

TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON DROWNING PREVENTION
FRIDAY, May 5, 2023
9:30-11:30 AM

Minutes

Call to Order

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- Heidi Reiss
- Brian Tobin
- Mike Switalski
- Marrick McDonald
- Kevin Clark
- Kathryn Colglazier

**Quorum met without considering Gwen McNamara, Casper Lassiter, and Greg Slade in the number

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Jennifer Maglienti
- Joyce Pressley
- Catlin Smith
- Timothy Shay
- Dan Leinung
- Karen Hollowood
- Steve Langendorfer
- Michael Bauer
- Rich Alden
- Jennifer Hogan
- Greg Slade

Marrick called the meeting to order.

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

Guidelines:

- Public Participation:

Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting

First-Mike Switalski

Second Heidi Reiss

Motion carried

Mike:

We have never formally appointed a formal chairperson and a vice-chair

Nomination: Mike – Move that we appoint Marrick as the chair of the commission,

All Approve, none opposed, motion carries

Nomination for Vice Chair, postpone until the next meeting since we are missing some commission members

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 and develop statewide standards for such instruction

Marrick has a meeting with the NYS APHERD aquatic section on May 10 with information from Dr. Langendorfer to that group, all are welcome to attend. Request link from Marrick.

Goal B: Brian and Heidi discussed the survey with the first to determine what facilities are used for swim instruction. A survey was shared with the group. The survey will look for contact information and what is offered and at what times of the year. Working to make the connection on who is responsible for helping kids receive instruction. The goal is a better understanding of what is offered when it is offered, training utilized, if dryland instruction is being used, what the obstacles are, and what additional resources are needed to reduce drowning rates.

Kathryn- is there a question about whether their pools had lifeguards and whether there are barriers regarding their capacity for lessons?

Mike -asked if we can collect specific locations for mapping purposes as well as more insight as to the demographics of who they are teaching to better understand whether it is only youth or whether there are adult lessons as well since the diversity of lessons provides additional insights.

Brian and Heidi will complete some updates before working out.

Goal C:

Gwen is out and the one working on this so this will be tabled for today

Goal D: Underserved communities

Casper, Kevin, and Mike are addressing and working on bringing together resources. Still researching this component

Goal E: Awareness Campaign

Kathryn – still in the research phase but worked with some marketing individuals in other arenas on what has worked. The question as to whether our goal is to create mock-ups or examples to present to give a concept of the intent. Looking at three different

audiences, caregivers, teenagers, and adults. Heidi discussed the hospital bill was being worked on in Albany and last week was voted to the senate and looked to be moved forward.

Marrick, the other piece revolves around funding and how municipalities and schools have decreasing funds and may be looking to convert existing pools into splash pads, so we need to address that group as well to make sure they are making positive impactful decisions in these matters. Brian shared that Buffalo State College will be eliminating the swimming and diving program due to participation rates and increasing costs for periodic maintenance. This can be worth a discussion on how to work this into our recommendations.

Mike- there are two parts to this, Buffalo is transitioning for a new president which could change that conversation, and Renee Carlitio, the athletic director, could be invited to our commission for comment. The pool was renovated in 2011. Brian mentioned that there may be an opportunity for a conversation to better understand the financial pressure that can be influencing the conversation. Marrick mentioned that there are additional campuses that have decommissioned their pools and if there are not the resources to build new pools then how can we support the existing facilities? Mike asked how we can communicate with SUNY on the importance of the pool programs being supported. Brian shared concerns that access can be impacted as more facilities are forced to make choices with their pools that may result in them being closed, either to the public or closed altogether.

Marrick, if there are no funds to build new pools, we would like to ensure we are utilizing the facilities we have and are meeting the needs that are receiving state funding.

Kathryn raised the valid reminder that finances, especially in a post-covid recovery phase, and pool operations and programming require funds, so looking at the long-term and maintainable solutions to avoid having the same conversation in five years.

Sara Gregory-pools may not choose to perform upgrades because they are grandfathered in due to age, if they need to repair something, they would need to do a complete upgrade that may be financially limiting.

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

Marrick discussed the need for standardized definitions to enable consistent conversations using terms to help write our recommendations.

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

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

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 knowledge and understanding that individuals develop to remain physically active throughout their lives (Whitehead, 2010) - Dr. Clancy Seymour

Progressive Swim Instructor

Swimming

Swim Instructor

Underserved

Water Comfort Level

Water Competency- Steven Lagendorfer, the Red Cross defined as a set of five or six physical skills but a more recent definition from Dr Kevin Moran from New Zealand as being three groupings, physical skills water safety knowledge, and attitudinal skills. Water Safety USA is using similar skills- water skills, water smarts, and rescuing others. To be able to move in and around the water and have the cognitive skills to understand the risks and the skills to rescue others. Marrick defined it according to Red Cross from the Lifeguard Manual, water competency is defined to help people of all ages understand the basic swimming skills to handle themselves safely in the water The sequence of critical water safety skills is one step or jump into the water over the head. Two, return to the surface and float or tread water for one minute 2 Return to the surface and float or tread water for one minute 3 Turnaround in a full circle and find an exit. Four swim 25 yards to the exit and five exits from the water. If in a pool, be able to exit without using the ladder. My issue with that skill set is I would never have a child jump in the water over their head unless I knew their water comfort level. How comfortable are they in the water and they put their face in the water?

Heidi discussed the need to add definitions that are more inclusive of age and abilities. There are skills that developmental is the right word for it because with every age development it it does change because they're physically able to do things that another age category cannot do. Another thing that I was I'm going through more and more things float, resting, breathing, and maintaining a position until they can help get reached, but also surface from underwater.

Mike reminded the commission that we may be getting in the weeds of specifics for the sake of the glossary. He would also add that we should have open water literacy and pool literacy and define what water safety is versus swim lessons or swim instruction.

Brian feels that we can work to include the standard and the goal of what we consider water competent can include the areas that both Heidi and Mike discussed as defining the term and then tying it into skills and knowledge that hey, this is what we if an individual has these skills and they have this knowledge, they are deemed to be in much better shape. With regarding avoiding drowning for glossary's sake, it can be generalized.

Marrick gathered some specific terms to be included, as examples of open water or natural bodies of water, based on the three categories of water, water, skills, water smarts and rescuing water, rescuing others, and making sure we're taking into account what I need. I'm checking my list to make sure I got the notes correct. I'm floating, resting, breathing, and surfacing from under the water. We could maintain a position until help can reach them. Thank you and surface from under it was surface from underwater

11:15 For the Good of the Group

Game Plan for next meeting - 5/19/2023. –

Guest Speaker from Zac Foundation

Mike is looking to schedule Miriam Lynch from Diversity in Aquatics and that could be Dr. Angela BealeTawfeeq- and possibly the Athletic Director from Buffalo State for the elimination of their aquatic programming.

The next meetings are the

May 19th ZAC Foundation

June 2nd Mike would you like to schedule the Athletic Director to help the commission understand the direction of the facility with precise questions?

June 16th Heidi The REE SE-S PECHT Life Foundation

June 30th DIA Dr. Angela BealeTawfeeq

Mike mentioned he may be able to get someone from USA Swim Foundation for Collaboration

Mike shared additional speakers

Ralph C Wilson Junior Foundation. They are active in Western New York right now and investing in communities and promoting collaboration among nonprofits as well as private sector organizations or companies.

Jeff Wiltsey who wrote Contested Waters

Kathryn asked whether the commission was granted the extension. Marrick reported that the budget just passed and Greg was not able to attend so we are waiting on the answer.

Next meeting

Goal A Part 1 Finalize and report on updates on remaining goals.

11:30 Adjourned

Upcoming Events:

* NY State AHPERD Aquatic Section meeting - Virtual - 5/10/2023 @ 6:30

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

GOAL A-2:

Proposed Learning Standards Version A:

Underlined words are words directly taken for the NY State Physical Education Standards 2020.

Bolded words were added to make the standards aquatic-specific.

Standard 1: (Psychomotor) - Demonstrates **water** competency in a variety of **aquatic motor skills and movement patterns** **in, on, and around water-related physical activities.**

Standard 2: (Psychomotor, Cognitive) - Applies knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to **aquatic movement and performance** **in, on, and around water-related physical activities.**

Standard 3: (Psychomotor, Cognitive) - Demonstrates the knowledge and the skills to **achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness** **in, on, and around water-related physical activities.**

Standard 4: (Affective) - Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects **self and others** **at, in, on, and around the water and during water-related physical activities.**

Standard 5: (Affective) - Recognizes the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self-expression **at, in, on, and around the water.**

Standard 6: **Recognizes career opportunities and manages personal and community rescuers related to physical activity and fitness to achieve and maintain overall wellness** **at, in, on, around, and for the water.**

GOAL A-2:

Proposed Learning Standards: Version B:

Some suggested edits from Steve Langendorfer based on the Commission discussion on 21 April 2023

Underlined words are words directly taken for the NY State Physical Education Standards 2020.

Bolded words were added to make the standards aquatic-specific.

Standard 1: (Psychomotor) - Demonstrates **age-related water** competency in a variety of **aquatic** motor skills and movement patterns in, on, and around **water-related physical activities**.

Standard 2: (Psychomotor, Cognitive) - Applies basic knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to aquatic movement and water safety performance in, on, and around **water-related physical activities**.

Standard 3: (Psychomotor, Cognitive) - Demonstrates the knowledge and the skills to **achieve and maintain a safe and healthful** level of physical activity and fitness in, on, and around **water-related physical activities**.

Standard 4: (Affective) - Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others at, in, on, and around the water and during **water-related physical activities**.

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

Standard 6: Recognizes aquatic career opportunities and manages personal and community rescuers related to physical activity and fitness to achieve and maintain overall wellness while in, on, and around the water.

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

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Water Comfort Level

Water Competency

Goals of the 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 that 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 expand 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.