

**NY COMMISSION ON CHILDHOOD DROWNING PREVENTION
MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2023**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- Greg Slade
- Heidi Reiss
- Brian Tobin
- Mike Switalski
- Casper Lassiter
- Marrick McDonald
- Kevin Clark

COMMISSIONERS: ABSENT

- Gwen McNamara
- Kathryn Colglazier

OTHER ATTENDEES::

- Dr. Clancy Seymour
- Mike Nelson
- Sue Nelson
- Jennifer Hogan
- Jennifer Maglienti
- Joyce Pressley
- Richard Aldon
- Bobby
- Brendan O'Melveny
- Caitlin Smith
- Timothy Shay
- Jim

The meeting was called to order.

Introductions of attending commission

The motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Mike to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

Motion carried.

Dr. Clancy Seymour discussed what learning standards are and are not.

Learning Standard-

A code, a building analogy allows for the foundation to be built. Their goals dictate what learners are able to learn and do. They are the guidelines to develop the curriculum.

A learning standard is NOT a curriculum.

There are two main premises/themes.

Physical literacy- each child is able to pursue their journey to physical literacy. It is unique to each person. We need to cultivate each journey to develop a literacy in 3-5 physical activities per each child by the time they graduate HS

The standards are Wired/realistic to every child in NYS regardless of physical ability, location, and access.

Our learning standards need to be aligned with physical education standards. Dr. has not seen specific aquatic standards.

We need to be careful with learning standards because they cannot be prescribed to particular populations or too restrictive. They need to be congruent and aligned with the State Physical Education Standards.

The Physical Education Standards are designed to be broad, culturally inclusive. It will create an Instructional dilemma if the aquatic standards that are far too prescriptive, too specific or intricate than those that don't align to physical education learning standards.

Standards need to be written in a way and fashion that allows for the instructor to align accordingly. For all to be able to obtain and achieve. The person in the house needs to build around that particular student.

Adaptive programming - Meeting the students where they are. Best practices, minimum standards, but not on a specific curriculum

TIM SHAY- during an instructional activity, DOH requires a lifeguard, supervisory set of eyes of Level III Supervision, which requires lifeguard management (online and in-person assessment).

Mick and Sue Nelson, Total Aquatic Programming:

They worked in the private sector for 30 years. They have built new pools and developed aquatic programming. They have also developed the drowning project, which tracks drowning statistics around the country. The CDC drowning statistics were not as specific enough to meet the needs of many people who track drowning statistics. The Drowning Project is updated monthly and tracks 42 different things for each drowning. It includes information by state, age group, tool to extract. It's supported by NDPA - National Drowning Prevention Alliance.

In 2008, a group formed 40,000 lines of data to make it possible to get new pools built. The data started becoming applied in more areas. Cities are using the data to create initiatives including Arizona, Texas, New York, and the Great Lakes Project. The data has been used to develop reports specific to the needs.

In NY, there have been 234 pool drownings; 82% were males, and 4% were hispanics. NY State ranks 6th in drownings in this country.

According to the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, 91% of deaths of autistic children under 15 were due to drowning.

There is consistency state to state when compared to National. The percentages are very close per category.

The Drowning Project is a detailed breakdown of drownings by age, race, orientation, location.

Adult numbers are a measurement of our success of our work with younger age group. It is a long term way to track comparing the year prior to the current year to see improvement

We cannot track successes only failures.

The Drowning Report - NY report was provided. The rest is online at TotalAquatic.llc.

It is challenging to present the spreadsheet as it is so detailed. It needs to be translated to be better understood. Audit information 4 times a year to make sure that the information is as accurate as possible. They customized a sheet from the Drowning Project specifically about NY state because Jim Spiers requested it.

Basic Information:

- People are more likely to drown without swimming lessons.
- In many locations, there are waiting lists for swimming lessons
- Time of day and transportation to lessons can be a barrier to obtaining swim lessons

We need as many swim schools operating as possible. We are 67 percent below the demand. We need more and more access. It needs to be a priority that we have more programs, public, private, inclusive, adaptive and safe.

Private sector is doing very well on building pools; while the public has more challenges due to budgets and priorities

Commissioner Mike asked about aquatic infrastructure.

Response:

- Programming proceeds design
- Models of infrastructure to follow include the following locations
 - Rochester, MN
 - Flushing Meadows, NY
 - FMC, IL
 - Greensboro, NC

3 Ds

Drowning prevention

Diversification of aquatic sports

Dedication to physical fitness

EVERY SINGLE POOL IS ESSENTIAL.

Two types of aquatic education: Dry Side and Wet Side Education.

We need to develop dryland education; videos work well for this instructional strategy.

More teens drown in May than any other month.

How to create community awareness in black and brown areas to motivate families to enroll in actual lessons. We need to make swim lessons a priority. Families focus on food on the table, safety, medications, and family priorities.

Our planet is 71% water.

People most likely find swim lessons through word of mouth.

1 out of 2 people do not know how to swim.

Family United- Can you swim signs on buses, school systems, dryland presentations in schools.

Private schools are not as restrictive as public with budget restrictions, developing programs, access, collaborating with local hospitals, fire departments, when they throw events set up a booth

Partnerships and relationships are important, especially with police, rotary, and fire departments.

Translate water dialogue to not always as a scary risk but a health benefit. Ex. Adult lessons not just as a lesson but as family bonding time increased demand

Autism, deaf, religion, orientation adaptive programming helps secure them to remain in lessons longer

Silver sneakers, health insurance benefit for memberships to centers. Could this be created for younger children? Medicaid reimburses in some cases.

Total Aquatic, Stop Drowning Now, Hope Floats valuable resources

How are aquatic programs/programming?

- The same ways in the 60s, 70s, 80s expecting the same outcomes
- Assess the programs that you are doing? How do you match with your programs?
- Different programs and approaches. Recreate new methods.
- What programs have the highest retention?
- We need to encompass it into the fitness of your families. We have to modernize. Different programs, not just competitive swimming for teens,
- Different levels of entries
- Use the 5 levels of fitness to develop programming ***

IT IS TIME To Really Change

4 Aquatic Program Pillars for Revenue:

- Water safety learn to swim Pillar
- Fitness Pillar
- Therapy/Rehabilitation Pillar
- Recreation and sports Pillar

We need to share costs within the pillars and not keep everything in a silo

Real priority on Dryland

Chemical Question: Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). State Parks checks for TDS; State Health does not require it. It should be checked twice a month. It tests how dirty the water is. Mick suggests solution by delusion; if the test indicates over 3,000, then drain the pool and start over.

Chemicals are impacted by the chemicals and the people in the water. There should be deck rinse stations. It take 9 days to recover the pool after someone urinates in the pool.

Mick will not be updating the NY specific drowning report. In order to update it, go to the website on the first week of the month. Click on drowning, sign in; you can join the group, and you will get an email when it's updated.

GLOSSARY CREATION:

Words we need to define

Incentivized in GOAL B

Underserved in GOAL D: persons who are black, brown, and lack access

AGENDA FOR 4/21/2023

TASKS/HOMEWORK:

- Mike, Casper, Kevin: Goal D
- Marrick: Goal A2 (Standards)
- Greg: Deadline Extension
- Brian, Heidi: Goal B

Marrick will call Kathryn and Gwen to discuss homework/tasks.

Words we need to define

Incentified in GOAL B

Underserved in GOAL D

Next meeting will be 4/21/2023; 4/7/2023 is canceled due to Good Friday and lack of quorum.

Marrick adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Reiss

Marrick McDonald

*** Defined after the meeting:

Sue Nelson defined the 5 Levels of Fitness:

There are five components used to measure fitness levels: aerobic or cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

We hear "teach your child to swim" and they will be safer in water. Yes they may learn the skill of swimming but what is their fitness level to maintain the endurance.

On land we have to add extra weights to use resistance for fitness training. In water we do not have to add extra weight because the water is approximately 12 times heavier than air.