

TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON DROWNING PREVENTION
FRIDAY, May 19, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- Heidi Reiss
- Brian Tobin
- Mike Switalski
- Marrick McDonald
- Kevin Clark
- Kathryn Colglazier
- Gwen McNamara
- Casper Lassiter

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Joyce Pressley
 - Catlin Smith
 - Timothy Shay
 - Dan Leinung
 - Karen Hollowood
 - Steve Langendorfer
 - Michael Bauer
 - Rich Alden
 - Jennifer Hogan
 - Greg Slade
 - Karen Cohn
 - Elyse Loughlin
 - Mark Farren
 - Shawn Slevin
 - Raluca Gruin
 - Christine Scalay
 - Brendan O'Melvey
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- Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting
Kevin Clark -1st
Mike Switalski- 2nd

With no questions, the motions passes and the minutes from the May 5, 2023, meeting stands.

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

Guest Speaker: Karen Cohn, Zac Foundation

Karen Cohn the founder of the Zac Foundation, which began in 2007 after the passing of their child Zachary Archer Cohn due to entrapment in their backyard pool. After research, they sought to create a generational shift in how water safety is viewed by families through Advocacy, education, providing access, and community-wide engagement. They developed this through development of ZAC Camps, a week-long program for children ages 5-9 to receive aquatic skills development as well as exposure to other first responders. This was done with a collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs and there have been 138 camps held across the country since they began. The Zac Foundation has also had collaborations with the American Red Cross Centennial program, an initiative to support communities with higher CDC drowning rates with resources to provide lessons to those that need it. In addition, they have participated in the National Water Safety Action Plan, and the California Water Safety Coalition. As part of the Zac Camps, it is important to include the entire community, so stakeholders are invited to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies including elected officials as well as the media and first responders to ensure children in at-risk areas have a positive experience in a nonemergency situation.

All of these contribute to creating a sustainable ecosystem of water safety to make communities safer. This has grown into programs for junior lifeguarding, teaching adults, and allowing more children to join the swim team. Overall, the Zac Foundation has impacted the lives of 20,000 children and 330 adults and 300 junior lifeguarding programs.

These efforts contributed to different working groups in data and public health surveillance, CPR supervision and lifeguards, barriers, entrapment, life jackets, water safety, and water competency and swimming skills.

Questions for Karen

Kathryn Colglazier, Can you share with us a little bit of the reasoning and thought process behind selecting that age group in particular? KC- it is important to reach children as early as possible for lessons and they are at a developmental stage where they are sponged for this type of learning.

Kevin Clark- Are there opportunities for the participant to repeat the class or is it just a one-time shot or is there a progression to a higher level of learning? KC- we had definitely have had people repeat, they're more than welcome to repeat. And we have now gotten to a point for our Zach camp where for the first time, we have people that went through it and now are serving as counselors, but they're still at Boys and Girls Clubs. And so that's really what we wanted, right? We wanted to start the conversation at a young age, but it needs to continue into, you know, young adulthood and into adulthood because we think that it's important for that and for the community and safety overall.

Gwen McNamara -Can you share kind of what some of the opportunities, pitfalls, and obstacles with some of these collaborations that you've come across? What happens and how do you overcome those? KC-number one is of course keeping people engaged over time and there are situations where we have had professional collaborators come in and work with us to, help, to organize the efforts. There were certain situations where there were different people and organizations doing great work but not making a lot of headway and so bringing people together and overcoming some of those differences and working to compromise, to create recommendations and ideas to move things forward in each state. We all need to consider even very small things to be successful if it's even if we can't get the curriculum required in schools right away, then even if there's just something small that you do, for example, like in the state of Texas, we were able to put together a newsletter like in one of a newsletter in one of the utility bills that were going out to people. And that newsletter included drowning prevention information in it. In addition to that, there was a billboard program that was done and that was in Central Texas and that also it we need to include that as a success. And you know all of these small things add up and they do they will make a difference.

Karen Colglazier-You just mentioned in your last statement that keeping people engaged was a challenge. Why did you find it to be challenging and have to keep people engaged? KC- Between COVID happening, you know we needed to shift and that's why one of the things that we did was create our podcast because like how can we get people to still be engaged and how can we reach parents and caregivers in alternate ways and. So, it's not because people are losing interest, it's just because it takes time to make progress.

Mike Switalski-have three different questions. The first one is, as we talked a lot about prevention, how about any work with people that have already experienced aquatic trauma would be my first question. The second question is about barrier removal in terms of the economics of things, transportation, and things like that. What has been your experience with your program that way? And then just the last question is will your slide presentation be shared? KC- Yes, the slides can be shared, So the aquatic trauma.

We do not do a lot of work for families who have experienced aquatic trauma other than the work that we do through the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. There is a group called Families United and that work is a broad group of Parents that have lost children. And so we do work that way. But specifically like the Zach Foundation itself, we don't do any targeted group for targeted work for that group of people. And then the second piece is the barrier removal. So yeah, so as part of bringing together. The stakeholders, when we have held our roundtables, what we've tried to do is solve for some of those barriers and we did that by, for example, like in St. Louis. The Superintendent of schools was involved in our round table discussion, and he suggested that we would provide busing for those kids in the summertime to use the busing to get to where they could take the swim lessons. And So what we need to do is just get communities to work together to solve some of these issues.

Casper Lassiter- as a person who runs a Boys and Girls Club, I'm curious about the structure of the program, is it a curriculum that you provide when you train the trainer type of staff that I already have in my pool or do you provide the facilitators for the learning swim program because we run seven-week of summer camp ages 5 Through 14. And you know, after being part of this Commission and what happened to us recently in Harlem with a young man being found in the East River yesterday, this is, you know, a very, very important topic that needs to be put out there on the forefront and we need to continue to provide resources, you know, for our community. So I'm just curious how is it structured and is it something that, you know, we could probably look to collaborate on in the near future? KC- The Zac Foundation would love to collaborate on a program. We have a professional that comes in to oversee the program and to provide support, but it is delivered by the staff at the facility.

Raluca Gruin- First, how can New York City public schools be a collaborative element for your foundation and if you are intending to become a vendor for

the New York City Public school system? KC- yes, the Zac Foundation would love to have a discussion regarding this opportunity.

Brendan, it seems like it took a lot of funding to institute some of the some of measures that you just presented and they're wonderful measures and thank you so much. But what were your strategies to get that funded? Were you able to get a lot of it state funded, private sector, etcetera, that's sort of the roadblock that we have. In our state, I think is concern from politicians over budget implement implications. So, any ideas you have for us to get around that would be appreciated. KC- Really, it's just through working with legislators to try and get some of that funding. There's also some funding that is that municipalities can apply for through the Virginia Graham Baker Pull and SPA Safety Act and there is a good amount of funding that is appropriated and then also recently. There is going there. It's in process for some 501C threes are the law has not been changed yet, but the Virginia Grant Baker Act. Debbie Wasserman Schultz is in the process of working on trying to get that changed so that 501C threes can also apply for some of that funding. I it's a challenge. There hasn't really been anything specific that I can say, other than working with local and state legislators to try and get funds appropriated for some of this and working within the budgets that already exist within the cities to try and you know put funding together for these you know for this work but definitely for the Virginia Grand Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act is something that maybe we can have further conversations around as well. Awesome, thank you. And it is different in you know, all over. So, you know we it takes sort of like a dedicated effort to find the funding.

Dr. Joyce Pressley- If we had funding, we work with the CDC-funded Entry Control Research Center at Columbia University, and I think one thing we'd like to do is maybe help get the information out about your foundation and the work that you're doing. If you had the funding, would you be able to scale this to a larger audience? KC- we currently scale it nationally we work with National organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and The American Red Cross.

Vice-Chairman Discussion

Based on Robert's rules of Order, a description of a Vice Chair position was presented to the group. Brian asked if we could change the language to be gender-neutral. Yes- we can update.

Motion to accept - Brian with the recommended gender-neutral language change

Seconded- Heidi

Motion carries

Are there nominations for the position

Kathryn nominated Heidi Reiss for the position of Vice Chair, with no other nominations,

Motion carries

CDC Announcement

New York State has been selected to participate in the CDC Swim Lesson program for ten states and NY is the only one in the Northeast.

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

Mike- I would like to make the motion The age when children can properly begin water safety and swimming instruction be one year of age which coincides with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation.

Kathryn Seconded

Discussion- Heidi, as an advocate of starting young, will there be an opportunity for dialog for swim competency starting at a younger age or is that just for swim instruction starting at the age of 1? Mike- what was written in the articles that the reference from the AAP is that there is not sufficient studies for the benefits of lessons earlier than one. And based on the language of the bill, we are best to utilize the available data. But we can include in the recommendations about water acclimation and education.

Brian- scientific basis in fact is important for why we are advocating for our decisions, but water education is important at all ages, but letter E can be an appropriate location to specify younger ages. Kathryn agrees that we do not

want to infer to parents that anything before the age of one would be inappropriate.

Called to vote- All in favor

Opposed- none

Motion Carries

Goal A-2: Standards - Marrick

Kathy Young. She is a national Board of FIDE certified teacher. She works at Newburg Free Academy. She worked with Dr. Clancy Seymour. She worked with Dr. Clancy Seymour on the New York State Physical Education Standards. The proposed learning standards that I sent to you in the meeting are the ones that had feedback from the New York State Aquatic Section, which Ray Luca is part of. That as well as the New York State Red Cross Instructor and Instructor Trainers Facebook group that has over 200 instructors throughout New York State on that group and I will share with you.

The version of the standards that that we came up with. It was important to not only recognize the age of the student but also the ability of the student. Kathy's background is working with teaching Aquatics with special needs populations, so we wanted to make sure that we address that. The New York State AHPERD group aquatic section group felt that there needed to be a standard that solely focused on water safety, and Kathy and I used Dr. Langendorfer s verbiage of Water Smart.

Kathryn: Could we request that we put that in here that our recommendation would be to have these benchmarks

Marrick: We can add that with the motion

Brian: I make the motion to accept the standards as written and to add age-appropriate benchmarks later.

Kathryn: Seconded

All in favor

None oppose
Motion Carries

Kathryn motion to add that benchmarks be added to correlate with the standards
Heidi Seconded

All in favor
Non oppose
Motion Carries

Goal B: Feasibility & Effectiveness - Brian, Heidi

Brian: We are in agreement to plan to deploy the survey but wanted to know if the State Department of Health were able to send out the survey to facilities that are regulated by the state.

Tim: I'm not 100% sure what the surveys going to say maybe we could certainly provide contact information for sending surveys out that you know typically requires a foil but we can expedite that. We typically don't send information directly to the central office, don't send information to. Pool operators themselves that's work through the local health department that has the jurisdiction.

Goal C: Partnerships - Gwen

Gwen: The intention of Point C is to 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. I'm taking this from two different directions and as Karen spoke this morning and more people speak, the ideas keep piling in. But I've got a couple of ideas that I'd like to kind of float, and we can explore the feasibility of them.

One of them is a clearinghouse page on our website for New York State that is broken up into parents and caregivers and professionals and organizations where we can put in resources, and locations that provide subsidized or free

swimming lessons. There would also be a page with additional water safety resources including the Zac Foundation Podcasts, National Drowning Prevention Program, International Drowning Prevention Alliance and additional resources that can continue to be added.

Another piece for collaboration is a Billboard that can be cobranded with different organizations to be utilized if the state has available time. This has been done in Florida and offered to Massachusetts with a unified message around water safety.

Additionally, a program that resembles the New York City Field Trip grant program provides funds for schools to be able to take the kids on very specific field trips. I'd love to make a recommendation that the state allocates funds to support facilities the recommendations to follow and the requirements to follow where a facility that is offering swim lessons either at a deeply subsidized rate or free-swimming lessons can receive some whether it is a grant back toward things or some sort of meaningful funding to help support those efforts.

Finally, after hearing Karen from the Zac Foundation, an opportunity to have representation from the different areas around the state long after the Commission is completed with our work, to share what are their successes, the obstacles, ideas, and resources to continue to expand the conversation

Mike: Would the grant suggestion be for organizations and not only facilities as his program is a rental at a facility?

Gwen: Yes, these are considerations we can add to the final recommendation. And with that comes looking at facilities that are receiving state funding and if they are being used to their capacity, and if not, what resources do they need? Training? Direction? Or other resources.

Goal D: Underserved - Mike, Kevin, Casper

The goal is to look at the underserved making sure that we are looking beyond New York City but also the more remote areas upstate. An area where additional information is needed is for folks that do not have access to what we're still giving them an opportunity to learn what safety skills that would be greatly appreciated, and I'll forward what we have so far married to you with

the little more meat and potatoes and then we can share that with the group for the next meeting.

Mike: On this topic of speaker engagement and we have Leland Brown, the third from USA Swimming. He is the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for USA Swimming. He'll, I believe, be joining us on the 16th. I've been in conversation with Diversity in Aquatics and then I also reached out to the athletic director from Buffalo State College and have not gotten a response. I attempted twice last week. OK, so question. June 16th, I believe is rich. We have two speakers on the 6th.

Goal E: Awareness - Kathryn, Heidi

Kathryn: A lot of the work happening in E right now is in terms of research of state campaigns, city and municipality campaigns that have happened nationwide, whether around joint efforts or any health and safety campaigns and what has been the greatest reach. This includes the modality of the reach, radio, social media, print, etc. to identify the best ways to reach the largest and in need populations.

Heidi: On the bill that was being worked on for the Water Safety Video to be shown to new mothers before leaving the hospital like shaken baby syndrome awareness. This is not required for home births like shaken baby but could be made available.

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

- Added
- APHERD
- Progressive Swim Instructor
- Open water versus other water environments, these still need succinct definitions
- Water Environments which come from the standards as it is used in four standards

Kathryn, if we have it written in the standards, we should make sure all terms are addressed

11:20 For the Good of the Group

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

Confirming speaker for June 2, if no speaker then report for the remaining topics.

Kathryn, we currently have only three more meeting dates set. Marrick, commission dates are looking to be extended but not confirmed, but a date for the remainder of the calendar year will be sent out.

Brendan, on May 10, the commission was extended for 18 months.

Raluca added a recommendation for a speaker from the Kansas City School system.
More information to follow

11:30 Adjourned

Upcoming Events:

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

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 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.