

**New York State Department of Health
State Camp Safety Advisory Council Meeting**

**AGENDA
February 2, 2022
10:30 A.M.**

1. Roll Call/Quorum Determination
2. Welcome/Council Administrative Business
 - Approval of past Meeting Minutes
 - Council Membership Update
3. COVID-19 Discussion
4. Pesticide Use at Camps Legislation
5. Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (brief update)
6. Other Business
7. Public Comments
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjourn

State Camp Safety Advisory Council (SCSAC) February 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members

Present: Dawn Ewing; Eric Bacon; Randy DeFrank; Meir Frischman; Douglas Pierce; Jamie Sirkin; and Thomas Welch, MD

Non-Members

Present: Gary Ginsberg, New York State Department of Health (DOH)
Roger Sokol, DOH
Dan Lang, DOH
Christine Westerman, DOH
Bryon Backenson, DOH
Sheri Ford, DOH
Timothy Shay, DOH
Jason Riegert, DOH

Due to concerns with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Council Meeting was held virtually using the Cisco WebEx platform. In addition to the non-members listed above, 58 individuals were registered for the meeting including camp operators, directors, health department staff, and other interested parties. Ms. Ewing called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM. Mr. Shay provided administrative rules for the WebEx meeting.

Council Administrative Business

Ms. Ewing confirmed a quorum was present with all members in attendance.

The meeting minutes from October 20, 2021, were approved unanimously.

Mr. Shay noted that there are two positions vacant on the State Camp Safety Advisory Council (SCSAC) representing for profit camps and consumer representative. He stated there is a candidate "in-process" for the for-profit seat, and a potential candidate identified for the consumer representative seat. Ms. Ewing encouraged anyone interested in any of the positions on the Council, vacant or filled, to contact Tim Shay, so there is a pool of candidates ready for when needed. Mr. Shay agreed that having a list of interested people ready for available positions would be very helpful.

Mr. Shay also introduced the recently developed SCSAC website that includes a list of current members, information on upcoming meetings, and archived meeting minutes. This site was developed to provide greater transparency for the general public and is located at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/scsac.htm>.

COVID-19 Discussion

The COVID-19 discussion focused on three areas.

1. Bryon Backenson, Director of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control for the Department of Health, provided an overview on the Status of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York State (NYS). He discussed and walked the Council through resources and data available on the Department's website for testing and cases of COVID-19 regionally and statewide over the course of the pandemic.

2. Mr. Shay discussed efforts to further assess COVID-19 case data associated with children's camps (regulated and unregulated) during 2021.

Data analysis is proving to be more challenging than thought because of the large number of cases associated with camps and the data coming from three separate sources that collected information in varying ways. It is important to note that much of the focus for local health departments and camps in 2021 was to manage cases and identify contacts. There were also numerous people involved with contact tracing and follow-up beyond the traditional program level staff at local health departments. All these factors will most likely prevent the Department from definitively reporting out on the number of COVID-19 cases at regulated camps.

Mr. Shay also noted that the Department's Metropolitan Area Regional Office (MARO) epidemiology staff are continuing to work on a project attempting to clean and analyze COVID-19 cases at camps in their region. Program staff will work with MARO region and determine if their findings can be expanded to clean data statewide.

3. Mr. Shay discussed the Department's COVID-19 guidance plan for the upcoming season. He noted that the current status of COVID-19 is very dynamic. As a result, NYS does not have Children's Camp specific COVID-19 guidance for 2022 at this time. In 2021, camp specific guidance was archived on the New York Forward website. Camps could choose to follow the guidance or implement other procedures. CDC has also archived camp specific guidance including a Camp Readiness and Planning Tool. Reportedly, CDC is not intending to update guidance specific for the camp setting for 2022.

At this time, the Department's plan is to prepare best practice standards based on the pandemic status. Assuming the pandemic does not change for the worse, the best practice standards are intended to be advisory and not mandatory. Mr. Shay provided an overview of the general areas the guidance would likely address.

Ms. Sirkin asked that given some vaccine hesitancy for children if the Department could include talking points for camp directors to encourage vaccinations for campers.

The Council provided feedback to the Department on things that worked last year and/or areas that they felt more guidance was needed. The Council discussed and agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting in March to discuss the best practice standards developed by the Department.

Pesticide Use at Camps Legislation

Mr. Shay provided information on the pesticide legislation recently signed into law restricting the use of certain pesticides at children's camps. The legislation amended Public Health Law and restricted pesticide use on any playground, turf, or athletic or playing field at all camps except those operated on publicly owned or publicly leased property in New York City, which has its own restrictions for pesticide use in these areas. The legislation generally aligns with the current restrictions for schools and day cares that have been in effect since 2010 and applies to both regulated and non-regulated camps. Mr. Shay explained that the legislation allows for the application of specific types of pesticides and for the emergency application of pesticides with approval by the local county health department for camps regulated by them or the State Department of Health for camps overseen by a State District Office and those that are unregulated.

The legislation will become effective on 6/20/22. It was noted that the Department is aware of an agreement for an amendment to this legislation that is working its way through the legislature.

The amendment will largely remove a 24-hour time frame for the health department to approve emergency application requests.

The Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health has pesticide use restriction guidance for schools and day cares which is being updated to include camps. The updated guidance will be provided to camps through local health departments in advance of the 2022 season.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Mr. Shay provided a brief update on the status of vaccine preventable disease amendments that are being considered by the Department. It was hoped that language could be provided to the Council for discussion at this meeting, however the Department is not at that point yet. Mr. Shay noted that it is very close to being completed and he is hopeful to discuss further at the additional meeting being planned for in March.

No new regulations will be in place on the state level for vaccine preventable diseases this season.

Other Business

Ms. Ewing noted that Mr. DeFrank had previously brought forward administration of over-the-counter medications as a discussion topic. This will be added to the agenda for the Fall 2022 meeting.

Ms. Sirkin asked for clarification on the effective date of legislation allowing regulated children's camps to employ certain licensed professionals. She noted that it goes into effect in the middle of the summer and asked if there was any ability for camps to implement it sooner. Mr. Shay responded that since this was a legislative effort, the Department doesn't have the ability to alter the effective date.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments for this meeting.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2022. The fall meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2022. The Council adjourned at 12:17 PM.