

**TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON DROWNING PREVENTION**  
**FRIDAY, May 19, 2023**  
**9:30-11:30 AM**

**Agenda:**

- Call to Order
- Reminder: Commissioners need to be on camera. The volume needs to be unmuted. Your complete name needs to be displayed.
- Guidelines: - Public Participation:
  
- Introductions:
  
- Approval of Minutes from previous meeting
  
- Guest Speaker: Karen Cohn, Zac Foundation
  
- Vice-Chairman Discussion
- CDC Announcement

**Discussion: - Where are we on each Goal?**

- Goal A-1 Determine an appropriate age and/or stage of childhood development when children can properly begin water safety and swimming instructions
  
- Goal A-2: Standards - Marrick
  
- Goal B: Feasibility & Effectiveness - Brian, Heidi
  
- Goal C: Partnerships - Gwen
  
- Goal D: Underserved - Mike, Kevin, Casper
  
- Goal E: Awareness - Kathryn, Heidi

**Define Terms:** Glossary of Terms to create a common state-wide vocabulary; other suggestions for words to be added to the list.

11:20 For the Good of the Group

Game Plan for next meeting - 6/2/2023.

11:30 Adjourned

**Upcoming Events:**

\* Eleventh Annual CCISP Injury Prevention Symposium - Virtual - 5/25/2023 @ 10-4 pm



## **Karen Cohn**

### *Co-Founder, The ZAC Foundation*

Karen Cohn co-founded The ZAC Foundation in 2008 with her husband, Brian Cohn, after their six-year-old son, Zachary Archer Cohn, drowned when his arm became entrapped in a pool drain. Zachary's memory is the inspiration for the Foundation's mission and activities. The ZAC Foundation has funded free water safety and swim camps for more than 20,000 children in at-risk communities nationwide and is spearheading the development of drowning prevention plans in four U.S. communities in the hopes of reducing the national drowning rate. Through her role at The ZAC Foundation, Karen has testified before Congressional subcommittees as well as before State and Federal agencies, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has written about water safety issues for CNN.com, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*, among others. She is also a Northeast Trustee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

## **GOAL A-2: Proposed Swimming Learning Standards - Version C**

### **Rationale:**

We started the learning standard process using the NY State Physical Education Standards, revised 2020, as a starting point.

Standards are broad statements; benchmarks are then created to make them more specific and age/ability appropriate. From the benchmarks, the learning objectives, the instructional strategies, and the evaluation tools are then developed. The commission was only required to create the standards.

The New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AHPERD) Aquatic Section reviewed the standards and determined that since one of the focuses of the law was water safety, that there should be one standard focused on Water Safety. That is Standard 7; it's focused on the three core water competencies that Dr. Langendorfer shared with us: water smarts, water skills, and rescue skills. We wanted to keep all three components of the water competencies in one standard, as each one is integral to the others.

We clarified the wording in the first standard to be water proficiency as opposed to water competency; there is not a standardized definition of water competency as of yet.

We clarified all of the age-appropriate phrasing to be age/ability appropriate in order to address the special needs populations.

## **Proposed Learning Standards: Version C:**

With input from NYS AHPERD Aquatic Section; Kathleen Young, Newburgh Free Academy; Dr. Steven Langendorfer; New York State Red Cross Instructors & Instructor Trainers Facebook Group (with 200 instructors throughout NY State)

**Standard 1:** (Psychomotor) - Demonstrates age and ability-appropriate water proficiency in a variety of aquatic motor skills and movement patterns in aquatic environments.

**Standard 2:** (Cognitive, Psychomotor) - Applies basic knowledge of hydrodynamic principles, strategies, and concepts related to swimming and water safety when in aquatic environments.

**Standard 3:** (Cognitive, Psychomotor) - Demonstrates the capacity to employ knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a level of physical activity and fitness in all aquatic environments.

**Standard 4:** (Affective) - Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in aquatic environments.

**Standard 5:** (Affective) - Recognizes the value and respect of aquatic-related physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or environmental stewardship.

**Standard 6:** (Cognitive, Affective) - Recognizes aquatic career opportunities and manages personal and community resources related to aquatics to achieve and maintain overall wellness.

**Standard 7:** (Cognitive, Affective, Psychomotor) - Recognizes and applies behaviors that promote safe experiences in all aquatic environments; identifies situations and conditions which pose safety hazards; and explains and demonstrates age, ability, and training appropriate rescue skills.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS: To Create A Standardized Vocabulary for the State**

**Aquatic Literacy** - Synonym for Water Competency (Dr. Langendorfer)

**Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AHPERD)**

**High Quality Swim Program**

**Incentivized** - Greg clarified that the word was intended to refer to encouraging rather than a tangible, physical benefit. - minutes 4/21/2023

**Physical Literacy** - The physical competence, motivation, self-efficacy, confidence, and the knowledge and understanding that individuals develop in order to remain physically active throughout their lives (Whitehead, 2010) - Dr. Clancy Seymour

**Progressive Swim Instructor**

The term is sort of defined in our [children's camp regulation](#) Section [7-2.5\(f\)](#)

7-2.5(f) Progressive swimming instructor – As described in the camp's approved safety plan, a progressive swimming instructor must

assess the swimming ability of each camper prior to allowing the child to participate in aquatic activities. A progressive swimming

instructor must be either:

(1) a Water Safety Instructor currently certified by the ARC; or

(2) possess a current certificate issued by a certifying agency determined by the State Commissioner of Health to provide an adequate level of similar training.

The certificates determined by the State Commissioner of Health to provide an adequate level of similar training are posted here:

[Progressive Swimming Instructor Fact Sheet \(ny.gov\)](#)

**Swimming**

**Swim Instructor**

**Underserved**

**Water Comfort Level**

**Water Competency**

## **DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN**

- to open meeting at the appointed time by taking the chair and calling the meeting to order, having ascertained that quorum is present
- To announce in proper sequence the business that comes before the assembly or becomes in order in accordance with the prescribed order of business, agenda, or program, and with existing orders of the day
- To recognize members who are entitled to the floor
- To state and to put to vote all questions that legitimately come before the assembly as motions or that otherwise arise in the course of proceedings (except questions that relate to the presiding officer himself in the manner noted below), and to announce the result of each vote, or, if a motion that is not in order is made, to rule it out of order.
- To protect the assembly from obviously frivolous or dilatory motions by refusing to recognize them
- To enforce the rules relating to debate and those relating to order and decorum within the assembly
- To expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members
- To decide all questions of order, subject to appeal - unless, when in doubt, the presiding officer prefers initially to submit such a question to the assembly for decision
- To respond to inquiries of members relating to parliamentary procedure or factual information bearing on business of the assembly
- To authenticate by his other signature, when necessary, all acts, orders, and proceedings of the assembly
- To declare the meeting adjourned when the assembly so votes or - where applicable - at the time prescribed in the program, or at any time in the event of a sudden emergency affecting the safety of those present

## **DUTIES OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

- If the president for any reason vacates the chair or is absent, the vice-chairman normally should take the chair unless he also, because of involvement in the debate or for any other reason, should disqualify himself from presiding in the particular case.

**NEW YORK STATE  
TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON DROWNING PREVENTION**

**Goals of Commission:**

The commission shall:

(a) Determine an appropriate age and/or stage of childhood development when children can properly begin water safety and swimming instructions and develop statewide standards for such instruction;

(b) Investigate and evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of programs which incentivize parents and guardians to enroll children in water safety and swimming instruction;

(c) Develop a comprehensive plan for public-private partnerships between the state and community centers, nonprofit organizations, recreational facilities, swimming instructors, and other relevant stakeholders and expanding existing state resources such as parks and pools to provide access to free swimming instruction, and determine the feasibility of such programs;

(d) Develop an implementation plan to ensure its swimming safety programs are available in underserved communities; and

(e) Develop a comprehensive plan for a public awareness campaign to ensure parents and guardians receive information on the importance of children receiving basic water safety and swimming instruction.