

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

Meeting will be held virtually via WebEx

**AGENDA
March 22, 2022
10:30 A.M.**

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

State Camp Safety Advisory Council (SCSAC) March 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members

Present: Dawn Ewing; 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
Sheri Ford, DOH
Timothy Shay, DOH
Paula Pennell-Huth, DOH
Elizabeth Rausch-Phung, 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, 116 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 10:38 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 February 2, 2022, were approved unanimously.

Mr. Shay noted that the Department coordinates membership for the Council but does not make the final determination regarding who is appointed. His current understanding is that all vacant positions have a candidate under consideration. However, he encouraged anyone interested in a position on the Council, vacant or filled, to contact him, so there is a pool of candidates ready for when needed.

COVID-19 Discussion

Mr. Shay discussed the Department's draft COVID-19 Best Practice Standards guidance document (dated March 2022) for the upcoming season. The document was developed in coordination with the Department's Bureau of Community Disease Control and based on the best information available at this time. The document provides best practice standards that camps can incorporate into their disease transmission prevention procedures for COVID-19. It was noted that while the document outlined best practices there is overlap with regulatory and outbreak control requirements such as those for camper health screenings, reporting illness to the local health department, and quarantine and isolation procedures. Requirements included in the document are identified with the use of the word "must". It was emphasized that all other

items are recommendations. The document was provided to the Council prior to the meeting for review. Mr. Shay highlighted the major topics and items contained within it and asked the Council for feedback.

The Council discussed the guidance document and some Council members expressed concerns and suggestions. Specifically, that:

- Some of the language used might be interpreted as requirements by local health departments and not as best practice recommendations or guidance.
- They suggested that the term “standards” be removed from the title and that the document be reviewed by the Department with this concern in mind.
- Concerns that the best practices for camps included more restrictive procedures than school guidance such as maintaining six feet separation between individuals, restricting camp trips and COVID-19 testing practices.

The Department acknowledged the concerns and said that edits could be made including clarifying how the document should be used/viewed; however, it was noted that because the document was intended to identify best practices there would likely be differences between it and other guidance, such as for schools.

The Council opened the meeting for public comments on the draft COVID-19 Best Practice Standards guidance. Several participants offered comments which were consistent with the Council’s discussion on the matter. The primary concern being that the document may be interpreted as requirements instead of recommendations for camps.

A motion was made by the Council to endorse the “Best Practices for Camps” with the condition that the Department amends it in accordance with the Council discussions and a caveat that it includes information that these are best practices and are not additional regulatory obligations. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Prior to the meeting, the Department provided the Council with draft code language for amendments to the State Sanitary Code that is being considered for vaccine preventable diseases. The draft language is consistent with what was discussed at prior Council meetings. Mr. Shay provided an overview of the draft language which includes definitions of relevant terms, requirements for camper immunization records, measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine or equivalent for campers at overnight camps, overnight camp staff immunization records, screening campers and staff for illness upon arrival, and exclusion or isolation requirements in the event of a case of a vaccine preventable disease.

The Council discussed the amendments and raised the concern that camp staff may not be able to obtain vaccination records. It was asked if there would be any religious exemptions. Mr. Shay stated that there is not any included, which is consistent with requirements for schools and day care programs. The Council asked about next steps to which Mr. Shay responded that additional outreach may be needed, but the intent is to have something in place well in advanced of the 2023 season so camp operators have enough time to prepare. Mr. Frischman noted that many camps are sending out medical forms as early as December. Mr. Shay acknowledged this. The Council asked for and it was agreed to provide an update on the status of the amendments at the fall meeting.

Pesticide Use at Camps Legislation

At the last Council meeting, the recently passed legislation restricting the use of certain pesticide on children's camps playgrounds turf or athletic or playing field was discussed in detail. Mr. Shay

provided an updated to the council that the amendment to the legislation which removed the requirement for a response to emergency application request within 24-hours was passed. The legislation will become effective on 6/20/22. The Department is working on guidance for camp operators.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2022. The winter meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023. The Council adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Post meeting note: The next Council meeting was later rescheduled for October 25, 2022.