

NYS TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD DROWNING

FRIDAY, August 9, 2024

8:30 AM - 3 PM

Minutes

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

Marrick McDonald
Heidi Reiss
Brian Tobin
Kevin Clark
Mike Switalski
Gwen McNamara
Casper Lassiter
Kaitlin Krause

Absent
Kathryn Colglazier

Bridget Gilligan
Kamillah Harris
Michael Bauer
Maggie Dickson
Jennifer Maglienti

- 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: Kevin Clark

Seconded: Mike Switalski

With no discussion, the minutes were approved

Discussion: Where are we in the Commission Report Process?

Basic structure was reviewed

August 9, 2024 Commission Meeting

Marrick reviewed the current draft document, which is available in a shared format, so changes can happen live in the document. listing some areas that may benefit from being in another goal (listed in Blue) As we go through, there may be opportunities to align the recommendations with the goal where it is most impactful.

Listed recommendations

Legislation recommendations

Legislation 1: Water Safety Education for all Students

Legislation 2: Office of Water Safety Education

Legislation 3: Awareness Campaign Funding

Legislation 4: Funding for Programming and Materials

- Recommendations for future Commissions
- Recommendations for further research
- Recommendation for building school pools
- Recommendations on puddle jumpers
- Appendices

Parking lot ideas for items that are outside of the scope.

Discussion: Where are we on each Goal?

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

Create an additional recommendation section outside of the original identified goals to provide opportunities for future discussion

Add the recommendation to shift the mindset from Water competency to Water Proficiency.

Take into consideration the drowning risk during natural disasters. Some areas have tornado warning systems that have helped in other events. People may not be as water-competent in other situational awareness conditions such as flash flooding.

Reviewed content and had discussions on additional definitions and concepts to be added.

Characteristics of a Swim Instructor:

An additional conversation as to whether to add a section regarding qualifications for certification or training expectations. This is only required for certain areas of the Department of Health. The question was whether we needed to list different types of swim instructors where this can include certified or trained individuals to teach swimming. Acknowledging that there can be an opportunity to raise the bar for instructors to increase the quality could be beneficial. A reminder that individuals claiming to be instructors should be insured could be added as a best practice, but separating the difference between staff at a brick and mortar such as a YMCA or Community Center

August 9, 2024 Commission Meeting

or School versus independent (solo practitioners, independent professional, independent consultant) operators could be added. This should be broad enough to not restrict but specific enough to provide some guard rails. There also needs to be consideration of the impact on the state resources for enforcement.

- Certification
- Training
- Insurance
- Background checks
- Communication skills
- Safety Mind

Aquatic Instructional Settings:

- In water setting
- Near water setting
- Not near water
 - Traditional classroom
 - Pavilion
 - Multi-purpose room
 - Outside field

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

Reviewed current recommendations and contemplated some areas that could be moved to other locations or if there were duplicates of some concepts that were needed or could be discarded. Changes are identified in the shared Google Docs draft.

• Goal C: Partnerships - Gwen, Kate

Discussion paused until following meeting

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

Discussion until following meeting

• Goal E: Awareness - Kathryn, Heidi, Kate

Discussion until following meeting

Letter of support for Bill- Mike

Funding for Sports Gambling bill - being updated- request that the commission write a letter supporting that law and advocate for a percentage of those dollars being used for water safety education and subsidized swim lessons- Assemblywoman Monica Wallace- <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/A10211>

Mike will create the draft- - support with connection to commission efforts-

Another issue Mike brought up was the issue of some counties charging twice for background checks in order to volunteer. This can be a barrier in rural areas to increase volunteerism and maintain equity.

Added to the parking lot for further consideration.

Technical writing-

Gwen spoke to Eric Fluet from Get it Done Marketing (<https://www.getitdonemarketing.com>) regarding possible considerations regarding translating our efforts from multiple voices to 1 uniform voice.

- Different versions depending on receiving market (Legislation, public, etc)
- Comb and make it into one voice
- Appendix or included
- Pictures and formatting
- Which parts for which audience
- Retainer basis- 3-15k a month or
- Questions and meeting
- Project fee 10-15k for final outcome for final document

Follow up for meeting September 6, 2024

1. Mike-Mandatory background check county inconsistent charges
2. Mike-Draft for sports gambling bill allocation for water safety
3. Commission- High level goal changes
4. Heidi-Independent contractor word
5. Brian and Heidi- Page 29 Policies and politics
6. Takeaways from other state initiatives
 - a. Casper and Gwen-NYSWIMS
 - b. Brian and Heidi- Every Child a Swimmer
 - c. Casper and Gwen-Georgia
 - d. Gwen-Rhode Island
 - e. Etc

With no additional discussion, meeting is adjourned.