

## Region 5 Town Hall

Friday, March 27, 2020

1:00pm ET

24 Participants

### 1. Camp and Other Programs

#### a. Camps That Have Cancelled Programs

##### i. Camp Periwinkle

1. Cancelled all spring programs and hospital events
2. Not rescheduling spring programs because they have fall programs
3. Waiting to decide on June and August camps

##### ii. CQ Greater Kansas City

1. Programs cancelled in April and May
2. Feeling that June camps are likely to be cancelled

##### iii. Camp Hobe

1. Decided this week to cancel camp in June
  - a. Will be hosting virtual camp

##### iv. Camp iHope

1. Secured an extra week in August as a backup plan but kids return to school around then
2. Will decide in April if they should cancel, they feel that it's very likely they will have to cancel

##### v. Camp Discovery

1. Cancelled family camps and hospital programs this spring
2. Will decide mid-June on July camp

##### vi. 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
3. Will make decision by May 1 and June 1 but they hope to host fall programs

#### b. Reasons for Postponing or Cancelling Programs

##### i. Medical Council Recommendations

1. Periwinkle received guidance from Texas Children's to cancel spring programs
2. CQ Greater KC is following CDC guidelines, as well as state and county guidelines (whichever are stricter)

### 2. Staffing Challenges

#### a. Volunteer Counselors

##### i. Volunteer Availability

1. Camp Hobe expressed concern from staff that volunteers might not have PTO this summer or may be unemployed and forced to get different jobs
2. CQ Texas said college kids may be forced to do schooling over summer
3. Camp CAMP relies largely on high school and college students and aren't predicting a decline in their volunteer numbers but may consider recruiting teachers
- ii. Virtual Interviews
  1. Camp Hobe traditionally held in-person interviews but now host Google Hangouts and hang decorations to preserve their camp culture
  2. Camp Discovery starts interviews in mid-April and will consider doing them remotely
- b. Medical Staff
  - i. Medical Staff Availability
    1. Multiple camps including Camp Hobe and CQ Texas are concerned that medical staff won't have PTO this summer
    2. Brandon from Camp CAMP was in an ACA session and noted that Tracey Gaslin from the Association of Nursing believes that general pediatric and school nurses will still be available this summer but that this could differ for our cancer population
      - a. She also shared that coronavirus probably isn't going away and that this could be the new normal
  - c. Impact on Training
    - i. Brandon said this is a great opportunity to try out-of-the-box ideas in these strange times
    - ii. Camp Hobe will likely try virtual training this year
    - iii. Camp iHope started partially training virtually last year and will likely expand that this summer
    - iv. Camp Quality Greater Kansas City uses Expert Online Training to host virtual training ([www.expertonlinetraining.com](http://www.expertonlinetraining.com))
      1. Used by multiple COCAI camps
      2. Chris Thurber from EOT did a great FB live session and posts on his social media, has his own website at drchristhurber.com

### 3. Fundraising

- a. Impact on Different Camps
  1. Camp Periwinkle
    - a. Postponed April gala to October
  2. Heart of Passion
    - a. Might use GoFundMe or Kickstarter as well as social media trends
  3. Camp CAMP
    - a. San Antonio's "The Big Give" was postponed to the fall and is currently being used to provide emergency funding to combat COVID-19

- i. Also went into a spending freeze in order to keep full-time staff employed

#### **4. Contingency Plans**

- a. Alternate Plans by Camps
  - i. Camp Hobe
    - 1. Would schedule virtual content at different times by age group
      - a. i.e. Fridays at 1:00 would be sessions for youth campers
  - ii. Camp Quality Greater KC
    - 1. Considering scattering different content throughout the day and might do camp-in-a-box
  - iii. Camp Discovery
    - 1. Still trying to bring camp to the campers in-person as much as possible
- b. Barriers to Alternate Plans
  - 1. Economic Barriers
    - a. Camp Discovery mentioned that 30% of its campers register by hand because they don't have access to computers
      - i. This sentiment was echoed by multiple camps
      - ii. Camp-in-a-box was put forward as a potential solution

#### **5. Other Notes**

- i. ACA Texoma Meeting
  - 1. Thursday, April 2 at 10am

## COCA\_I Town Hall Region 5 Chat Log

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:40 AM: Thank you for joining COCA-I's Region 5 Town Hall Meeting! So we can keep up with everyone, please type your name, email and Camp name in the chat box. Also, please feel free to ask one another questions in this chat box during the meeting

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 11:58 AM: I'm still on a Camp CAMP virtual board meeting on another device, so I'm trying to listen with one ear to each thing... talk about multitasking!

Falyne Kirkpatrick (to Everyone): 12:01 PM: Falyne Kirkpatrick: CQ Texas

Larry Geiger (to Everyone): 12:01 PM: Larry Geiger - Camp Periwinkle

Crystal Davison (to Everyone): 12:01 PM: Crystal Davison, ED with Camp Quality Greater Kansas City

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 12:01 PM: Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 12:02 PM: Matthew Ruttler-Camp Happy Times

Phillip (to Everyone): 12:02 PM: Phillip Foreman

Camp iHope

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:04 PM: Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:24 PM: For those that think it will be difficult to get medical staff, is that hem/onc. medical staff and/or general peds. nurses and doctors? I assume both due to the fact some may not get time off even though a lot may already be working overtime.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:26 PM: ALL medical staff. Some are going to get sick. Some are going to be covering for everyone else.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:27 PM: yep, i had heard it was 'all hands on deck' in the hospitals in Birmingham right now. Some med. staff in other depts. are working in other depts. so wondering if that was what yall were seeing too.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:27 PM: We haven't opened registration yet. We were due to open April 1. We will still open registration that day, it will just be for the virtual option.

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 12:30 PM: Brandon, what association was that woman from ACA the head of?

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:31 PM: My answers would be very different today than last week.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:31 PM: <https://www.campnurse.org/>

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:31 PM: Tracey Gaslin with Assoc. of Camp Nursing

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 12:32 PM: Thank you!

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:34 PM: Kids struggle with handwashing and not touching. . .

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:36 PM: I can't imagine not being able to be cautious in hugging campers and volunteers at Camp! The one place where everyone feels accepted and connected.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:36 PM: True

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:42 PM: We interview 200+ applicants each year. Both new and returning staff are interviewed every year. ;0

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:43 PM: Ryan - Association of Camp Nurses (ACN) - [campnurses.org](http://campnurses.org)

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:43 PM: We still did a group interview ;0

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:43 PM: Actually I see that Jennifer already answered and her link was correct - mine was wrong!

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:44 PM: <https://www.expertonlinetraining.com/>

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:44 PM: Most of you may know Chris Thurber's EOT.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:45 PM: Chris T lead a very good FB live discussion earlier this week. Matt Ruttler and I were on it. He talked through many of the virtual vs. live considerations.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:46 PM: The FB group is "Summer Camp Professionals". It's a closed group, but you can join. It was on Monday.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:46 PM: <https://drchristhurber.com/>

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:46 PM: me too. creative adapting

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 12:54 PM: I LOVE that!

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:58 PM: ACA Texoma videoconference next Thursday, April 2, at 10 am:

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:58 PM: online forum with other camp professionals

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Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:59 PM:

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Don Golden (to Everyone): 12:59 PM: Development of the virtual camp idea this year will build a camp skillset that can be used to deliver services and programs long after COVID-19 is an issue.

Brandon Briery (to Everyone): 12:59 PM: The purpose is to help camps identify potential questions, learn about resources to guide decisions, and hear from experts in four major areas:

- Staff and participant impact
- Interaction with government agencies
- Insurance
- Camp operation

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 1:00 PM: Thank you for sharing. I for sure need ideas. Oh wait, that is the Program Director's job. ;)

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 1:02 PM: It's just a different way to do that.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 1:03 PM: If the kids have a phone, they can participate at some level.

Deborah Echtenkamp (to Everyone): 1:03 PM: we have that same issue with several of our families that Joey is talking about as well

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 1:04 PM: All the chats from today will be captured and we will send out in notes.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 1:05 PM: Think about apps on a phone too. it doesn't have to be a computer. Myu hubby teaches in a low SES school and many of those kids still have phones. ;) I'm not saying there aren't barriers and I'm not saying it's not hard.

Crystal Davison (to Everyone): 1:06 PM: Yes, thanks! Basically small and affordable craft/kit ideas with simple instructions (everything included for them needed to complete the activity) - I'm not the creative one at our camp but there are a lot of little ideas like a "bird feeder" made by stringing cheerios on a twizzler or a craft kit to make a wind chime or rainbow fish or play-do "monster" or something, etc. As a tradition for our camp, maybe a marshmallow shooter kit with duct tape to decorate the shooter. I'm sure Pinterest will be helpful!

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 1:07 PM: Thanks Crystal!

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 1:07 PM: they do have them for each region specifically.

Crystal Davison (to Everyone): 1:08 PM: Peer to peer fundraising is another consideration for fundraising--- something we hoped to push really big this year but will look different too, because the idea for our campaign is volunteers (and even campers/families if they want) to have 10 friends/family raise \$10 each, so goal of \$100 per person participating. Some of the prizes would be a special event/activity the week of camp...so that's why it may look different and be generally less successful but still an opportunity to keep volunteers and maybe new donors engaged and involved without asking them to give too much.

Deborah Echtenkamp (to Everyone): 1:09 PM: Has Dr. Amylon had an opinion on this summer that he has shared-- tried to ask--but you are not hearing me

Crystal Davison (to Everyone): 1:10 PM: My team personally was concerned about trying to raise funds and asking people for money and our Region Development Director attended a webinar about this that definitely encourages groups like each of ours to continue our fundraising efforts while acknowledging the pandemic and still highlighting that our work and efforts don't stop--even though they may look different than what we're all used to.

Christina Beckwith (to Everyone): 1:11 PM: Thanks Matthew, Don, and Jen!

Larry Geiger (to Everyone): 1:12 PM: Thanks for hosting!

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 1:12 PM: thank you for participating. Yall are awesome. We love you!