization records.
- Allison Abbondante reported that the American Red Cross discontinued small craft certification in August. Suggestions were made for other organizations that offer certification. The American Canoe Association was recommended as such an organization.

Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am.

Respectfully Submitted By,

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

Approved on April 2, 2020 By: Anita Anderson and Virgil Boysaw, Jr.

And

Carla DeWitt, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council

Rami Schwartzner, Co-Chair
Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council