

## Region 2 Town Hall Notes

Thursday, March 26, 2020

8:00pm ET

20 Participants

### 1. Camp and Other Programs

#### a. Camps That Have Cancelled Programs

##### i. Camp Care

1. Programs cancelled from March through the last weekend in May

##### ii. No Worries

1. Cancelled summer camp program taking place the last week in June
2. Might do a fall camp instead

##### iii. Smile-A-Mile

1. Cancelled camp program taking place the last week of April
2. Stopped programs at Children's of Alabama for at least 8 weeks

##### iv. Camp CAMP

1. Cancelled the remainder of school programs (weekends from March to May)
2. Considering cutting back to 5 weeks of camp this summer

#### b. Deadlines for Decisions

1. Camp Care- waiting for more information before cancelling August camp
2. Smile-A-Mile- waiting until May 1 to determine fate of late May/early June program
3. Watcha-Wanna-Do- waiting on decision from host site for camp in June
4. Happy Times- Internal deadline of early July for August camp
5. Camp CAMP- will decide by May 1 for programs in the summer

### 2. Staffing Challenges

#### a. Volunteer Counselors

##### i. Volunteer Availability

1. Camp No Worries cancelled camp in June because of concern regarding volunteer availability
  - a. Many volunteers are unemployed or using PTO so they may not have the same schedules or availability in the summer

##### ii. Virtual Interviews

1. Brandon from Camp CAMP recommends trying out-of-the-box ideas in these strange times because people are craving something to do

2. Happy Times sends information ahead of time then hosts on-site training the day before camp
  3. No Worries used staff to virtually program online camp with great success
- b. Medical Staff
- i. Medical Staff Availability
    1. Special Love Camps and Happiness Is Camping are considering not hosting immunosuppressed campers for an added layer of safety as well as to limit the number of medical staff required

### 3. Fundraising

- a. Impact on Different Camps
- i. Special Love Camps
    1. Concerned with the impact potentially cancelling camp would have on grants and donations (sentiment was echoed by multiple camps)
  - ii. Camp CAMP
    1. San Antonio's "The Big Give" was postponed to the fall and is currently being used to provide emergency funding to combat COVID-19
      - a. Resulted in large loss of funds for camp
  - iii. Camp Care
    1. Largest fundraising event was postponed to the fall but families have expressed interest in donating off of wish list

### 4. Contingency Plans

- a. Alternate Plans by Camps
- i. Special Love Camps
    1. Hosted virtual campfire on FB with repeat after me songs
  - ii. Smile-A-Mile
    1. Shifted focus of hospital programs to serve health care providers in order to give them some relief
  - iii. Camp Care
    1. Did a concert on FB with great feedback, also hosted online A&C and Zoom sessions with families
  - iv. Camp CAMP
    1. Provided a link to a coloring book specially designed for people with special needs
- b. Barriers to Alternate Plans
- i. No Worries
    1. Raised concern regarding campers without access to internet or permission to use social media
      - a. Smile-A-Mile sends boxes of crafts and tie dye kits with instructions so kids can do them at home in their own time

### 5. Other Notes

- i. Possible future town hall to discuss virtual camp programming

- ii. Smile-A-Mile expressed concern that they may have to blend age groups and sibs/patient programs
  - 1. Happiness Is Camping and Camp Care both expressed that they've been doing this for years with great results
  - 2. Camp Bring It On pointed out that hosting such a program for the first time might be difficult if social distancing is still enforced

## COCAI Region 2 Town Hall Chat Log

Brian Moore (to Everyone): 7:00 PM: Brian Moore

Kellie Reece (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Kellie Reece Smile-A-Mile

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP - I'm an interloper on your Region's meeting! :)

Jennyfer Balkema (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Jenn Balkema - Camp Watcha Wanna Do

Katy Wind - Camp CARE (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Katy Wind - Camp CARE

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Matthew Ruttler-Camp Happy Times

Beverley (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Beverley - Candlelighters Family Camp, Tucson AZ.

kaye (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Dr Kaye -Camp Bring it On

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 7:01 PM: We will provide notes from tonights call as well as all the meetings and survey results to everyone. That will be survey results from every region town hall meeting too!

Don Golden (to Everyone): 7:02 PM: Please send an email to don.golden@cocai.org so we can get on a distribution list for records of this call.

Mike Zborowski (to Everyone): 7:05 PM: Mike Zborowski, Camp No Worries

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 7:14 PM: We saw from the survey that Camps are deciding on cancellations anywhere from April 1-June 1. Camps in August are in a "wait and see" mode.

Kellie Reece (to Everyone): 7:22 PM: Thanks Katy!

Katy Wind - Camp CARE (to Everyone): 7:23 PM: sure! katy@campcare.org

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 7:24 PM: ryan@happinesiscamping.org

Katy Wind - Camp CARE (to Everyone): 7:45 PM: Great idea

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 8:00 PM: Facebook page

- Daily social media posts
- Video posts
- campfire songs
- no bake or science activity
- arts and crafts
- Virtual
- talent shows
- show and tell
- cabin group meet-ups
- game shows
- skits
- Camp In A Box
- tie dye kit

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 8:02 PM: <https://www.marysusanmccconnell.com/dreamteamcoloringbook>

Don Golden (to Everyone): 8:04 PM: The survey link is [www.cocai.org/townhallsurvey](http://www.cocai.org/townhallsurvey) (pretty easy to remember).