

Statement from Chris Lovasco, CEO, YMCA of the North Shore:

“Words cannot describe how upset and disturbed we are today by the arrest of a former camp counselor following a police investigation that was triggered when a colleague reported an incident that occurred during an overnight camp event earlier this month that made him uncomfortable and suspicious.

Immediately following the initial complaint, we suspended the counselor in question, reported the incident to the state Department of Children and Families and to the police and launched an internal investigation. Before the incident, we had no cause to suspect improper behavior by the counselor, who had cleared regular and recent background checks.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of every child in our care is our top priority, which is why we adhere to a screening process that is the highest standard for non-profits working with children. The multi-level process includes thorough background checks on a regular basis and ongoing rigorous training on child protection. We consistently review and update how we screen applicants, as we continually learn the various means child predators use to manipulate others.

While this investigation continues, we will work with authorities to help in any way we can. At the direction of the authorities, we cannot share any details while the investigation and prosecution are underway.”