

Minnesota Study Abroad Health & Safety Incident Legislation

Jodi Malmgren

Director, International and Off-Campus Studies
St. Olaf College

Nichole Sorenson

Research Analyst
Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Stacey Tsantir

Director of Health and Safety
DIS – Study Abroad in Scandinavia

Please Note:

- To cut down on background noise, each participant will be muted as they join the webinar.
- Questions may be submitted using the chat function in the lower right of the screen, and will be addressed following the presentations.
- This webinar will be recorded and posted on The Forum website.

Webinar Learning Objectives

1. Overview of development and implementation of the MN law
2. Overview of the first year of data collected (August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015)
3. Apply best practices and lessons learned: on own campus, with legislators, and with the public
4. Update on pending legislation

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The 2014 MN Senate Bill

- Clear Cause (now known as “Depart Smart”) founder approached two MN legislators to sponsor legislation
- University of Minnesota offered to meet with the Bill’s sponsors to share information and help make the legislation meaningful, informative, feasible
- Initial drafts required reporting of:
 - Deaths
 - Accidents/Illnesses
 - Sexual Assault
 - Involvement by students abroad in criminal acts (victims and perpetrators)

Minnesota Study Abroad Professionals (MSAP)

- MSAP group represents public, private, UMN and MNSCU, providers in and out of MN
- Working Group met several times and also corresponded extensively by email to identify common perspectives and goals
- Working Group members met with legislators and corresponded with legislative staff
- Used the MSAP listserv for updates to our membership

Three Requirements of the 2014 Law

1. Annual Reporting of death and hospitalizations to State Office of Higher Education (OHE)
2. Institution's Program Materials must include a link to OHE website
3. Institutions must confirm their compliance with Forum Standards

1. The Annual Report

MN Institutions receiving Title 6 financial aid

- Study abroad programs outside the U.S. and for **which credit has been pre-approved**
- Deaths and hospitalizations that occur **during and as a result of program participation**

Applies to students **enrolled at MN institutions** (grad or undergrad, degree or non-degree) for *more than just the term of study abroad.*

2. Program Material Requirement

Each institution “must include in its written materials provided to prospective program participants a link to the OHE Website stating that program health and safety information is available at the OHE Web site.”

- <http://wp.stolaf.edu/international/health-and-safety/>
- <http://global.umn.edu/gosafe/index.html#!/>

3. Forum Standards

Is your institution committed to complying with the [health and safety standards](#) of the Forum on Education Abroad? *check all that apply*

- The organization prioritizes health, safety, and security in program development, implementation, and management, conducting appropriate risk assessments for program sites and activities, maintaining written emergency plans and protocols, and identifying and leveraging relevant authorities, networks and resources.
- Staff are trained to anticipate and respond responsibly to student health, safety, or security issues, students are trained to responsibly manage their own health, safety, and security while abroad, and measures are in place for ongoing monitoring of and advising on health, safety, and security issues.
- The organization maintains appropriate kinds of insurance at recommended levels, operates in compliance with local laws, and follows best practices in reporting on critical incidents.

2015 Amendments

Added (retroactive) requirements to reporting

- Additional Incident Data
 - Program Type
 - Primary Program Host
- Post-program survey of students

4. Post Program Participant Request

“A postsecondary institution must request, but not mandate, hospitalization and incident disclosure from students upon completion of the program.”

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Who reported?

- MN postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in a Minnesota-funded student financial aid program AND
 - offers at least one study abroad program for credit
 - OR
 - pre-approves credit for the study abroad program in which an enrolled student participates
- 44 total institutions

What data was reported?

- Institution's compliance with Forum Standard 8
- Student participation
 - By Country
 - By Primary Program Host
- Student incidents of hospitalization and death

Participation Data

- Participation data was not required by law and was requested but not required
- All institutions provided this data
- Provided important context to the incident data collected under Minn. Statutes § 5.41

OHE's Public Reporting

Study Abroad Health and Safety Report

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/SAHS.cfm>

Major Findings

- <1% of student participants experienced a hospitalization as a result of program participation
- No deaths
- No correlation between region and incidents
- No correlation between primary program hosts and incidents

Comparing MN's Data

- Voluntary reports of participation or incidents separately
- Forum's Insurance Claims Data Report
 - 10% of insured students had a claim; 94.5% of which were for outpatient care
- MN's data aligns with insurance claims data
 - <1% of student participants experience a hospitalization

Other Impacts

- Positive:
 - Increased awareness of Forum Standards, particularly Standard 8 and MSAP
 - Expanded campus conversations to include students not through EA office and included new players (legislative affairs, etc.)
- Negative:
 - VERY time consuming! Took time away from other priorities.

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Lessons Learned in MN

- Start with the goal/issue to remedy & return to this place whenever possible
- Coordinate with all those involved/impacted
- Slow down and consider all the implications as well as the implementation realities

Good Practice

Connect with people on your campus and in your state!

Collect all incidents

- Inform decision making (programmatic, staffing etc.)
- Track trends (orientation, risk mitigation etc.)
- Report
 - Clery, MN Law, Forum incident database
 - Within your institution
- Need not be high tech!

Good Practice (cont.)

Vet Partners/Providers

- Health and safety policy, practice, history of incidents, housing, transportation, emergency plan/communications
- Ask for References

Update Contracts

- Schools: Require incident notification!
 - NOT just MN law, Clery etc.
- Providers: Be proactive and communicate



CONCLUSION/QUESTIONS

Please use the chat function to share your questions with the group.

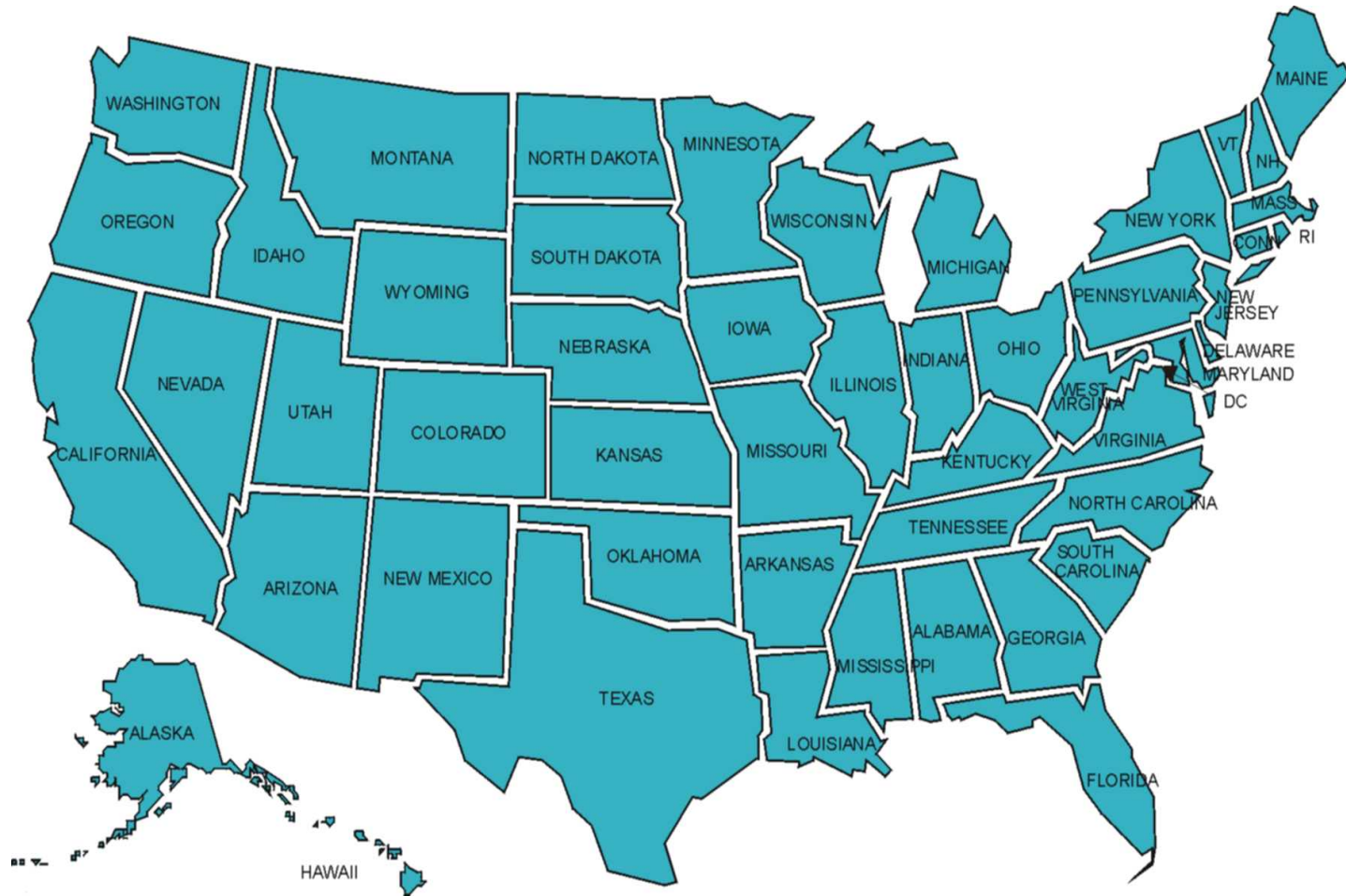
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Lobbying Efforts

- Depart Smart/parents are lobbying for laws in other States and at the Federal level
- Two parents are in the process of developing [Protect Students Abroad](#) and have been very active at the federal level
- Cross-organizational collaboration

Activity in other states



Activity in Other States

Bruce Sillner

Dean of International Programs

SUNY New Paltz

New York

Rachel Gable

Research and Policy Analyst

State Council of Higher Education

Virginia