

CREATING A WATER SAFETY PLAN FOR THE U.S. IS A BIG TASK. WE ARE READY FOR THE CHALLENGE.

Thanks to the many hours of time and dedication of all involved, work on the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan (USNWSAP) continues. In this newsletter we'll provide you with a progress update and a more detailed explanation of the process we are following to ensure that all of your voices are heard and that the process is transparent.

Water safety will only become part of the American culture if you help share information. We encourage you to click here to download a .pdf of this newsletter and share it on social media and on your email distribution lists.

Working Group Updates

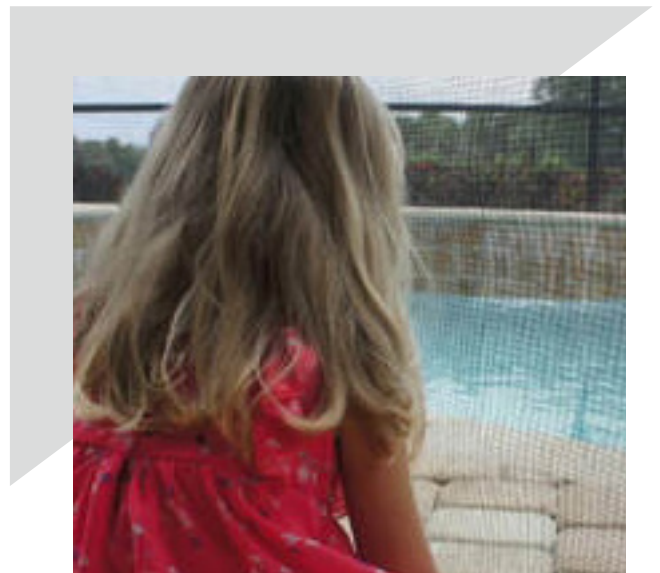
Our incredible Working Groups have dedicated hours and months to this process and are preparing to wrap up their contribution at the end of this year. Our unbounded gratitude for the expertise and passion they have brought to the process. Learn more about our dedicated and hardworking Working Group members here. <https://www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap.html>

Working Groups have completed drafted their recommendations, based on months of research and evaluation. The recommendations are identified as Action and/or Gap. Action recommendations are specific actions, supported by evidence and research, which can be implemented immediately. Action recommendations will provide a clear template for national, state, and community levels to begin creating a culture of water safety for the United States. Gap recommendations identify where additional research or evaluation is need to move the Gap to an Action.

The draft recommendations are being reviewed by the Steering Committee, using a standardized evaluation template for consistency. The role of the Steering Committee is not to change or inform Working Group recommendations, but to

move towards consistency in the final Recommendation, begin to identify overlap between recommendations, and to ensure that the final recommendations are complete, backed by evidence, and can be reasonably implemented. As part of the process we are also identifying key words for indexing in a searchable database and for a future glossary of terminology. Our work is all focused on making the USNWSAP a working document that helps you to implement Recommendations in your community and state, while providing the backup documentation needed to lobby for change.

In October, the Working Groups will complete their Models and National Implications - a summary of the recommendations they have developed. From October through December, the work will be reviewed, formatted and moved towards consistent language and format by the Steering Committee, External Reviewers, and the Working Group Chairs.





Once this process is complete, we will begin a Delphi Procedure as a validation and feedback process. And this is where....

Your Participation is Needed!

The USNWSAP Steering Committee is pleased to announce an upcoming opportunity for individuals in drowning prevention, water safety, aquatics, public health, and other related fields to provide input on the USNWSAP's development. Our 6 Working Groups have been busy over the past year conducting an environmental scan to understand the current status of their topic area, writing recommendations based on the environmental scan, and developing models that reflect a water safety community, county, and state. We are asking for your input on the results of our Working Group's process. The results of each of the groups work will be available in the form of 6 different surveys that represent our 6 groups. Each survey will be open for one month for interested parties to complete and provide their feedback as in the form of ratings and providing open ended feedback. After the first round of surveying, the results will be shared with participants

in aggregate form. The surveys will open for a second time for participants to resubmit their ratings and provide any final feedback. This process is a research procedure known as the "Delphi Method". The results of this open surveying process will help the Steering Committee, Working Group Chairs, and our Blue-Ribbon Panel make final decisions about the USNWSAP.

A special email blast will be sent to everyone who has signed up for the newsletter inviting them to participate in the Delphi process, directing you to sign up on the website. We hope you will all participate, and will encourage others in the water safety field to sign up for the newsletter or go directly to the website when the surveys are open. We are fully committed to hearing all voices in the field and incorporating your ideas and concerns. For this to be a plan for the entire U.S., we need to hear from as many of you as possible.

This process will be occurring January 2022-March 2022, so please block out some time on your calendar to make your voice heard.

Our New Addition!

We are thrilled to welcome Greg Field to the team! Greg will be assisting in Project Management for development of the USNWSAP, starting on October 11. Greg is a Doctoral Candidate at Michigan State University (MSU) with a research concentration in water safety education, drowning prevention, positive youth development and youth sports. Greg is part of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sport and former Erickson Fellow. He also received his bachelors in kinesiology from Hope College, and a masters in exercise physiology from MSU. Prior to his career at MSU, Greg taught and coached for ten years, was a firefighter, medical first responder, and certified surf rescue guard. Greg is currently the President and Co-founder of The ARC Project Inc., a faith-based surf and water safety intervention for at-risk youth in both Michigan and Florida. He is married to his wife Debbie, and is the proud father of four wonderful children, who all love spending time in and around the water just like their Dad.



We Need YOU!

Your involvement makes a difference in creating a culture of water safety in the U.S. Please download and share this newsletter by clicking here for the .pdf. We also hope you'll visit our website at www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap, like our page and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/USWaterSafetyPlan> and follow us on Twitter at @USWaterSafetyP1.

YOUR HELP IS CRITICAL

We believe that capturing the knowledge and experience of water safety professionals across the United States is essential in creating a water safety plan which is comprehensive, realistic, and executable. You can help by putting your name forward as a key informant or reviewer. Thanks to all of you who have already contacted us, if we have not been in touch yet, we will be reaching out to you shortly. You can help promote the development process to ensure we reach and include the input of water safety professionals at all levels across the country. We are also still looking for funders to help underwrite the administrative costs related to developing the plan.

We invite you to visit the website at www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap for more information and to indicate your interest in sharing your expertise.