

**Youth Concussion Advisory Group Mtg.**

**Meeting 3:** Thursday, October 09, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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**Facilitator:** John Frassinelli

**Location:** CSDE Middletown

**Call to order:** 10:10 a.m.

**Conference Room:** MCR 2

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**Members Present:** Dr. Chinedu Okeke (DPH); Dr. Karissa Niehoff (CIAC); Dr. Theresa Miyashita (CATA); Dr. Carl Nissen (CSMS); Nancy Pugliese (CSDE); John Frassinelli (CSDE); Stephanie Knutson (CSDE)

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**Attendees:** Jillian Wood (CT AAP); Deb Shulansky (BIAC); Diana Coyne (PCC); Pippa Bell Ader (PCC); Thomas Boudreau (CSDE); Martha Deeds (CSDE); Ed Kravitz (ICEUs); Fred Balsamo (CAAD)

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***Call to Order***

John Frassinelli called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

***Review Agenda/Introduction***

Mr. Frassinelli reviewed the agenda and explained that going forward each meeting will precede with a period of public comment. Any member of the public who wishes to speak would be provided three minutes to speak at the beginning of the meeting. In reviewing the agenda, Mr. Frassinelli asked to remove agenda item number seven, "Informed Consent" and add "Concussion Education Plan" in its place.

Mr. Frassinelli explained that the members of the advisory group were identified in legislation through PA 14-66: *An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions*. The process going forward is that the advisory group will develop the materials and documents required under the PA 14-66 and then present those to the State Board of Education (SBE). All of the deliverables are required to be approved by the State Board of Education. That includes the initial course, the annual review materials, the refresher course, the concussion education plan and informed consent. The responsibility of the advisory group in this capacity is to meet the requirements indicated in PA 14-66, and present them to the SBE. The SBE is the entity identified in PA 14-66 that has authority to approve the materials developed.

Mr. Frassinelli noted that there had been prior discussion about expanding the scope of work to address education for other groups but that the advisory group directive is to focus on the coaches training materials. PA 14-66 also identified a task force to look at concussion in youth athletics, however, this advisory group is focused on interscholastic and intramural sports. Many of those present will be part of that task force to discuss these matters.

***Public Comment Period***

Diana Coyne from the Parents Concussion Coalition shared her concerns about the process used by the Youth Concussion Advisory Committee to review and develop concussion education materials. She also shared concerns that existing modules contained information that was not current. She recommended that the CSDE engage in a public comment rulemaking process; that the members of the committee and the public have the opportunity to review all coaching modules; and that the work of the committee be provided prior to the meetings. (*handouts*)

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Pippa Bell Ader from the Parents Concussion Coalition expressed concerns about the existing educational materials and referred to documents she previously provided. She also discussed the concussion reporting requirement, making recommendations for collecting specific data in addition to the forms currently in use. She recommended that the committee be open to looking at other best practice models with regard to training courses and materials.

*(handouts)*

Deb Shulansky, JD, CBIS, Director of Community Outreach and Support, Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC) expressed concerns about the public's misconceptions about concussions and concussion management. She expressed concerns that the existing training modules and materials currently in use may not reflect current information about brain injuries. She urged the committee to consult with experts in the field of concussions, both now and in periodic reviews, to shape the materials to be developed to PA 14-66. *(handouts)*

Ed Kravitz from Innovative CEUs, LLC shared information regarding an alternative concussion on-line training program developed by Innovative CEUs, LLC for the committee to consider and recommended more than one concussion course be available for coaches.

*(handouts)*

Fred Balsamo (Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) expressed concerns regarding the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on-line concussion course. He expressed concerns regarding changing the existing Connecticut course. He indicated that the current course has been delivered in person by athletic trainers to the majority of those (14,000 of 17,000) who have taken the course.

### ***Creation of Concussion Web Page***

Not discussed

### ***Reporting Incidences of Concussion***

Dr. Nissen and Dr. Miyashita, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Reporting Injuries On-Line (RIO) injury reporting system. In Connecticut 28 schools are using this program to report on all concussion incidences within the schools and it is in use in 15 states. There was discussion among the committee members regarding the storage and safeguarding of the data collected, stipends paid to staff who collect and enter the data, and the reports generated from the data entered.

### ***Training Courses and Materials***

The committee discussed the progress in developing/updating the initial coaches' concussion course and annual review materials. The committee discussed the advantages of having multiple delivery methods including online/video modules (similar to the CDC on-line course) combined with hard copy materials (similar to the existing course). There was discussion about including Connecticut specific information (relevant laws and requirements) in the on-line/video module. The hard copy review materials would continue to allow the face to face time between coaches and their athletic directors to ensure understanding and opportunities for questions and clarification.

Dr. Nissen and Dr. Miyashita agreed to work together on the modifications to the initial course to be shared in advance of the next meeting to receive comments and feedback. It was

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agreed upon that the draft initial course would be shared widely to ensure feedback from stakeholders as well as advisory group members.

The committee discussed the course materials originally developed by the CIAC that currently serve as the Connecticut State Department of Education course required to be eligible to receive a coaching permit in Connecticut. It was further discussed that the course was approved by the State Board of Education in 2010 when it was originally developed.

Diana Coyne requested that the members of the public could have an additional opportunity either after each agenda item or at the end of the meeting to provide comment on the committee's discussion.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Middletown Office of the State Department of Education in Conference Room MCR2.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT