

State Camp Safety Advisory Council (SCSAC) November 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Members

Present: Jordan Dale, Gordon Felt, Meir Frischman, Dr. Thomas Welch, and Dawn Ewing

Members

Absent: Douglas Pierce, George G. Coleman, Eric Bacon, and Robert Scheinfeld (participated by phone)

Department of Health Staff

Present: Michael Cambridge, Timothy Shay, Megan Mutolo, James Maurer, and Carolyn Caldwell

Chairperson, Jordan Dale called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. at the New York State Museum, Conference Room A/B, 260 Madison Avenue, Albany, New York. Douglas Pierce, George G. Coleman, and Eric Bacon were absent. Rob Scheinfeld participated by phone. A quorum was present.

Council Administrative Business

Mr. Shay updated the Council regarding membership reappointments. Mr. Felt and Mr. Pierce, whose terms had expired in January, were both reappointed to the Council. Mr. Coleman's reappointment is still in process. Mr. Scheinfeld inquired about any upcoming terms that are expiring. Mr. Shay responded that no terms are due to expire in 2017.

The minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Overview of the NYS DOH Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

Ms. Clara DeSantis of the New York State Department of Health Drug User and Health Opioid Overdose Program gave a presentation on the opioid epidemic in New York State and the use of the naloxone antidote kit. Dr. Welch commented on the importance of CPR training and its use in a respiratory distress situation. Audience member Doug Volan commented that the Westchester County DOH's camp operator training for 2017 will include opioid overdose information. The Council was interested in the training and asked for feedback on it at the spring of 2017 Council meeting.

The members were appreciative of Ms. DeSantis' informative presentation. At the Council's request, the Department agreed to distribute information about Opioid Overdose programs to local health departments for distribution to camp operators.

Amendments to Subpart 7- 2 Children's Camp Status

Mr. Shay reported on the amendments to Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code. Amendments that applied to camps with enrollments of 20% or more developmentally disabled campers became effective on June 22, 2016. These amendments related to

Justice Center requirements that have been in effect at camps since 2013. There were no issues or concerns identified during the 2016 season with implementation. Amendments that apply to all camps enrolling a camper with a developmental or physical disability had a delayed implementation date of October 1, 2016. As stated in the past, regulations mandated by the Justice Center legislation are not being applied to all camps.

The Department is preparing guidance to help properly identify campers with developmental disabilities that qualify for the additional protections and to address implementation questions. Mr. Shay estimated that the guidance would be available in about a month.

Revised Epinephrine Auto-Injector Legislation

Mr. Shay reported on Epinephrine Auto-Injector legislation signed into law by Governor Cuomo on September 29, 2016. The legislation becomes effective on March 28, 2017 and amends the existing law as follows:

- 1) It expands the groups that are allowed to obtain and administer epi-pens.
- 2) It no longer requires a collaborative agreement with a physician or hospital to oversee the program.
- 3) It specifies criteria for an approved training course.
- 4) It allows non-patient-specific prescription to be written to a camp.
- 5) It allows a pharmacy to dispense epinephrine auto-injectors to a camp.

The Council discussed the legislation and noted that it did not include a mandate for all camps to stock epinephrine auto-injectors, as previously recommended by the Council. Council members inquired if the Department would be taking any action to move forward with the Council's recommendation. Mr. Cambridge indicated that the first step is to see how the new law is implemented. DOH will see if any information can be obtained regarding the legislative intent of the law and report back to the Council at the spring 2017 meeting.

Boating Activities Fact Sheet

Mr. Shay noted that the boating fact sheet was released prior to the 2016 season. Ms. Ewing, as the boating activities committee chair, was asked for her comments on the final product. Ms. Ewing indicated that she was comfortable with the document and that an eye should be kept on data related to boating incidents. If the data demonstrated a need, the fact sheet could be revisited in the future. Mr. Scheinfeld inquired if a stronger phrase could be used in the bullet related to a boating activity leader's past experience. Mr. Shay stated that he would look into it, but stressed that the fact sheet has to be consistent with the code, so it may not be possible. The Council concluded that the fact sheet provided good guidance, a code amendment related to boating was not needed at this time, and the topic should be revisited as indicated by the surveillance data.

Life Jacket Use by Non-Swimmers

The Department has been approached by camps seeking waivers from the children's camp regulation that requires non-swimmers to be restricted to water less than chest deep during

open swimming activities unless a 1:3 counselor to camper supervision ratio in shallow water is maintained. There are a number of camps, which use pools with a minimum water depth greater than chest deep for non-swimmers, that cannot provide staffing at the 1:3 ratio. These camps have requested waivers to allow a counselor to supervise more non-swimmers in shallow water greater than chest deep based on the use of life jackets. Mr. Shay asked the Council for its opinion on the proposal. After discussion, the Council had no objections at a swimming pool provided the counselor to camper ratio does not exceed the code standards for swimming based on camper's age, and life jackets are in good repair and fitted properly. However, the Council did not feel the allowance should be extended to beaches where campers can be restricted to water less than chest deep or to campers under 6 years of age at swimming pools.

Mr. Shay then discussed another scenario in which camps have allowed non-swimmers wearing a life jacket to utilize floating water structures such as trampolines, climbing walls, and similar water devices. These types of floating structures require deep water (approximately 8 feet) to be used safely. The Council discussed the issues and unanimously opposed non-swimmers using floating water structures in water greater than chest deep regardless of life jacket use.

Hazards Associated with Falling Trees/Branches

Mr. Dale initiated a discussion regarding potential hazard associated with trees in high traffic areas. He stated that over the last several years he is aware of a number of deaths from falling tree branches, at camps throughout the United States including an incident this past season in which an Ohio camper was killed by a falling tree. Mr. Dale's camp has implemented a program to remove large trees from high traffic areas as a preventive measure. He queried the Council to get opinions of whether it would be a best practice for camps to follow. He stressed that the subject was brought up for discussion purposes only and he is not proposing a regulation. The Council discussed the issues and concluded that routine facility management programs should involve active tree management and removal of hazardous trees and limbs for safety, but in general it was not felt that the removal of large healthy trees was necessary. Staff should be trained to recognize trees that may be a hazard. It was suggested that the Safety Plan template could include procedures to monitor for dead and diseased trees prior to and during camp that may present a hazard to campers.

Preliminary Overview of 2016 Season

Mr. Shay reviewed the preliminary incident and injury data for the 2016 camp season.

- 1) There were no fatalities reported at any camps.
- 2) There were three non-fatal drownings involving two campers and one counselor. All victims were reported to have fully recovered.
- 3) A camp food worker was diagnosed with Hepatitis A that was believed to have been contracted prior to his arrival at camp. To prevent illness at the camp, 308 post exposure prophylaxis immunizations were distributed to campers and staff. There was no subsequent illness at the camp.

- 4) Fourteen incidents of potential abuse and/or neglect were reported to the Justice Center. Six of the incident investigations have been completed and were unsubstantiated by the Justice Center. The remaining eight investigations were not finalized as of the date of the meeting.

Mr. Shay stated that the incident report for 2012 has been finalized, and that 2013 is being reviewed. The yearly incident reports will be shared with the Council as they are released.

Wilderness Swimming

The Department received a comment from a camp that the bottom slope requirement for wilderness swimming is, essentially, not possible to be met in the Adirondack region.

The 2004 code amendments include criteria for wilderness swimming, which specified a slope no steeper than 1:8 and that the bottom shall contain no sharp drop-offs, jagged rocks or under water obstructions. A Council workgroup/committee of children's camp operators had previously been convened to evaluate the wilderness swimming requirements and the Department's wilderness swimming guidance documents. The committee concluded that the bottom slope, water velocity and water clarity requirements were reasonable, although they thought exceptions could be made for bottom slope requirements at specific locations.

The Council asked if the Department would consider a waiver for the bottom slope at a specific location. Mr. Shay said a waiver could be considered on a case by case basis. The Council did not think any changes were warranted for the wilderness swimming requirements in the camp regulation at this time.

Other Business

In response to an audience member's inquiry regarding backcountry water disinfection guidance, Mr. Shay reported that work is continuing with the CDC regarding water purification equipment standards. In the meantime, the requirement for boiling or filtration and chemical treatment remain the same.

No topics were proposed for the next Council meeting.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The Council adjourned at 1:10 p.m. after tentatively scheduling the next Council meeting for Wednesday, May 3, 2017.