

**NYS TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING
FRIDAY, July 28, 2023 9:30-11:30 AM
Minutes**

Reminder to start the recording of the meeting.

Call to Order

Reminder: Commissioners need to be on camera. The volume needs to be unmuted.
Your complete name needs to be displayed.

Call to Order

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- **Brian Tobin**
- **Mike Switalski**
- **Marrick McDonald**
- **Kathryn Colglazier**
- **Kaitlin Krause**
- **Gwen McNamara**
- **Kevin Clark**
- **Casper Lasiter**

Commissioners Not Present

- Heidi Reiss

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- **Kamilah Harris**
- **Karen Hollowood**
- **Steve Langendorfer**
- **Michael Bauer**
- **Jennifer Hogan**
- **Shawn Slevin**
- **Brendan O'Melveny**
- **Bobby Hayson**
- **Colleen McHeard**
- **Annie Cooper**
- **Gary Crossman**
- **Joel Freeman**
- **Kamilla Harris**
- **Dr. Miriam Lynch**
- **Kathleen Young**
- **Jennifer Hogan**

Guidelines: - Public Participation: Introductions:

Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion to accept the meetings from July 14, 2023, Mike Switalski

Seconded: Brian Tobin

Motion Carries

Guest Speaker

Dr. Miriam Lynch-Executive Director of Diversity in Aquatics

Dr. Lynch delivered a presentation for the importance of consideration of areas to include to ensure we are being truly inclusive. This included recognizing the water safety aspect but also the opportunities that it brings. We also discussed the difference between “underserved” versus “under resourced” which had been included in discussions of the committee when the original scope of the commission had been laid out in the legislature.

The areas that need to be considered to be truly including the following in order to disrupt disparities in both underserved and under resourced.

- Education
- Promotion
- Support
- Empowerment

This is followed by asking questions about why, what, who, and how to help make the intended messaging a reality. This may require adding people who are not aquatic professionals to the conversations. This would add to the inclusionality of our discussion to acknowledge who has not been heard and bring them to the table.

Consider the following areas for assessing Aquatic Community

- Personal Factors
 - Demographics
 - Trends and Statistics
 - History of the community
- Social Environment
 - Family Groups
 - Community
 - Organization
- Physical Environment
 - Institutions
 - Physical Economic Assets
- Resources Needed

There was a recommendation to add some definition to our glossary of terms including

- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Religion
- Disability
- Diversity
- Equity
- True Inclusion
- Ableism
- Marginalization
- Historically excluded.

Question as to what areas we should consider from a state level that can be scalable:

Consider the demographics of the areas where we are trying to affect.
Add conversations to the political conversations that we are having.

Question as to how to best address the generational behaviors of marginalized groups?

Meet communities where they are at and expand past the wall of aquatics.

Open Meeting Law: Extraordinary Circumstances Hearing
No public comment in person or written comment

Motion: Mike Switalksi
Second: Gwen McNamara

No discussion

Motion Carried

Two meetings need an additional statement added "(Name of commissioner) did not count towards quorum as they were not in a public location in the state of New York. There were not votes taken that were a determining factor in the final report due at the end of this commission.

4/21/2023

Motion to amendment as Mike Switalski was not present in the state

First Brian Tobin
Seconded Casper Lassiter

Motion Carried

5/192023
Gwen was not in public location.

First: Brian Tobin
Second: Mike Switalski

Motion Carried

Goal A-1 & A-2: Age & Standards - Marrick
No update provided

Goal B: Feasibility & Effectiveness - Brian, Heidi

Brian reported that they have been working on a survey thanks to the help of Tim Shay and although there have been multiple bounce-backs as people change positions. The response has been overall positive. In the chat, there was a conversation regarding the addition of other populations and demographics to include in the conversation. Brian and Katherine are also exploring the option of several town halls around the state where some guiding questions would be asked and then listening to the areas in terms of how current facilities and programs are being used to contribute to the initiative.

There are existing regions to keep consistent with state structure and add additional partners both in and out of the aquatic world to add to the conversation.

Goal C: Partnerships - Gwen, Kate

1. Clearinghouse web page on the NYS DOH website where parents can find information on water safety (Including the hospital bill video) and resources from various water safety foundations. This can include resources in available additional languages and videos with closed captioning and terminology meeting recommended reading levels to increase accessibility
2. Clearinghouse web page for providers who offer subsidized swim lessons to post their programs. Facilities should be in good business standing without quality assurance or legal issues with their respective organizations or the state.
3. Intranet site for Aquatic Professionals to share toolkits, best practices and grant opportunities.
4. ~~Request state grant funding for programs to be able to offer/increase subsidized programming. Mike mentioned that there is an existing grant program for sports initiatives (Senate Bill S2749A) where we may be able to request additional funds to be added with a specific line item for drowning prevention. Have an earmarked expense line derived from xxx% of commercial (or private) property tax to be~~

utilized for drowning prevention. These can include education campaigns, program subsidization, grant programs and facility update grants. Funds must be used in its entirety each budget cycle. **Waiting on data from DOH on current tax rate allocations to determine at what rate to request funds for an earmarked budget line item**

5. ~~Recommendations for ongoing meetings with representatives from around the state at least annually to discuss opportunities and obstacles for aquatics programs. Promote the involvement of aquatics, education, and health and safety organizations, and specifically aquatic sport governing bodies, to invest in, and collaborate with,.....to advance water safety, develop aquatic leaders, expand community education, and conduct land- and water-based training (starting lines derived from the National Water Safety Action Plan – you were going to word smith from here....)~~

We did reference the two plans:

NWSAP: https://www.watersafetyusa.org/uploads/7/0/6/0/70608285/usnwsap_2023.pdf

WHO Preventing drowning: an implementation guide <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241511933>

As an example, wording that applies both to points C and E states "Strengthen public awareness of drowning through strategic communications.

Assess the potential for strategic communications.

Define audience

Define the strategy

Develop materials and messages relevant to the target audience

Disseminate materials and messages

Evaluate the campaign

And another note- there is a section on swimming lessons where we may be able to derive some inspiration- an example includes Bangladesh recommending swim instructors be trained in CPR, and engaging parents and a section on competencies we may want to consider adding- this section is from page 30-40

Mike mentioned the sports funding available through the state through the gaming commission and whether we can tie that money to facilities to offset costs for the end user. It is unclear if we can make recommendations for an existing program instead of creating something new. This could also include the ability for capital improvement if there is funding available.

Goal D: Underserved - Mike, Kevin, Casper

We wanted to find out from the committee what are your feelings on developing the dry land programs for the community about swimming pools. We added several

programs for assistance programs that we can use as guidelines when we're trying to bring resources and give opportunities to specific communities.

In addition, we wanted to discuss with the group how deep or should we go into cultural sensitivity and inclusive inclusivity. We want to make sure that these programs benefit everyone with the same support and that's what equality means, ensure that they get the proper support and resources they need to speed and that's equity and address the cause of the equities to remove any systematic barriers, which is the Justice piece.

The committee agrees that dryland education needs to be included as part of any recommendations in order to assure that all groups are included.

Goal E: Awareness - Kathryn, Heidi, Kate

Good of the Group

Start with D and E

Commision Bios to Marrick

Rich Alden LTS program at the state parks and its partnerships

Bobbie for August 8th

Goals for next meeting

Continue conversations for

Hospital Bill change.org/nywscPetition

Meeting Adjourned.

Resolution No. 1

The New York State Commission to Prevent Childhood Drowning

WHEREAS, Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 (“Chapter 56”) amended Section 103 of the Open Meetings Law (“OML”); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 56 added Section 103-a of the OML, permitting the public bodies to authorize its members to attend meetings by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(a) requires the Commission to Prevent Childhood Drowning to adopt a resolution authorizing the limited use of videoconferencing under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2) allows for hybrid meetings by requiring “that a minimum number of members are present to fulfill the public body’s quorum requirement in the same physical location or locations where the public can attend”; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(c) requires that members be physically present at any such meeting “unless such member is unable to be physically present at any such meeting location due to extraordinary circumstances . . . including disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member’s physical attendance at such meeting”; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 103-a(2)(d), any members attending by videoconference must be “heard, seen and identified, while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon”; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(g) requires that any meeting where a member attends by videoconference be recorded, posted to the Commission’s webpage within five business days, and transcribed upon request; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(h) requires that members of the public be permitted to attend and participate, if authorized, in any meeting by videoconference when a member attends by videoconference.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission to Prevent Childhood Drowning authorizes its members who experience an extraordinary circumstance, as described above and further defined by any rules or written procedures later adopted, to attend meetings by videoconference: (i) as long as a quorum of the members attend in-person at one or more locations open to the public; (ii) as long as the member can be seen, heard, and identified while the meeting is being conducted; and (iii) as otherwise permitted under Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall create written procedures further governing its use of videoconferencing by its members in compliance with Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022.

WATER SAFETY GLOSSARY

To Create a Standardized Vocabulary

NOTE: Writing in Green was added by Marrick after the 6/30/2023 meeting. Writing in Navy was added by Marrick after the 7/14/2023 meeting.

Adaptive Aquatics:

Architectural, equipment, instructional, and programmatic modifications to aquatic programs to serve individuals with disabilities. - US National Water Safety Action Plan, 2023

Aquatic environments:

Any space where water is present, such as, but not limited to... These are areas with bodies of water where aquatic activities can take place. They can be natural such as lakes, rivers, oceans, ponds, or man-made like swimming pools, splash pads, and water parks.

List Examples - Natural Bodies of Water: Bay, Canal, Channel, Creek, Delta, Glacier, Ground Water, Harbor, Lagoon, Lake, Marsh, Ocean, Pond, Puddle, Reservoir, River, Sea, Spring, Strait, Stream

List Examples - Man-Made Bodies of Water: toilets, fish tanks, pet bowls, washing machines, hot tubs, bath tubs

Natural Water:

Body of untreated water sourced through the hydrologic cycle (rainfall, snowmelt, runoff, springs, etc.) and bounded primarily by geologic features rather than manufactured structures. Includes natural springs, cenotes, streams, rivers, lakes, oceans, and flooded areas as well as engineered enclosures such as canals, ponds, reservoirs, and quarries. Does not include waters in manufactured containers such as buckets, barrels, water troughs, swimming pools, spas, or bathtubs. US National Water Safety Action Plan, 2023

Aquatic Literacy: synonym to water competency

Aquatic Programming:

The Four Pillars of aquatic programming are:

- Swim Team (Competitive Community)
- Therapy (Rehabilitation)
- Learn to Swim
- Fitness

Source: Total Aquatic Programming

Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance

(AHPERD): This is a national organization of over 20,000 professionals that provides support and assistance to professionals involved in physical education, recreation,

fitness, sports and coaching, health education, and dance. National Level: SHAPE America (Society of Health And Physical Educators)

Barrier:

A fence, wall, structure, or combination thereof, completely surrounding a pool, with a self-closing, self-latching gate or door to prevent unsupervised pool access. - US National Water Safety Action Plan, 2023

Designated Water Watcher:

A DESIGNATED WATER WATCHER is a person that takes on the role of ensuring that all children and adolescents swimming or playing in, on, or around water are continually supervised, even if they know how to swim, to prevent unintentional drownings. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/waterwatcher.htm>

Water Safety USA recommends that an appropriate designated water watcher is someone who:

- is 16 years old or older (adults preferred), who is actively scanning/watching/supervising the water
- is alert and not under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- has the skills, knowledge, and ability to recognize and rescue someone in distress OR notify someone who can assist ~~can immediately alert a capable adult nearby~~ others for assistance
- knows CPR or can alert someone nearby who knows CPR
- has a working phone to dial 9-1-1
- has a floating and/or reaching object that can be used in a rescue <https://www.nps.gov/articles/waterwatcher.htm>

Designated Water Watcher Card:

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/water-safety/American_Red_Cross_Designate_a_Water_Watcher.pdf 7/14/2023

Environmental Stewardship:

The responsible use and protection of the natural environment, including aquatic environments, through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices by individuals, small groups, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and other collective networks. 7/14/2023

Quality Learn-To-Swim Program:

These are the characteristics of a Quality Learn-To-Swim Program:

<https://www.watersafetyusa.org/what-to-look-for-in-a-learn-to-swim-program.html> (is original source)

1. Is safety focused and insured

2. Is child focused
3. Is encouraging and nurturing
4. Is inclusive
5. Includes parents & caregivers
6. Demonstrates professionalism
7. Maintains quality
8. Taught by trained and/or certified instructors, who receive on-going staff development
9. Low student to instructor ratio
10. Developmentally appropriate: age appropriate & individually appropriate instructional approach. 7/14/2023

Curriculum may include some or all of the following areas:

-

https://www.watersafetyusa.org/uploads/7/0/6/0/70608285/usnwsap_2023.pdf

<https://www.watersafetyusa.org/what-to-look-for-in-a-learn-to-swim-program.html>

[Link to American Red Cross article](#)

Categories in the WSI revised 2014 manual — for swim instruction -

- Water Adjustment, Entry and Exit
- Breath Control and Submerging
- Buoyancy
- Changing Direction, Position, and Treading
- Swim on Front
- Swim on Back
- Swim on Side
- Water Safety

Aligned with our Swim Instructor Definition

Household Water Risks:

- Pet bowl
- Bathtub
- Fish tank
- Sink
- Toilet
- Hot tub
- Back yard temporary pools
- Landscape ponds
- Fountains
- Bird baths
- Washing machine

INSTRUCTIONAL FLOATATION AID: SWIM AID, Swim Education Tools

Used specifically for instructional purposes, like bubbles, barbells, pull buoy, kick boards, fins, pool noodles, **does not guarantee floatation**

ISOLATION FENCING:

Safety fencing with self-closing, self-latching gate that surrounds a pool completely. Contrasted with a barrier wherein a house wall with an opening that allows entry, such as a door, forms part of the barrier. - *US National Water Safety Action Plan, 2023*

PERSONAL FLOATATIONS DEVICE: (PFD)

Link to new PFD page

A U.S. Coast Guard-approved buoyant device designed for boater protection and categorized as commercial, recreational, or throwable. Includes wearable life jackets and throw-ables such as cushions and life ring buoys. Buoyancy levels of 50, 70, 100, or 150 Newtons have replaced previous designations of Types I through V. - *US National Water Safety Action Plan, 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. (Dr. Clancy Seymour) -Whitehead, 2010 (Dr. Clancy Seymour)

Progressive Swim Instructor: (NYS DOH)

This term is only used by the NY State Department of Health Approved Camps, under Sub-Part 7-2 of the Sanitary Code. PSI's are used to determine if campers are eligible for the deep end area of the aquatic facility.

Definition from code:

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 \(ny.gov\)](#)

Rescue Skills Swimming: not the original word to be defined; the original word to be defined was **Rescue Skills**

This is a set of skills taught in high-quality swim programs that enable an individual to safely navigate and potentially exit a body of water in case of an emergency. These skills

include self-rescue, turning around in the water and reaching for a wall, proper breath control, and opening eyes underwater for orientation.

Rescue Skills:

Out of water (Reach, Throw, Row) and in-water rescue skills. - US National Water Safety Action Plan, 2023; component of Water Competency

How is the term rescue skills defined in the Water Competency article?

Residential Pool:

A swimming pool located on private property under control of the owner or renter and intended to be used solely by members of the household and invited guests. May apply to shared condo or apartment pools. The legal definition varies among jurisdictions. - US National Water Safety Action Plan, 2023

Swim Coach:

Transitioning a learn to swim swimmer into a proficient swimmer (competitive athlete) ??

A person who teaches and trains the members of a sports team and makes decisions about how the team plays during games. Baritannica.com

A person who instructs or trains a performer or team. Merriam Webster dictionary

An athletic coach is a person coaching in sport, involved in the direction, instruction, and training of a sports team or athlete.

Recreation leagues

USA Swim Club

AAU: Amateur Athletic Union

College

High school - Varsity & Modified

Swim Instructor: A fully trained OR certified professional (as recognized by NYS) who provides swimming lessons to individuals or groups, teaching a range of skills from basic water comfort to advanced swimming techniques and safety practices.

What does fully trained mean?

What are the recognized certifications?

Who determines what certifications are recognized?

Do the certifications need to be from a nationally recognized organization?

Do they still maintain the knowledge of teaching aquatics after their certification expires?

Water Comfort Level:

This is the degree to which an individual feels at ease in the water. It can range from fear and discomfort to a high level of ease and ability to perform various aquatic activities.

Direction: does the swimmer have the ability to change direction

Rhythmic breathing: is the swimmer barely putting face in or swimming

Over: have the ability to roll over: back to front, front to back

Prone = Front: what does their front floating and front swimming look like?

Supine = Back: what does their back floating and back swimming look like?

- American Red Cross Adapted Aquatics book, (Marrick's mnemonic)

Water Competency (Pool versus Natural Water):

Water competency refers to the ability to independently move through the water from point A to point B while being able to take breaths as needed. This competency may vary based on the environment.

What is the source of this definition?

Being able to anticipate, avoid, and survive common drowning situations, as well as being able to recognize and provide assistance to those in need. Includes water safety awareness, basic swimming skills, and helping others.

- US National Water Safety Action Plan 2023

Water Competency is developmental and situational

Three Components of Water Competency: water smarts, water skills, rescue skills (Dr. Langendorfer)

Water Proficiency:

- Standard 1

Oxford dictionary - competent or skilled in doing or using something

- advancement in knowledge or skill - Merriam Webster

Proficient typically describes people, and it often is followed by the preposition *at*. If you are proficient at something, you are very good at it. You are, in fact, so good at doing it that you are unusually efficient when you do it. One can also be proficient *in* something, such as a language. - Merriam Webster

PROFICIENT implies a thorough competence derived from training and practice. - Merriam Webster

Water Skills:

Component of water competency

Water Smarts:

Component of water competency

From Stallman, Moran, Quan, & Langendorfer (2017): Swimming Skills To Water Competency

Also consider Ice Competency, Boating Competency

Table 1. Proposed water competencies related to drowning prevention

Water Competencies			
1	Safe entry competence a) Entry into water b) Surface and level off	9	Clothed water competence
2	Breath control competence Integrated and effective breathing	10	Open water competence
3	Stationary surface competence a) Buoyancy control: floating b) Treading water	11	Knowledge of local hazards competence
4	Water orientation competence a) Roll from front to back, back to front b) Turn, L & R, on front & back	12	Coping with risk competence - awareness, assessment, avoidance
5	Propulsion competence a) Swim on front b) Swim on back and/or side	13	Assess personal competence
6	Underwater competence a) Surface dive b) Underwater swimming	14	Rescue competence a) Recognize a drowning person b) Assist a drowning person safely
7	Safe exit competence	15	Water safety competence a) Attitudes b) Values
8	Personal flotation device (PFD/lifejacket) competence		

Water Competency - variable: developmental & situational		
Water Smart	Rescue Skills	Water Skills
10: Open (natural) water competency	8: PFD Competency	1: Safe Entry Competency
11: Knowledge of local hazards competency	9: Clothed water competency	7: Safe Exit Competency
12: Coping with risk	14: Rescue Competency	2: Breath Control Competency
13: Assess personal		3: Stationary surface
15: Water Safety Competency		4: Water Orientation
		5: Propulsion Competency
		6: Underwater Competency

- Organized by Marrick

COMMISSIONERS DEFINITIONS OF WORDS IN THE LAW

Incentivized: In this context, incentivized refers to methods and strategies used to encourage or motivate individuals towards a particular behavior or activity. This can include encouragement in the form of positive reinforcement, feedback, or other non-tangible benefits.

Greg Slade (Assemblywoman Amato's Chief of Staff) clarified that the word was intended to refer to encouraging rather than a tangible, physical benefit. - minutes 4/21/2023

~~**Underserved:** This term refers to communities or populations that have limited access to resources or services, including aquatic programs and swim instruction. This can be due to racial or socio-economic disparities, geographic location, or other factors.~~

BRIANSTORMING - : In NY, one way that has been used to quantify the socio-economic threshold is to look at households with no more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. How would we recognize in populations and in individuals? Free & reduced lunch? Proof of financial assistance? Public assistance budget letter, EBT card, SSI - Award letter, W-2 or paystub

"Underserved populations" shall mean those who have experienced injustices and disadvantages as a result of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability status, age, immigration status, and/or socioeconomic status, among others as determined by the commissioner of health. Public Health 240 (NY SENATE)

Lack of access, lack of resources

NYS TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING

RECOMMENDATIONS

- If it inflates, then it deflates.

**NYS TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD
DROWNING
9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM**

July 28

August 11
August 25

September 8
September 22

October 6
October 20

November 3
November 17

December 1
December 15
~~December 29~~ - cancelled due to holiday season

Approved: 6/2/2023; Governor signed extension 6/30/2023

New York State Commission on Drowning Prevention

Goal D

Implementation Plan for Swimming Safety Programs in Underserved Communities

Objective: To ensure that swimming safety programs are accessible and available to underserved communities

Identify Target Underserved Communities

- Conduct a thorough assessment of the demographics and characteristics of the community to identify areas that are underserved in terms of swimming safety programs.
- Consider factors such as income levels, access to transportation, language barriers, cultural considerations, and any other relevant factors that may impact participation in swimming safety programs.
- Develop dry land program for communities without swimming pools.
- Develop Partnerships
 - Identify local community organizations, schools, and other stakeholders that serve the identified target underserved communities.
 - Establish partnerships and collaborations with these organizations to leverage their resources and networks to reach out to the community and promote the swimming safety programs offered in their respective communities
 - Collaborate with local schools to integrate swimming safety education as part of their physical education curriculum or after-school programs.

Outreach and Promotion

- Develop a comprehensive outreach and promotion plan that utilizes multiple channels to reach the target communities, including community events, social media, flyers, posters, and local media.
- Translate promotional materials into multiple languages spoken in the community, as needed, to overcome language barriers.

- Offer incentives, such as discounted or free classes, to encourage participation from underserved communities.
- Utilize local community leaders and influencers to promote the swimming safety programs and build trust within the community.

Financial Assistance

- Establish a financial assistance program to provide scholarships or discounts to individuals or families from underserved communities who may face financial barriers to participating in the swimming safety programs.
- Seek funding from grants, sponsorships, or donations to support the financial assistance program and make it sustainable.

Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusivity

- Ensure that the swimming safety programs offered are culturally sensitive and inclusive to the diversity of the underserved populations in the state
- Train instructors and staff on cultural competency to better understand and respect the cultural differences of the participants.
- Create an inclusive environment that welcomes individuals of all backgrounds, abilities, and identities, and actively addresses any discriminatory behavior or attitudes.

Evaluation and Monitoring

- Implement a system to regularly evaluate and monitor the effectiveness and impact of the swimming safety programs in the underserved communities.
- Collect data on program participation, outcomes, and feedback from participants and stakeholders to measure the success of the implementation plan.
- Use the evaluation results to make necessary adjustments and improvements to the program and implementation plan as needed.

Long-term Sustainability

- Develop a plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of the swimming safety programs in underserved communities.

- Explore opportunities for ongoing funding, partnerships, and collaborations with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the program's impact and effectiveness and make necessary adjustments to ensure its sustainability.

Commissioners: Casper Lassiter, Mike Switalski, Kevin Clark

GOAL A:

Goal A-1: Age to begin swimming lessons

Recommendation to accept the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of 1 year old to begin swimming lessons and water safety instruction (approved 5/19/2023)

Water Orientation classes with caregiver and infant pairing can begin as early as 6 months. (Approved 7/14/2023)

Goal A-2: Learning Standards: (approved 5/19/2023)

These are based off of the NYS Physical Education Standards, 2020. 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.

**NEW YORK STATE
TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING**

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.