Developing a National Water Safety Action Plan for the U.S.

Learning Objectives
In this lesson, participants will learn:
1. What a National Water Safety Plan is
2. How a National Water Safety Plan helps a country
3. What can be learned from countries that has a plan already in place
4. What the plan looks like in the U.S.
5. How they can get involved in the development process

Statement of Purpose
In 2018, Water Safety USA, a roundtable of longstanding national nonprofit and governmental organizations with a strong record of providing drowning prevention and water safety programs in the U.S., undertook a process to develop a National Water Safety Action Plan. This presentation will share the rationale behind the approach taken for the U.S. plan and provide an update of the work to date.

Methods
Our approach for the development of the plan is a three staged approach:
1. Establishing the scope and selecting a framework that supports development and implementation
2. Establishing multi-sectoral working groups to develop goals, objectives and actions
3. Convene a high-level expert panel to finalize the plan

Results
Our project is currently underway. The development of the plan involves three stages: establishing the scope for the action plan and selecting a framework that supports development and implementation; establishing working groups to develop goals, objectives and actions; and convening a high-level expert panel to finalize the plan. These stages are supported by a communications/dissemination plan to ensure the development process, the multiple opportunities for input and the resulting action plan are widely disseminated to stakeholders across the U.S.
The first stage, now complete, involved a review of existing national action plans to inform the establishment of the scope and selection of a framework. A decision was made to develop a 10-year plan that focuses on five evidence-based strategies: life jackets/PFDs, swimming lessons/water competency, supervision/lifeguards, rescue/CPR and pool fencing, plus the necessary infrastructure and capacity building, etc. to support their implementation. Given the size of the U.S. and the multiple jurisdictions involved in water safety across the country, the framework selected involves establishing what a “model” Water Safety State, Water Safety County and Water Safety City/Community should consist of, including the provision of guidance in terms of standards, guidelines and model policies. It also involves setting out national level action to support efforts at the other levels, including establishing a monitoring plan to assess progress towards achievement of the model in the form of a report card type assessment every five years.
The second stage is now underway.
Conclusions
The development of a National Water Safety Plan will help advance the field of injury and violence prevention by:
- Raising awareness of safety around water
- Building consensus around solutions
- Will result in a coherent effective response involving relevant partners
- Providing strategic direction and a framework to align and guide multisectoral efforts
- Setting priorities, coordinates action
- Providing impetus to monitor action, including obtaining better data and reporting on drowning and prevention

Lindsay Mondick
YMCA of the USA
South Saint Paul MN
lindsay.mondick@ymca.net

Lindsay Mondick is the Senior Manager of Aquatics at Y-USA and has been involved in the aquatics field for over 20 years. She provides resources and support to local YMCAs all areas of aquatic programming. Before joining Y-USA, she was with the YMCA of Greater Twin Cities for 14 years in a variety of aquatic leadership roles, including setting strategic priorities for the association and its 27 branches.
Bridging the Gap: Recreational Boating Passenger Safety

Learning Objectives
In this session, participants will:
Objective 1 - Be introduced to the federal reporting system for recreational boating incidents.
Objective 2 - Be introduced to terminology and methodology commonly used by U.S. Coast Guard and state Boating Law Administrators to investigate and report boating accidents.
Objective 3 - Be introduced to gaps identified between trauma and hospital reporting and reporting accomplished by state boating personnel.

Statement of Purpose
A designated Safe States Alliance representative and Boating Law Administrator exists in each state. Often times these state safety professionals have limited/no history of working together. Boating professionals are subject matter experts in causes of incidents leading to injury and death for recreational boating and report results of incident investigations to the Boat Accident Report Database (BARD) managed by the U.S. Coast Guard. Coast Guard data indicates over half of boating fatalities of persons under the age of 39 involved passengers (non-operators), yet most state efforts focus on operator safety with limited data collected regarding injury involving only non-operators (passengers). Data for these injuries is collected by trauma centers and hospitals and efficiency can be improved to share this vital information. This session will report on current efforts to bridge gaps to advance public health concerns in drowning and injury prevention. In 2017, the Coast Guard counted 4,291 accidents involving 658 deaths and 2,629 injuries.

Methods
A grant from the U.S. Coast Guard enabled four virtual meetings bringing both professional groups together to explore issues. An in-person meeting, facilitated by Safe States Alliance, and funded under a grant awarded to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, will be held July 2019. This session will provide a preliminary review of the findings.

Results
A combined new data list has been generated based on ICD-10 codes. Working together, these meetings may transform drowning and injury prevention in the recreational boating community nationwide.

Conclusions
This is the first effort to bridge the gap between boating safety and injury prevention professions. Plans for the future include additional U.S. Coast Guard grant funding (pending approval) to further engage Safe States Alliance members to form an injury surveillance workgroup and deepen relationships to encourage evidence-based work in all aspects of drowning and injury prevention surrounding recreational boating.

Pamela Dillon
Kentucky
pam@nasbla.org
Ms. Pamela Dillon, CAE, has been involved with Recreational Boating Safety since 1977. Since 2011 she has directed NASBLA’s Education and Standards programs, articulating NASBLA’s national role in development of American National Standards and conformity assessment. Previously, Pam served as Ohio’s Boating Law Administrator, retiring as chief of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft. During a five-year break in service from the state of Ohio, Dillon served as executive director of the American Canoe Association (2002-2007), working to develop strategic alliances with boating, outdoor recreation, and paddlesport education and conservation programs across the U.S. and Canada. Dillon served two terms as a public member of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. In 2014 Dillon earned her credential as a Certified Association Executive (CAE) from American Society of Association Executives.