

**New York State Department of Health
State Camp Safety Advisory Council Meeting**

**One University Place
Edward S. and Frances Gilda George Education Center, Room 110A
Rensselaer, New York 12144**

**AGENDA
October 1, 2024
10:30 A.M.**

1. Roll Call/Quorum Determination
2. Welcome/Council Administrative Business
 - Council Membership Update
 - Chair/Vice-Chair Elections
 - Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
3. Overview of 2024 Season
4. Climate Change Impacts
5. Update on Proposed Amendments to Subpart 7-2
6. Other Business
7. Public Comments
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjourn

Information about the State Camp Safety Advisory Council and any available materials for the meeting will be posted at: www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/scsac.htm.

State Camp Safety Advisory Council (SCSAC)

October 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members

Present: Dawn Ewing; Eric Bacon; Randy DeFrank; Jamie Sirkin; and Michael Clarke

Members

Absent: Thomas Welch, M.D.

Department
of Health
Staff

Present: Dan Lang, New York State Department of Health (DOH)
Christine Westerman, DOH
Darby Greco, DOH
Eric Wiegert, DOH
Patricia Ruppert, DOH
Jason Riegert, DOH
Kathleen Bush, DOH
James Maurer, DOH
Amanda Tarrier, DOH
Todd Crawford, DOH
Lauren Stairs, DOH
Keith Graham, DOH
Elizabeth Brower, DOH
Wendy Stollo, DOH

Ms. Ewing called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. at the University at Albany School of Public Health, Rensselaer, New York. A quorum was present with five members in attendance. The Council members thanked Timothy Shay, recently retired from the Department of Health, for his work with the Council.

Council Administrative Business

Mr. Maurer informed the Council that with Mr. Shay's retirement the Department will be taking a team approach with the oversight of the Council. Mr. Maurer will be serving as the Secretary for the Council until Mr. Shay is replaced or other staff are identified to take over. In this role he will facilitate the Council meetings and serve as the point of contact for Council members. Kathleen (Katie) Bush, Director of Strategic Operations in the Department's Center for Environmental Health, will assist with Council membership. Amanda Tarrier, Chief of the Recreational Environmental Health Section, which includes the Children's Camps program, will be providing programmatic support.

Mr. Maurer introduced new Council member Michael Clarke, who is one of three Council members representing Not for Profit Camps. Mr. Clarke introduced himself and discussed his

work with the Fresh Air Fund and his children's camps experience. Each Council member then introduced themselves and gave a short description of their affiliation and role.

Mr. Maurer provided an update on Council membership and recruitment. He said that the Department values, and is committed to, diversity, equity, and inclusion, including on its Boards and Councils, and asked anyone interested in serving on the Council to sign the interested parties list and contact the Recreational Environmental Health Section.

Mr. Maurer stated that the current two-year terms for Council chairperson and vice chairperson conclude with this meeting, and it was time to elect members to fill these positions for the next term, effective next meeting. The Council nominated Ms. Ewing to continue serving as chairperson and Mr. Bacon to continue serving as vice-chairperson. Both accepted their nominations, and the Council unanimously voted to reelect them. Mr. Maurer discussed reviewing the bylaws at the next Council meeting, including considering extending the term length for chairperson and vice chairperson and limiting the number of terms a member could serve in these positions.

The meeting minutes from February 6, 2024, were unanimously approved by the Council.

Overview of 2024 Season

Ms. Tarrier gave an overview of the 2024 children's camps season. The numbers of permitted camps statewide were consistent with past seasons. A preliminary review of the incident data shows that the 2024 season is largely consistent with previous years. She reported that there were no fatalities or fires. COVID-19, pediculosis, and coxsackievirus were the most reported causes of illness outbreaks. COVID-19, strep throat, and coxsackievirus were the most reported individual illnesses. Ms. Tarrier emphasized that the data is still being analyzed and that a more comprehensive report will be presented to the Council at the February 2025 meeting.

Ms. Tarrier described a notable event in 2024 that resulted from severe storms and flash flooding. Two camps were stranded by road washouts and power outages. The camps were fortunate as power was restored within a day and the road repair was prioritized by local officials, so evacuation was not necessary. Extreme weather events are expected to increase in frequency due to climate change. The 2024 season also saw concerns with extreme heat, and in 2023 there were concerns about air quality due to wildfires in Canada. Given increased concerns about the impacts on climate change on camps, the Department wanted to provide the Council with an overview of potential impacts and existing resources and health guidance available for operators.

Climate Change Impacts

Mr. Maurer introduced Todd Crawford from the Department's Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment. Mr. Crawford gave a presentation on "Climate Change and Extreme Weather Impact on Camps." He provided a brief overview of the fundamentals of how climate change impacts weather in New York State. He showed temperature increase history and projections from 1990 to 2080 and noted that the number of days of with a temperature of 90 degrees or higher has increased from an average of 10 days per summer to 30. He discussed the types of extreme weather events that are expected to increase. Mr. Crawford explained the heat index and the difference between a heat advisory, excessive heat watch, and excessive heat warnings. He discussed the need to plan for who at the camp will monitor the weather and determine any change in activities that may be necessary in response to extreme heat.

Mr. Crawford discussed ways to provide relief from extreme heat, wildfire smoke, extreme wind, tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding. He gave an overview of the components of general preparedness and planning and discussed emergency response and knowing who to call for assistance. He described the differences between a watch, warning, outlook, and advisory. Mr. Crawford concluded with an overview of environmental health concerns after a severe weather event, including air quality, mold, carbon monoxide, drinking water quality, and personal injuries, and noted resources available to camp operators on these topics.

The Council thanked Mr. Crawford for his presentation and said that it was pertinent, helpful, and provided a lot of useful information that camp operators could consider.

Ms. Tarrier then provided an overview of the climate and weather resources available on the Department of Health's website, as well as the children's camps and Council webpages. A handout was provided with QR codes that link to resources for camp operators on the Department's website.

Update on Proposed Amendments to Subpart 7-2

Ms. Tarrier reviewed the proposed amendments to Subpart 7-2 and noted that the only change from those discussed at the February meeting is the inclusion of amendments in response to legislation requiring camps to provide or describe reasonable access to an automated external defibrillator (AED), which became effective in May 2024. Proposed amendments to Subpart 7-2 that are also in response to legislation include those pertaining to pesticide application, the National Sex Offender Registry, and minimum lifeguard age. There will also be administrative amendments that will make Subpart 7-2 consistent with other regulations.

Other Business

Ms. Sirkin asked about medication administration by non-medical professionals. Mr. Maurer stated no changes have been made since the topic was last discussed with the Council. Ms. Westerman mentioned that licensed day care facilities have a mechanism to allow trained non-clinical staff to give prescribed medication. Ms. Tarrier added that State Education Law was amended to specifically allow this to occur, and a similar amendment would be needed before a mechanism like this for children's camps could be considered. Mr. Maurer stated the Department has the Council's past recommendations regarding medication administration and there was no further assistance needed regarding the issue at this time.

Public Comments

Amanda Serafini from the Rensselaer County Department of Health asked for clarification about the medication administration issue, as she was aware that trained individuals who are not medical professionals still had to be overseen by a medical professional. Ms. Westerman responded that she did not think there was any intent to change the required qualifications for health directors.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 A.M.