

Statement from Chris Lovasco, CEO YMCA North Shore

As you know we have been constrained from making many public comments during the investigative phase and court proceedings of one of our former counselors who has been charged with indecent assault on a camper.

Our priority, as always, has been on the well-being and safety of our children and an incident like this causes us to re-examine every aspect of our operations and to assure parents and ourselves that our dedication and commitment to our principles are strictly adhered to.

Given the publicity and community concerns, and some perhaps understandable confusion, surrounding this incident, I feel it's important to make a couple of points to help further reassure everyone about our program and procedures.

The initial complaint made to state and local authorities originated from another counselor who said he witnessed suspicious behavior during an overnight camp event. Thanks to his child safety training, the counselor thought it was significant enough to report and the protocol called for immediate suspension of the counselor in question and informing authorities.

We learned for the first time during the court proceedings this week that at least one of the three charges against the former counselor is connected to an alleged incident that occurred elsewhere, not while either individual was involved in the YMCA camp or its programs. Based on our internal review, we have no reason to believe that the other two charges happened on YMCA property or during Y programs.

Though we are saddened and sickened by this incident, we can take some solace that the counselor who made the initial report followed his training and his conscience and did exactly what he was supposed to do in such situations.

We continue to review and evaluate this case and undoubtedly will have more to say in the future.