

Youth Concussion Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting 4 December 11, 2014
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. Jean Mee
Location: CSDE Middletown

Call to order: 10:03 a.m.
Conference Room: MCR-5

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

Attendees: Pippa Bell Ader (PCC); Ed Kravitz (ATC); Deb Shulansky (BIA); Ann Sherwood (PCC)

Call to Order

Dr. Jean Mee called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Review Agenda/Introduction

Dr. Mee advised if any member of the public wishes to speak that they would be allowed three minutes to speak at the beginning of the meeting and then it will be turned over to the advisory group. Comments from attendees are invited at the end of the meeting for two minutes per speaker.

Items to be discussed by the advisory group are:

- training courses;
- refresher courses; and
- next steps.

Public Comment Period

Pippa Bell Ader (Parents Concussion Coalition (PCC) spoke regarding the following (notes provided for the record):

- initial coach concussion education;
- annual review of current and relevant concussion information;
- 5 year refresher course;
- informed consent;
- athlete and parent education;
- DPH/SDE concussion data collection and methods;
- guidelines from SDE to local schools on how to implement items in question; and
- asked if there be a protocol to update the information and informing coaches of requirements for maintaining their certification.

Ann Sherwood (PCC) (continued with questions from PCC notes)

- explored registering for initial CIAC (45 clock hour) coaches' certification course and found that the cost is \$375, done via credit card online; and

- asked if one would need to retake a course to get back into coaching; if all coaches must complete the 5 year refresher course; whether those who have permanent coaching permits need to complete the 5 year refresher course to be reinstated if they haven't been coaching recently.

Ed Kravitz, ATC (Innovative CEUs, LLC):

- suggested that a neurologist should have been on the advisory group, and that a neurologist should be teaching the (concussion) course; and
- stated there is not yet an assessment piece with this (concussion) course.

Concussion Education Plan Update

John Frassinelli (CSDE) spoke on behalf of Stephanie Knutson (CSDE); SDE is working on the draft form for the concussion plan, next it will go to the State Board of Education for review and approval and then it will be shared with advisory group members and interested stakeholders for comments and feedback.

Dr. Mee will send the draft plan as soon as it is completed to all present and to anyone else who would like to comment. It is anticipated that the turnaround time for comment will be short due to the aggressive timeframe for meeting the legislative mandate.

Coaches' Concussion Education Course Feedback

As soon as they are received from the advisory group, Dr. Mee will send the initial concussion education course and the review materials to all present and to anyone else who would like to comment. It is anticipated that the turnaround time for comment will be short due to the aggressive timeframe for meeting the legislative mandate. Instructions for comment will be included in the e-mail message to which the course and materials are attached.

Advisory Group Discussion

Training Courses and Materials

Dr. Niehoff – materials are free, not sure why this continues to be a concern; the first 5 year renewal is in January 2015. The refresher is mainly about concussion, and understanding/recognizing signs/symptoms; the content for both of those will be in the refresher. The assessment includes about 40 questions.

Dr. Nissen – all previously submitted corrections and substantive content have been incorporated into the initial concussion course; following the last meeting Dr. Karen Laugel sent resources, including models being implemented in other states (e.g. Colorado); reminded the group that the course is intended to be an initial training course for coaches, and focuses on basic concussion knowledge.

A list of thoughts and corrections was discussed (e.g. education methods, coaching education course).

The group discussed concerns in regards to having either the national or state organizations' definitions quoted on slide/note section.

Dr. Okeke – clarified that all corrections would be included in the most recent revision; revisited the previous discussion regarding various definitions of concussion. The group concurred that

the definitions would be included along with their sources and discussed how to most effectively convey that there are varying definitions.

Dr. Miyashita – Best practices: Indicated that the content on the slides should be the most important points to assist in clarity but not to include excess wording. The purpose of the course is not to make coaches concussion experts, but rather to understand and recognize signs/symptoms that indicate that athletes must be removed from play when suspected of having a concussion. The notes sections for each of the slides doesn't have to be a specific script, but should include the essential content to be taught.

Nancy Pugliese – reminded that the group agreed to include the notes sections at the last meeting; that essential content should be on the slides; that it is easier to read, and people need to understand what a concussion is.

Dr. Mee – requested that Dr. Nissen send the final version of the course to her, that she will send the initial course to all present and to anyone else who would like to comment; it is anticipated that the turnaround time for comment will be short due to the aggressive timeframe for meeting the legislative mandate; instructions for comment will be included in the e-mail message to which the course and materials are attached.

Dr. Nissen requested clarification be reviewed:

1. The four groups required to provide training and/or be in attendance for training of coaches (at least one of the following, in addition to a qualified instructor -- athletic directors, athletic trainers, APRNs, medical doctors)
2. Which of the four must instruct the course, per 2010 legislation (athletic directors, athletic trainers, APRNs, medical doctors)

Dr. Miyashita – suggested that a webinar be developed and made accessible for parents and anyone else who is interested.

John Frassinelli – a webinar would be a good educational resource; would need to ensure that it would not be an acceptable alternative to meet the coaching certification requirement, however.

Dr. Mee – first priority would be to meet the requirements of the public act PA 14-66 which requires inclusion of a summary of the concussion education plan, receive and be informed of the summary plan (i.e. on parent night conducted by many school athletic programs); on-going efforts will make this information more available.

Dr. Niehoff– recalled a parent night at one of the schools in Middletown which included the summary of an education plan.

Refresher Course

The group discussed the existing video version of the course, which is three hours long; discussed whether it can be condensed as the basis for the refresher course.

Dr. Nissen – The video won't include the spinal injuries component so the resulting video will be 1½ hours long.

Dr. Mee – asked for clarification re: how the refresher and review course are to be updated.

Dr. Okeke – expressed disagreement with removing any content; all content in existing course is useful; suggested condensing while retaining all content.

Annual Review Materials

The group discussed the difference between the five year refresher course and the annual review. Dr. Niehoff clarified that the annual review isn't tracked, eligibility rosters must be submitted by athletic directors in order to apply for the five year refresher course. Athletic trainers can train coaches for the refresher course.

The question arose whether the initial course and the five year refresher course should be the same.

After some discussion, there was agreement that they should be the same for consistency and clarity in course content, updating of information and updates.

Dr. Miyashita has agreed to conduct annual updates of information.

Dr. Okeke stated that statutory requirements can be reviewed quickly, an annual review can be updated to emphasize essential content.

Fact Sheets

Nancy Pugliese – suggested that fact sheets and summary cards could be developed and printed for distribution with coaching permit mailings from CSDE; funding will need to be secured to cover the costs associated with this.

Dr. Niehoff – raised the point that there is a great deal of information available for free; stressed the point that quality control of content that is consistent with the materials associated with the approved courses is essential (i.e. definitions and protocols).

John Frassinelli – indicated that it may not be as easy to slice material out and that additional revisions may be needed.

Next Steps

Send out coaches' education course next week, as soon as it is received; finalize plan.

For refresher course, design an assessment component.

January 7, 2015, State Board of Education meeting status of advisory group's work to meet requirements of PA 14-66: An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions.

Dr. Niehoff stated that the next concussion education course is scheduled for January 7, 2015, CAS (Cheshire, CT), CAS; contact her to attend the course.

John Frassinelli -- uncertain whether another meeting will need to be scheduled; outcome of review of materials will determine.

Meeting adjourned 11:25 a.m.