

Youth Camp Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2019 | 10:00 am

Department of State Health Services

Exchange Building | 8407 Wall St. Austin, TX 78754 | Room S. 125

Attendees:

- Jason Guzman (DSHS)
- Jeff Mantia (DSHS)
- Simone Salloum (DSHS/HHSC)
- Thalia Gonzaga (DSHS)
- Tim Huchton (ACA)
- Courtney Williamson (TX Derma Society)
- Victoria Price (Cmte. Member)
- Dan Neal (CRMP)
- Bob Miller (Cmte. Member)
- Danny Dawdy (Committee Chair)
- Shannon Brown (DSHS)
- Brandon Briery (Cmte. Member)
- Rick Denison (BSA)
- Andrew Burchfield (Cmte. Member)
- Joe Contreras (DSHS)
- Allen Smith (Cmte. Member)
- Patricia Osborn (Cmte. Member)
- Xavier Garcia (Burchfield Ministries)

Minutes:

- 1.) Mr. Danny Dawdy - Welcome and call to order.
 - Start time - 10:00 am
 - Mr. Danny Dawdy motions to move item #5 to right after #1 (passed)
 - Patricia Osborn committee member and Courtney Hoffman (lobbyist) participating by conference call on the phone.
- 5.) Mr. Jeff Mantia - New committee member status or introductions.
 - New Members
 - Victoria Price
 - Brandon Briery
 - Working on getting another candidate(s) to fill two committee member vacancies.
- 2.) Mr. Jeff Mantia - Review and approval of the meeting minutes from the last meeting of the Youth Camp Advisory Committee (March 21, 2019).
 - Motion to approve last meeting minutes passes
- 3.) Mr. Jeff Mantia - Review and discussion of licensing changes, and trends in violations noted during 2019 inspections
 - No common violations that were seen in the last season as most camps are compliant
 - Slight trend in rental youth camps operation: lack of sexual molestation awareness trainings and background checks for 3rd party adult staff.
 - Lots of questions received in Spring 2018 concerning licensing requirements, in particular youth camp specialized activities.

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4.) Mr. Jeff Mantia, Ms. Simone Salloum, and Ms. Shannon Brown - Discussion of proposed rule process and revisions to Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 265, Subchapter B (relating to Texas Youth Camps Safety and Health).

- The proposed amendments to §265.11 (6), (19), (25), (26) and §265.15(h) are minor revisions to clarify definitions of a supervisor/ counselor, day camps, youth camps, minimum frequency of youth camp specialized activities, and medical log.
 - §265.11(6) – change from “more than 4 hours” to run for 4 hours
 - (19) – removed the term “leader” to an adult that is 18 years or older
 - Campers that are 18 years or older do not need background checks so long as they are not working or assuming a supervisory role
 - Proposing that 18 years or older campers should get background checks or exclude them from youth camps to grey areas
 - (25) – youth camps now need two specialized activities in the span of each session
 - (26) – specialized activities are amended to stat these activities need adult supervision at all times
 - §265.15(h) – “bound” is removed; it is not literal and digital logs are acceptable
- The proposed amendments to §265.12(f) clarify the requirement of annual criminal background checks for all adults who have unsupervised contact with campers
 - All adults who have unsupervised contact with campers need background checks
 - Ms. Patricia Osborn – what about 18 year-old campers who have records? The rule is not written to include campers.
- The proposed amendments to §265.12(g) & (h)(1)(A) remove preclusion of persons with certain criminal history to allow for the employment of persons with certain Class C assault misdemeanors
 - If a camp wants to hire those with Class C misdemeanors, they now can, but camps can still deny this
- The proposed amendments to §265.12(i) clarify that anyone who will have unsupervised contact with campers must complete a sexual abuse and child molestation awareness training and examination program
- The proposed amendment creates an additional record retention period under §265.12(k), for documents related to a sexual abuse investigation and /or conviction, of youth camp staff
 - Youth Camps need to report sexual abuse allegations to DSHS even after law enforcement has been made aware
 - Only allegations of abuse that happen on the camp grounds during operational periods
- The proposed amendment to §265.15 (d)(3) creates a requirement that camps develop and maintain a written policy regarding the method for reporting to the department suspected abuse or neglect of a minor occurring at the camp

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- The proposed amendment to §265.15 (d)(4) creates a procedure by which DSHS will forward a report of alleged abuse of a camper to the Department of Family Protective Services or other appropriate agency
- The proposed amendments to §265.23(a)(3)(B) & §265.24(c)(3)(B) were necessary due the definition changes made in §265.11

6.) Bob Miller - What can committee members do, as individuals or representatives of stakeholders to help DSHS in its mission; to include a discussion of the flow of information, discussion, and feedback

- Committee proposes holding another meeting before rules get published in order to discuss the publication
- Ms. Shannon Brown and Ms. Simone Salloum discuss the valid methods of discussion in accordance with the Open Meetings Act

7.) Courtney Williamson - Texas Dermatological Society rule change recommendations for use of sunscreen by participants at licensed youth camps

- Ms. Courtney Williamson representing for Eric Woomar
- Proposing to add rule to allow campers to bring sunscreen that is FDA approved in youth camps
 - There is no current prohibition of bringing sunscreen
- Ms. Patricia Osborn motions to amend the sitting proposal to add a statement in the rule stating that sunscreen is not a prescription medication
- Motion to further discuss this topic at the next meeting passes

8.) Public Comment

- Mr. Tim Huchton – specialized activities (formerly “hazardous activities”) requirement change has camps worried that they will no longer qualify
 - This discussion is reserved for the next meeting since it is not on the original agenda
- Mr. Tim Huchton – camper to camper abuse is becoming a trend and might need to be addressed
- Mr. Denison (BSA)– girls are now allowed in boy scouts camp and co-ed camps are allowed, so dress codes and gender identity discussions need to be addressed
- Dan Neal – recommends adding camper to camper abuse to next agenda and proposing that a subject matter expert is brought into the discussion

9.) Set next meeting date

- March 25, 2020 at DSHS Exchange Building at 10:00 am

10.) Meeting adjourn at 11:51 am