

NYS TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING

FRIDAY, June 28, 2024

9:30-11:30 AM

Minutes

- Reminder to start the recording of the meeting
- Call to Order
- Introductions:

COMMISSIONERS: PRESENT

- **Marrick McDonald**
- Heidi Reiss
- Kathryn Colglazier
- **Kaltlin Krause**
- **Brian Tobin**
- **Mike Switalski**
- **Casper Lassiter**

Commissioners Absent

- Gwen McNamara
- Kevin Clark
- Heidi Reiss
- Kathryn Colglazier

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- **Timothy Shay**
- **Karen Hollowood**
- **Steve Langendorfer**
- **Michael Bauer**
- **Rich Alden**
- **Timothy Shay**
- **Brendan O'Melveny**
- **Kathleen Young**
- **Gerald Bryant**
- **Annie Cooper**
- **LuAnne Bon-Isherwood**
- **Kamillah Harris**
- **Maggie Dickson**
- **Natalie Devante (sp?)**
- **Kristin Mabrouk**

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

- Guidelines: Public Participation:

- Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

Motion to accept the minutes from June 28, 2024 Mike Switalski

Seconded Brian Tobin

With no discussion, minutes were accepted

Guest Speaker: Kristin Mabrouk - Executive Director, Hope Floats

Hope Floats been able to support swim lessons in low-income communities to help facilities meet commitments to help extend the amount of support provided.

Hope Floats help create a sustainable swim scholarship solution and assists 125 swim schools in 36 states with 18 in New York and available for all 50 states. Many are small family-owned businesses.

Kristin provided an overview of how Hope Floats supports programs to help create scholarship programs. Brendan added how much esteem he has for the program and how it has made sure this effort made it that people who received support were treated the same as every other customer. The income guidelines were made to be complimentary with the other aid programs. They also addressed the demand issue by limiting three sessions to complement the state parks free swimming lesson program. This collaboration makes a meaningful difference in offering programs to those who need it most.

Brian: Can you expand on the application process to be a Hope Floats collaborator? Kristin explained consumers being able to show eligibility through tax forms, SNAP verification, and foster care verification.

Kate: As a provider, are they reimbursed at market value? Kristin, Families would pay their contributory amount, typically 10% and then the remainder of the market rate is then paid to the provider. Kate: Does the provider have to know how to raise funds or is there support? Kristin, Hope Floats assists with resources the swim school does need to do some work, but it is pretty turn-key. Kate: How labor-intensive is the process? Since Hope Floats has some technology that aids in the process. Most work is done online but occasionally there are phone call through the foundation or through the facility in order to help walk people through.

Mike: Is only one show of proof for need required? Kristin, yes, Mike- is was recommended that it was no longer recommended that eligibility for free and reduced lunch to not be accepted as some schools will list the entire school. Does Hope Floats accept free reduced lunch as a qualification.

Mike, does Hope Floats support competitive programs? Kristin, not currently but also looking at career path options and other areas including Gymnastics programs.

Casper: How do you market in identified areas? Kristin, social media is a piece, as well as the individual swim schools, put out a lot of the information to get the word out.

Steve: This is a really important topic. The Red Cross has done extensive research into barriers to swimming. Many facilities were “hiding” their programs to make sure it is reserved for those truly in need. One example found to be successful was the SNAP designation to make it easy for identify need,

Brian: Programs are attempting to give access but there is resistance for people to be identified. Is there work with any of the social services to help identify those that would benefit? Kristin, there is not currently direct access but occasionally that has been an avenue of action. But always looking for more ways to connect the resources where capacity allows.

Marrick: Those facilities that participate are for profit or organizations or education entities. These are predominantly for-profit schools as many municipal or other organizations have other forms of resources available.

Annie shared how impressed she is with their efforts.

Discussion: Where are we on each Goal?

- Goal A-1 & A-2: Age & Standards – Marrick

Review the word of water proficiency and consider adding situational awareness of water. This can address both traditional water safety and awareness but also extend to other sources of water risk, Two components: water competency plus situational awareness of water (three additional New York Water competencies of boating, flooding, and ice safety)

- Goal B: Feasibility & Effectiveness - Brian, Heidi, Kate

No additional changes but there are some components currently included that may have a more natural fit on other goals.

- Goal C: Partnerships - Gwen, Kate

No current updates.

- Goal D: Underserved/Under Resourced - Mike, Kevin, Casper

Still finalizing the adaptive component recommendations as well as expanding on the out of water safety education recommendations.

- Goal E: Awareness - Kathryn, Heidi, Kate

Discussion: Agenda for in person meeting: 8/9/2024

Define Terms: Glossary of Terms to create a common state-wide vocabulary

11:20 For the Good of the Group

Game Plan for next meeting: 8/9/2024

Original idea to have the meeting from 9-3pm

Motion to have the in-person meeting: Brian tobin

Second: Mike and Casper

Motion carries

Confirming coverage for expenses for hotel and mileage

Kate shared how she met with Senator Pfeffer-Amato regarding turning our commission recommendations into legislation recommendations for each goal to capitalize on our work. This is part of the reason our commission was extended another year.

Mike added that he spoke with Assemblywoman Wallace regarding New York Swims and the Gambling bill, NY Swims is only for municipalities and looking to expand. She is working to expand the use of the gambling funds for programming to help with the missing pieces.

Brian: recommend the commissioners share the document with their select people to get a different perspective so that we are not jaded with where we are but open for other perspectives.

Agenda for the day:

- Review and dissect all of the goals for content.
- Timeline for implementation
- Next steps for the commission/legislative process
- Future commission recommendations

11:30 Adjourned

Upcoming Events:

- 7/25/2024: World Drowning Prevention Day
- 7/29/2024: Executive Council, NYS AHPERD: Marrick
- 8/9/2024: In Person Commission Meeting in Albany - tentative
- 11/5/2024: Southeastern Zone Conference, AHPERD, White Plains HS:

Kate, Marrick

- 11/20-11/24/24: NYS AHPERD Conference @Turning Stone, Verona, NY
- 2/1-2/8/2025: 2025 NDPA/AOAP Conference, St. Pete's Beach, FL
- 2025 VT Virtual Water Safety Symposium: 3/24/2025

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/temporary-commission-prevent-childhood-drowning>

GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Kristin Mabrouk - Executive Director, Hope Floats

Kristin is a lifelong swimmer who grew up on the pool deck, became a lifeguard and swim instructor as soon as she was old enough, and went on to swim at the collegiate level (even meeting her husband at the pool!). Kristin's career background is in nonprofit community work, focusing on equity, access, prevention, and wellness. She is thrilled to be immersing herself in the swimming world with Hope Floats and is always excited to dive in to working with swim schools to help give more families across the country the gift of swimming. Kristin lives in Connecticut with her husband, two daughters, and their three-legged dog, Abe.