

Youth Concussion Advisory Group

Meeting 1: Monday, September 8, 2014

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Advisory Group:

Dr. Chinedu.Okeke (DPH), Dr. Karissa Niehoff, (CIAC),

Dr. Theresa Miyashita (CATA), Nancy Pugliese (CSDE), John Frassinelli (CSDE), Stephanie

Knutson (CSDE), Dr. Jean Mee (CSDE)

Also in attendance: Thomas Boudreau (CSDE), Diana Coyne (Parents Concussion Coalition), Jillian Wood (CT AAP); Dr. Karen Laugel (CT AAP)

Outline of discussion:

Return to Learn / Return to Play

Timeframe between steps for return to play (TM)

Standard practice is a minimum of 24 hours after symptoms or incident occurs (KN)

5-step protocol – return to play [Module 51, slides 18 & 19]

Timeframe for return to play should be reiterated on consent form (SK)

All athletic trainers work under the auspices of a team/school physician (TM)

Nearly all high school athletic programs have an athletic trainer (KN)

What about those with no athletic trainer? (All)

Discussion: authority of athletic trainers to diagnose concussion

“Return to Learn” to be addressed in Concussion Education Plan (JF)

Dr. Okeke asked to look into DPH policies/codes re: role of athletic trainers in diagnostic process (SK)

“Full Return to Learn” and “Return to Play” clarification needed – what exactly does each mean; define in training materials and Plan

Training courses

Advisory Group’s primary task is to address the requirements of PA 14-66 within the specified timeframe. Additional work will be identified, planned and addressed after the legislative mandates are met. (JM)

Process for qualifying for coaching permit (since 2010) explained (NP)

Reporting occurrences of concussion

PA 14-66 (Section 3(a) requires reporting of all occurrences of concussions to the SBOE (effective July 1, 2014) and sending of a report annually to DPH (effective July 1, 2015).

RIO (Reporting Injury Online) data routed to national clearinghouse (Dawn Comstock) nationally funded pilot study shows promise (KN)

CIAC recently developed a concussion reporting form (KN)

Proposed that an existing reporting vehicle be used for collecting and reporting: School Health Survey, completed annually by school nurses. There is a need to generate appropriate questions re: concussions (SK)

Colorado cited as having a good process; TM to send data collection form to JM for disseminating to Group

Comments from Observers and Invited Guests

Return to Learn/Play: Standard practice is a minimum of 24 hours after symptoms or incident occurs and best practice is 24 hour minimum between advancements (KL-AAP)

Training Courses: Include all kids in all situations, not exclusively high school sports (KL-AAP)

The initial and review courses should specify that the child must return to academics before returning to play (KL-AAP)

AAP will make recommendations regarding the data collections piece, including possible funding for the survey (KL, JW-AAP)

Diana Coyne commented on the intent of the law: high school athletics and coaches

If you believe any salient point is missing from the outline, please bring it to my attention.

Next scheduled meeting: Monday, September 22, 2014 -- 10 AM to 12 PM

[from e-mail message to Advisory Group]

The timeline for meeting the legislative mandates is rigorous, and there was consensus that the group's priority is addressing the mandatory items included in PA 14-66. As discussed at the conclusion of the first meeting, your attention to several "assignments" is requested prior to and in anticipation of the next meeting.

1) **Prior to the Sept. 22 meeting** of the Advisory Group, **read review course information**. This was provided to attendees by Dr. Niehoff in the form of a one-page document entitled:

Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review 2015-16 Required for ALL School Coaches in Connecticut
--

Please **send any comments** related to this document to me in an e-mail.

2) A sample template **Concussion Education Plan** for Parents and Student-Athletes was included in the materials distributed, and can also be accessed on the CASCIAC.ORG website at this direct link:

<http://concussioncentral.ciacsports.com/theplan.html>

Please **bring comments** regarding the Plan **to the Sept. 22 meeting** for discussion.

3) Included on the **meeting agenda will be discussion** regarding the **informed consent forms**, examples of which were also provided by Dr. Niehoff. Advisory Group members should **bring comments** about the informed consent forms to the meeting. Others are welcome to provide feedback prior to the meeting.

4) The last item introduced at the meeting is the **concussion reporting** requirement. Stephanie Knutson will revisit this topic for **further discussion** at the meeting. Dr. Niehoff sent the concussion reporting form referenced in discussion (attached to e-mail).