

TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON DROWNING PREVENTION

FRIDAY, April 21, 2023

9:30-11:30 AM

Minutes

Call to Order at 9:30am

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- Heidi Reiss
- Brian Tobin
- Mike Switalski ** Attended from Colorado
- Casper Lassiter
- Marrick McDonald
- Kevin Clark
- Gwen McNamara
- Kathryn Colglazier
- Greg Slade

** Quorum met without considering Mike in the number

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Jennifer Maglienti
- Joyce Pressley
- Brendan O'Melveny
- Catlin Smith
- Timothy Shay
- Kristen Murphy
- Jamie Sirken
- Elyse Loughlin
- Dan Leinung
- Kara Harrigan
- Karen Hollowood
- Miguel Escalante
- Shawn Slevin
- Steve Langendorfer
- Michael Bauer
- Greg Gley
- Raluca Gruin

Meeting called to order.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

First: **Brian Tobin**

Second: **Kathryn Colglazier**

All in favor: aye

Opposed?

Minutes accepted

Guest Speaker: Miguel Escalante - Assistant Aquatics Coordinator at Children's Aid NYC, Head Swim Coach at John Jay College, Owner of Splash Fit Swimming.

Portion C

NYC and drowning prevention- guard shortage from covid from community programs being closed
To be a city or state guard you need to be a strong swimmer- finding resources, thinks we should enable swimming at no cost- built relationships with schools to identify students with need and good performance to be eligible for programs and then the swimming program provides reports back to the school for the students on participation and progress.

Costs for for-profit lessons- subsidize from private lessons- and group lessons

Casper discussing relationships between schools and swim facilities

Miguel- push back from schools for insurance and busing and if not accessible during the school day, then asking for connection for parents to attend after school and the weekend

Katherine- What is the commitment the school needs to make?

M: Intake to selected administrator who selects recipients- grades and finance, then final reports shared with the school

Heidi- dryland activities?

M: Great idea that needs to be explored; goal has been to make them deep water safety but there could be an opportunity to increase reach using dryland education.

- Marrick- guidebook for Aquatic Administrators for schools that do not understand the benefit of the water classroom
- YMCA Splash program
- Red Cross Whale Tales
- Heidi- assemblies- future goals and possible future options
 - M: Having the kids can be exposed but making sure the parents get engaged which will help for future efforts-
 - H: can add to the assembly resources for the parents-

Marrick- Starfish AQ - LTS lessons in the south did not go through schools for access but to the churches as that is where the grandparents are as another pathway- was very successful

Kevin Clark- underwhelmed by school districts and if they are receiving funds - they need to look at resources-

BOCES programs offered off-site

Karen- NYSED does not write legislation and Elyse is experienced in the swim world- even districts with pools struggle with rotations during school day with transportation and other obligations- proposal for Albany for afterschool programming- need to be careful about pointing fingers- Karen 700 School districts- and large number do not have access to pools- logistical nightmare for need to have partnerships with community programs-

Brian- Marathon SD from Cortland 20 minutes- K-6 went to local YWCA and then other to SUNY Cortland- swim assessment and water safety instruction-

Mike- Length of period- transition times- changing and only have 25 minutes- is NYSED with pools able to prioritize afterschool lessons- NYAPHERD would be more involved with this- NYSED would not- - An outside organization can utilize the facility - NYSED can put out information that schools have for DOH to encourage - might be able to add some verbiage on water safety education and - can put in a statement for creative solutions

Marrick- in the NYSED memo- can you add the UK study regarding decreasing drowning rates- Most pools are in High Schools- making it difficult when schools are spread out- possible

Jaime- Kids outside of camp learning swimming- but certain facilities cannot hire 15 year old guards- new legislation to accept 15 year old- in NYC that closed pools to summer camps -

Marrick- during covid - LG not classified as first responders so that limited what they can do- that could increase access and privileges during covid-Gwen- other states have additional requirements to have that designation

Thank you, Miguel, for providing a foundation for a strong robust conversation.

Discussion by Commissioners on each component:

Focus on Goal A-1 Determine an appropriate age and/or stage of childhood development when children can properly begin water safety and swimming instructions

Focus on each goal

Goal A-2 Develop statewide standards for such instruction

Karen- who are the learning standards for?

Marrick- goal is to develop statewide standards- 0-18 is the classification- these would be to meet the goals of the commission- who would then choose to add to NYSED as needed

Steven Langendorfer (SL)- discussion is important and making the standards congruent with education standards and a correlate to Aquatics- words like water competence with 15 elements that it fits in well with standards 1-4, 5 and 6 are a little different- Miguel spoke well about 5 and 6 that can be brought in- already working on career opportunities and broader aquatic culture.

Marrick- should we add water competency in a variety of water environments - SL- there are a lot of terms around aquatic literacy, aquaticity, water competency- swim competency - all synonymous- not just psychomotor but water safety knowledge and affect as well and self-perception- can change standards and make them a little more parallel to education standards- called standard corollary standards

Heidi- Water competency- would that apply to infant swimming? SL- could- but water competence is parallel to motor competence- where very developmental with ages 1-3 is

when rudimentary fundamental skills apply on land as in the water, not advance competency skills not likely- Marrick - these would be defined in the benchmarks

Words- demonstrates water competency in a variety of water related physical activities (replace motor skills and movement patterns)

Heidi-US Swim Association- has developmental standards and Raluca has a lot of standards- that can be added-

Goal B Incentivize

Brian and Heidi- Conversation on the specific intent of the word “incentivize” as intended in the legislature. The word could mean financial benefit or the benefit of a child not drowning. Greg clarified that the word was intended to refer to encouraging rather than a tangible, physical benefit.

Goal C Collaboration

Gwen- shared that she is approaching on a two-sided effort, a clearinghouse page on the NYS website for resources available to parents for information on programs that facilities can opt into for potentially subsidized programming and other resources and a recommendation for a grant program like the NYS Field Trip grant program that would reimburse certain facilities that meet specified criteria yet to be identified.

Every child a swimmer-Florida

Can offer a recommendation that may or may not become law depending on the rest of the legislature- if it is existing- then can be done- purview of what can be done- call Gwen about legalities of specific programs being shared on a state site-

Our Military Kids is a non-profit that recognizes the sacrifice of children of deployed National Guard, deployed Reserve, or post-9/11 combat-injured service members with extracurricular activity grants.

American Legion Auxiliary Past Department of New York President Patricia Hennessy raised over \$50,000 of funds for this program. Those funds are restricted to only NY residents.

<https://www.ourmilitarykids.org>

Goal D: Underserved

1. Identify underserved
2. Development partnerships
3. Outreach and promotion
4. Financial assistance
5. Cultural sensitivity
6. Evaluation and monitoring
7. Long-term sustainability

Joyce, an attending public member asked about private facility pools and whether they can be made accessible to provide opportunities.

Possible incentives can be recommended but there may not be an option to make that a requirement as they are private entities.

Goal E: Plan for Public Awareness

Katherine and Heidi discussed potential options that include water safety education to enable all areas to receive access regardless of relative location of pools or bodies of water. Also, defining the term of underserved as:

What have other programs done across the nation- different approaches-

Some DOH, others are Park and Rec, some private

Language barriers - direct powerful, to create attention for caregivers - three audiences- parents/caregivers, schools, and teenagers - next few weeks share campaign in other parts of the nation and what has been effective- send a banner from Connie- Marrick- add local governance campaign-

11:15 For the Good of the Group

Game Plan for next meeting - 5/5/2023.

Continue on homework-

Marrick- goal A

Brian and Heidi- Goal B

Gwen Goal C

Casper, Mike and Kevin- Goal D

Kathryn and Heidi – Goal E

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am