

State Camp Safety Advisory Council (SCSAC) May 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members

Present: Dawn Ewing, Eric Bacon, Gordon Felt, Meir Frischman, and Robert Scheinfeld

Members

Absent: Douglas Pierce (participated by phone), and Thomas Welch, M.D.

Department of Health Staff

Present: Michael Cambridge, Roger Sokol, Brian Miner, Timothy Shay, Megan Mutolo, Kristen Navarette MD, and Nina Ahmead,

Ms. Ewing called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. at the New York State Museum Conference Room A/B, Albany, New York. Thomas Welch, M.D. was absent and Douglas Pierce participated by phone. A quorum was present.

Council Administrative Business

The meeting minutes from the October 18, 2018 were approved unanimously.

Mr. Shay noted that two vacancies remain on the council, representing for-profit and not-for-profit camps. He also noted that Ms. Ewing's and Mr. Bacon's terms are expired, they are currently in the process for reappointment and that council members with expired terms continue to serve on the Council in their current position until they are reappointed, replaced or resign. Mr. Shay announced that after 18 years Robert Scheinfeld is retiring from the council and this is his final meeting. Mr. Bacon expressed concern that with limited numbers achieving a quorum for meetings may be difficult.

As requested at the last Council meeting, the Department provided the Council members with a DOH organizational chart that Mr. Shay reviewed. It was also announced that James Maurer has been promoted to the Recreational Environmental Health Section Chief with oversight of the Children's Camp program. He replaced Eric Wiegert who took a new position with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Measles

Dr. Nina Ahmad Medical Director of the Division of Epidemiology gave a presentation on Measles. The presentation covered the history of measles in the United States, measles symptoms, transmission, complications, prevention, and status of the current outbreak.

Mr. Shay discussed children's camp specific guidance that has been distributed by the Department including a camp operator vaccine-preventable diseases letter and informational flyer for parents. The letter and flyer are being posted on the Department's website. The letter provided recommendations for:

- Two doses of MMR for all campers and camp staff;
- Screening all campers and staff for measles symptoms and possible recent exposures;

- Excluding campers with measles symptoms, or with recent exposures that are unvaccinated or one MMR;
- Monitoring individuals with two MMR and recent exposure;
- Maintaining lists of individuals not fully immunized including those with valid exemptions;
- Isolating individuals that develop measles symptoms;
- Reporting individuals with measles symptoms or known measles exposures to the local health department; and
- Advising camps that they may choose to recommend or require immunizations for campers and staff.

Mr. Shay also discussed what a children’s camp could expect from health department staff in response to a measles exposure at a camp including:

- Review of immunization records to identify at risk individuals,
- Identify potential exposures;
- Evaluate isolation and exclusion needs.

Additional guidance will be coming soon from DOH, including a Measles Reference Guide for Camp Operators/Heath Directors (one-page summary) and a Recognizing Measles poster for infirmaries that includes signs and symptoms of measles, steps to take, and LHD contact phone numbers. Also discussed was the redistribution of guidance for children’s camps to access immunization records maintained in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and the New York Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). These registries are confidential, web-based systems that contain consolidated vaccination information from NYS healthcare providers.

The Department answered questions from Council and audience members regarding measles and the Department’s guidance. Mr. Shay asked the Council for any recommendations on additional actions the Department could take to support camps in efforts for preventing measles. The Council felt that the guidance material that the Department had developed and is planning on releasing was good. They recommended that the Department share information with camp operators about ongoing measles outbreaks throughout the season.

Children’s Camps Incident Statistics

Mr. Shay reported that the Children’s Camps Incident Summary Reports for years 2016 and 2017 have been finalized and are posted on the Department’s website. The Department is working on finalizing the incident data for 2018. Mr. Shay noted that there were no fatalities or nonfatal drownings reported for the 2018 children’s camp season. When finalized, the 2018 incident summary report will be shared with the Council.

Pesticide use at Children’s Camps

At the request of Mr. Scheinfeld, Mr. Shay opened a discussion on the use of pesticides at children’s camps. Mr. Shay reviewed past Council meeting discussions on the subject and the Council’s recommendation for laws restricting pesticide use at schools to be extended to children’s camps. The Department’s previous guidance for camp operators was also reviewed. The guidance encouraged voluntary participation in developing green cleaning and pesticide use policies and procedures similar to schools. It also recommended an integrated pest management approach and directed that if pesticides are used, they must be applied by a NYS licensed commercial applicator as required by Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Council discussed pesticide use and felt that the same restrictions that apply to outdoor lawns and fields at schools, should also apply to children's camps. Mr. Scheinfeld asked if the Department would support or move forward with a requirement for children's camps to follow the same requirements as schools for restricting pesticide use on field areas. The Department commented that it was aware of proposed legislation that will address this issue if enacted. If the Department is asked for comments on pesticide legislation, it will share the Council recommendations.

2019 Updates

Mr. Shay reported that following the last Council meeting, the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Public Playgrounds Safety Handbook was posted on the Department's website. The handbook provides standards for playground construction and maintenance to prevent injuries.

Mr. Shay commented that the Department is continuing to explore options to allow specially trained staff at children's camps to administer medications, similar to what is allowed at Daycare programs that are regulated by Office of Children and Family Services. The Department will update the Council as more information becomes available.

Other Business

Mr. Scheinfeld noted that the children's camp incident summary reports include statistics on allegations of physical and sexual abuse. He questioned if more could be done to prevent abuse at camps including additional background checks of staff. The Council discussed current requirements for camp staff including yearly screening through the NYS Sex Offender Registry. The additional requirement for camp directors to submit a certified statement relative to convictions of a crime or the existence of a pending criminal action was discussed. It was also suggested making sexual harassment training mandatory for all camp employees. The Council suggested considering this topic for a future Council meeting to discuss more.

Mr. Shay spoke to Mr. Scheinfeld's accomplishments during his 18-year tenure with the Camp Safety Advisory Council. Specifically, Mr. Shay noted Mr. Scheinfeld's advocacy for regulations in the area of camp aquatic safety, incidental water immersion, and staff background checks. Mr. Scheinfeld has been an integral part of the Advisory Council and will be profoundly missed. Mr. Scheinfeld thanked everyone in attendance and specifically Mr. Shay for the kind words and support.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The Council discussed some potential conflicts with the next Council meeting scheduled for October 17, 2019 and asked the Department to send out a Doodle Poll to determine if it could be rescheduled. The Council adjourned at 12:25 pm.