

Region 4 Town Hall Notes

Friday, March 27, 2020

10:00 am ET

31 Participants

1. Camp and Other Programs

- a. Camps That Have Cancelled Programs
 - i. Happy Days
 - 1. Postponing family weekend in April but the only dates their host site have available are in December
 - 2. Considering cancelling their summer camp in early July
 - ii. Camp Kemo
 - 1. Cancelled summer camp in June because the doctors they consulted don't believe it will be safe enough to host camp by then
 - iii. Rap-A-Hope
 - 1. Haven't decided if they will cancel their camp the first week in June
 - a. They don't really have the option of rescheduling because they rent their site
 - b. Are considering virtual camp instead
 - iv. Camp Merry Times
 - 1. Cancelled their summer camp in May and is considering hosting a family fun day in August

2. Camper/Staffing Challenges

- a. Camper Reluctance
 - i. Happy Days had a couple families reach out showing some reluctance to send their child to camp
 - 1. One specifically mentioned that they don't want their child to potentially carry COVID-19 to other kids
 - ii. Camp Kemo also had about 5 families reach out showing some concern
- b. Volunteer Counselors
 - i. Volunteer Availability
 - 1. Smile-A-Mile has had volunteers reach out to say they might have to do some schooling over the summer now
 - ii. Virtual Interviews
 - 1. Smile-A-Mile
 - a. Did one group interview before the outbreak and has since done one-on-one virtual interviews
- c. Medical Staff
 - i. Medical Staff Availability
 - 1. Happy Days is unsure if med staff will be available because their medical personnel have concerns regarding their PTO availability this summer
- d. Impact on Training

- a. Smile-A-Mile cancelled training weekend in April and will train virtually now
- b. Rap-A-Hope already used virtual training prior to COVID-19 and makes videos covering different topics including medical and operational policies and procedures
 - i. Staff are required to take a test at the end of training, Melissa will provide COCA-I with the program she uses to make tests
 - ii. Rap-A-Hope also does an on-site training the day before camp
- c. Shannon from Smile-A-Mile recommends Mentimeter (mentimeter.com)
 - i. Interactive presentation solution that allows audiences to connect with their cell phones so they can chat and answer questions

3. Fundraising

- a. Impact on Different Camps
 - i. Smile-A-Mile
 - 1. Already hosted largest gala but have rescheduled the rest of their fundraisers to late summer
 - 2. They have an event in June that is iffy because it is difficult to request money from small businesses right now
 - a. They shifted focus to reminding people via social media to support businesses that support camp
 - ii. Camp Kemo
 - 1. They are affiliated with a hospital so their event in April has been postponed
 - a. Currently being rescheduled to the fall but the foundation they work with has many events in September so scheduling will be difficult
 - b. Dr. Kaye recommended using Childhood Cancer Awareness Month as a tie-in for their new date
 - 2. Considering sending packets of information to schools in September to have students raise money for camp
 - iii. Happy Days
 - 1. Using different initiatives such as “Sponsor a Valentine” or “Sponsor a Camper” to provide a connection between donors and the cause they are supporting
- b. Fundraising Recommendations
 - 1. Amazon Smile
 - a. Although percentages are relatively small, they have served as a constant source of income for many camps now that people are home and ordering off of Amazon

4. Contingency Plans

a. Alternate Plans by Camps

i. Happy Days

1. Doing virtual programming twice a week including having volunteers record themselves singing songs so the campers still feel connected to volunteers

ii. Smile-A-Mile

1. Camp In A Box

- a. Send crafts in a box to children in hospitals with typed instructions and links to prerecorded tutorials
- b. Crafts included:
 - i. Tie Dye Kit- shirts, dye, puppy pads to control mess, gloves, rubber bands, Ziploc bags
 - ii. Sun catchers- Supplies, materials to decorate them, string and suction cups to hang in hospital windows
- c. Used extensive sanitization policies:
 - i. Staff wore masks and gloves when packing boxes, each item in the package was wiped with a Lysol wipe, the box was also wiped with Lysol wipes, they let the boxes sit for a day before being sent out, contacts within the hospitals picked up the boxes and distributed them (camp staff was not allowed in)

iii. Rap-A-Hope

1. Did a Zoom Scavenger Hunt practice run with last year's staff
 - a. Was successful so they will be rolling it out to their campers next week
 - b. They recommend using staff as crowd control and limiting sessions to 30 minutes or less
2. Really hopes to establish a camper and staff exchange to send their kids to camps later in the year if their camp is cancelled
 - a. Matt from Camp Happy Times said he would take any camper from around the country during their summer camp in late August

b. Barriers to Alternate Plans

1. Hospital Policies

- a. Matt recommends checking with hospitals regarding their visitor and sanitization policies before sending items to hospitals

COCA-I Region 4 Town Hall Chat Log