

## Region 7 Meeting Notes

Monday, March 30, 2020

12:00 am ET

30 Participants

### 1. Camp and Other Programs

- a. Camps That Have Cancelled Programs
  - i. Camp Mak-A-Dream
    - 1. Cancelled two spring sessions and postponed one to the fall
  - ii. Camp Millennium
    - 1. Governor enacted executive order banning gatherings through September
      - a. This order is subject to change and puts their summer camp in limbo
      - b. Not a lot of flexibility to postpone because they rent their site and the site is fully booked
- b. Deadlines for Decisions
  - i. Make-A-Dream
    - 1. Waiting until the end of April to decide on June camps and will make decisions 30 days in advance for every session after that
  - ii. Camp Magical Moments
    - 1. Waiting until the end of April to decide on June camps
  - iii. Camp Rainbow Gold
    - 1. Waiting until May to decide on June camp

### 2. Staffing/Camper Challenges

- a. Camper Reluctance
  - i. Magical Moments sent an email to families that they are waiting until April to make a decision
    - 1. One family cancelled because of COVID-19 and the others seem to be excited
  - ii. Mak-A-Dream sent a survey to families and the majority of parents said the likelihood they send their child to camp is a “maybe” because of COVID-19
  - iii. Happy Days has seen some camper reluctance and is worried about the perception about opening camp if other camps in the state cancel their programs
  - iv. Camp Goodtimes was going to speak with families but decided that they’re the ones that ultimately must make the decision to cancel camp or not
- b. Volunteer Counselors
  - i. Volunteer Availability/Staff Training
    - 1. Happy Days usually do phone interviews and will continue to do so
    - 2. Kamp Kace is still hiring but are adding the stipulation that camp is in limbo and may be cancelled

3. Rainbow Gold is continuing to hire over Zoom but is warning applicants that camp may be cancelled
  4. Another camp is refunding half of the cost of plane tickets for volunteers because many airlines only allow you to rebook through the end of the year
  5. Camp Quality Ohio has concerns about staffing availability because they rely heavily on college students and many of them are being forced to change their plans
- c. Medical Staff
    - i. Medical Staff Availability
      1. Magical Moments had a volunteer that's a medical professional say they had to request PTO for June in January so if camp is postponed they likely won't have PTO approved
      2. Mak-A-Dream said their med staff were told that if they travel they will be forced to quarantine for two weeks when they return
  - d. Impact on Training
    - i. Happy Days has transitioned their training for new staff members to the day before camp

### **3. Fundraising**

- a. Impact on Different Camps
  - i. Mak-A-Dream
    1. Rescheduled one event to mid-May that will likely be cancelled now
    2. Largest fundraiser is a cycling event in June that will likely be held virtually
      - a. Camp is reluctant to ask for money and a few sponsors have backed out
  - ii. Camp Goodtimes
    1. Cancelled their gala on April 25 and turned it into an online auction
  - iii. Camp Millennium
    1. Cancelled all fundraising events from April through August and will rely on last year's funds
      - a. Asked if sponsors wanted refunds and nobody said yes, only had one ticketholder ask for a refund
- b. KOA Care Camps
  - i. Care Camps is meeting this week
  - ii. Application is still open and closes April 15
  - iii. They will try to reward grants to offset costs of virtual camp or alternate services

### **4. Contingency Plans**

- a. Alternate Plans by Camps
  - i. Mak-A-Dream
    1. Will be hosting 3 sessions of virtual camp
  - ii. Camp Goodtimes
    1. Will host a virtual camp replicating their daily schedule

2. Camp Class
  - a. 6 week series of videos and activities including project ideas, movies, and science projects
  - b. Will be sent every 2 weeks and will be based on different camp songs
3. Also looking into various gift basket companies to provide camp-in-a-box
  - a. Ideas of companies that were discussed:
    - i. Negu.org sends packages to cancer patients
    - ii. Eswak.com allows you to send custom care packages
- iii. Special Love
  1. Hosting a virtual campfire on April 2

## 5. Other Notes

- a. Future Programming Town Hall
  - i. COCA is setting up webinars to teach virtual camps with Jack Schott
- b. Liability of Hosting Camp
  - i. Camp Magical Moments has an insurance professional on their Board who said if someone got sick at camp that the camp would be liable
    1. Dr. Kaye asked if this is different than measles and flu and the sentiment from the agent was that it is different because coronavirus is a known threat and public concern
  - ii. COCA may set up town hall with Ian from Markel Insurance
- c. Gold Ribbon
  - i. Committee is meeting to discuss a plan for this summer

## COCA\_I Town Hall Region 7 Chat Log

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 10:44 AM: Welcome to COCAI's Region 7 Town Hall. Thank you for joining us. Please type your name, Camp name and email address in the chat box. We will send out notes from this Town Hall as well as ALL of them afterwards.

Iain Riddle (to Everyone): 10:53 AM: Iain Riddle - Camp Happy Days

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 10:54 AM: Ryan Campbell Happiness Is Camping

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 10:56 AM: Matthew Ruttler-Camp Happy Times

Shannon Reed - Camp Quality Kansas (to Everyone): 10:56 AM: Sarah!!!!

Shannon Reed - Camp Quality Kansas (to Everyone): 10:57 AM: Shannon Reed Camp Quality Kansas

Camp Rainbow Gold Staff (to Everyone): 10:57 AM: Benton Smith, Camp Rainbow Gold

Amy (to Everyone): 10:57 AM: Amy Surbrugg - Camp Mak-A-Dream,

Jen Emendorfer-Wade (to Everyone): 10:57 AM: Hi everyone! Jen from Camp Mak-A-Dream

Sarah Givens (to Everyone): 10:57 AM: Camp Quality Ohio

kim (to Everyone): 10:58 AM: Hi everyone from Kim Kamp KACE

Sarah Givens (to Everyone): 10:58 AM: Sarah Givens - Camp Quality Ohio. Hi Shannon!

Dr. Kaye- Camp Bring it On (to Everyone): 10:58 AM: Wendy Jensen, Camp Bring it On is here as well

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 10:58 AM: A. Walsh- Camp Magical Moments is on the call.

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 10:59 AM: Karen@ Care Camps

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 11:00 AM: Kim Belgarde- Camp KACE is on the call

Kim McKearnan (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Jennifer Benton, Camp Mak-A-Dream (screen shows Kim McKearnan as my name, but it's Jennifer): email is jennifer@campdream.org

Mindy Bean (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Mindy Bean

Mindy Bean (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Camp Millennium

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Tanya, The Goodtimes Project/Camp Goodtimes (Seattle)

EmJ Juszczyk (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: EmJ with Camp Happy Days

Madison McDowell (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Madison McDowell from Smile-A-Mile :)

Katie Swain (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Hello from Washington State! Katie Swain here from Camp Goodtimes at YMCA Camp Reed kswain@ymcainw.org

Tessa Heuermann (to Everyone): 11:02 AM: Tessa Heuermann at Camp Mak-a-Dream is here; e-mail is tessa@campdream.org

Kim Belgarde (to Everyone): 11:15 AM: I don't get it I can't speak on the phone of the computer.

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 11:15 AM: Facebook-Virtual Camping Ideas Group

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:15 AM: If you rent a facility, what have you heard from the facilities?

Iain Riddle (to Everyone): 11:16 AM: Our facility is closed for the time being. We are keeping in contact with them. We are concerned about the upkeep of the facility during this situation. Nervous about being the first camp to be there...

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:17 AM: Same Iain!

Kim Belgarde (to Everyone): 11:17 AM: Kamp KACE is on hold now ... no decision has been made as of yet!

Don Golden (to Everyone): 11:17 AM: COCA-I is in the early stages of creating a workshop/webinar series on bringing camp to campers via virtual events, camp-in-a-box. We hope to announce the plans by the end of the week.

Jen Emendorfer-Wade (to Everyone): 11:18 AM: Awesome Don!

Mindy Bean (to Everyone): 11:18 AM: That's awesome Don!

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:22 AM: I also can't seem to speak? :) As for holding camp and asking parents; I thought to ask if parents would send campers or not, but ultimately thought that we need to make the responsible choice for the parents...as they have a very emotional attachment (we do too, but have to think from a business side).

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 11:22 AM: That's a great point thank you Tanya

Camp Rainbow Gold Staff (to Everyone): 11:30 AM: Benton w/ Camp Rainbow Gold - We are continuing with volunteer recruitment and using Facetime, Zoom, and Google Hangouts to conduct interviews - but we have been open with applicants about how this far out we are in a wait and see pattern in regards to camp and will be following up with updates one way or another as we get closer to the summer.

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:37 AM: We had to cancel in-person Gala for April 25 date to an online auction...we'll see how it goes, Thankfully this funding primarily raises for next fiscal year.

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:39 AM: Thank you Matt!

Madison McDowell (to Everyone): 11:41 AM: Tanya, could you share how you guys are doing an online auction?

Don Golden (to Everyone): 11:42 AM: aren

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 11:42 AM: Yes, please do apply. We are meeting tomorrow. We do believe that many of the camps will provide alternative services.

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:42 AM: Madison, absolutely! Will you send me an email and we can connect: tanya@thegoodtimesproject.org

Iain Riddle (to Everyone): 11:42 AM: Thank you so much for the continued support!

Iain Riddle (to Everyone): 11:43 AM: We are all so appreciative Karen!

Katie Swain (to Everyone): 11:43 AM: Thank you Karen!

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 11:43 AM: Deadline is April 15th.

Jen Emendorfer-Wade (to Everyone): 11:43 AM: Thank you Karen!

Madison McDowell (to Everyone): 11:43 AM: We appreciate you guys SO much Karen!

Michael Katz (to Everyone): 11:44 AM: Thanks Karen!

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:44 AM: COCA is sending a reminder email out today to membership to apply for Care Camps grants.

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 11:46 AM: Check out Facebook- Special Love (Camp Fantastic) Virtual Campfires + more

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:46 AM: Cabin chats-still assign campers a cabin counselor and allow a virtual cabin chat in a zoom meeting for instance.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:49 AM: Another comment heard in other Town Halls is how are the Camps reaching new patients? Since you may not be able to visit them in the hospital if you have a hospital outreach program, are you able to pair a family involved in Camp already with new families? As a way to reach and encourage them? I know you don't want to miss any new patients this summer.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:50 AM: Would you all like to have a 'how to take camp virtual' webinar?

Jen Emendorfer-Wade (to Everyone): 11:50 AM: Yes Jennifer!

Tessa Heuermann (to Everyone): 11:50 AM: Jennifer, the virtual camp webinar would be awesome!

Camp Mak-A-Dream (to Everyone): 11:50 AM: Great idea Jennifer!

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:51 AM: Would definitely do a virtual camp; replicating what we would have done during each day of camp; send out a daily "agenda" to camper families with Facebook component. Also looking for a care package company who could create a gift basket for each camper and then mail to them (so they do the work...as with 200+ campers, it would be difficult for us to buy all the stuff, assemble, box, and mail). Also launching Camp Class, a 6 week series of videos and activities sent to campers every 2 weeks; video component from counselors, art project ideas, movies, science projects, etc. Each "curriculum" based around a popular camp song.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:51 AM: I am not to thank, so many other people helping make this happen.

Mindy Bean (to Everyone): 11:51 AM: Yes, please

Ann Walsh (to Everyone): 11:51 AM: Would love info on this!

Tracy (to Everyone): 11:51 AM: WOW! Thanks for all these resources COCA! They are so appreciated.

Kim McKearnan (to Everyone): 11:52 AM: That would be great!

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:52 AM: awesome Tanya!

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:53 AM: About gift baskets! I'm still researching, but if I get a company I will talk about larger quantities! :)

Jen Emendorfer-Wade (to Everyone): 11:55 AM: Tanya: while researching, this non-profit creates and sends goodies to cancer patients. Maybe they can be a resource? <https://negu.org/joy-jars/>

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:55 AM: Another idea that was shared if you do go virtually was to actually get your kids involved in the planning, teaching of a virtual activity. It would be a great way for them to take ownership and pride in developing ideas for a virtual camp.

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 11:56 AM: Thanks Jen! Yes, we've gotten Joy Jars before. I actually wondered how they're fairing.

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 11:56 AM: Special Love -Next Campfire Thursday April 2 at 7:00pm (Facebook)

Karen McAndrew (to Everyone): 11:56 AM: Sorry 7:00pm EST!

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 11:56 AM: thank you Karen!

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping (to Everyone): 11:56 AM: <https://www.eswak.com/> sends custom care packages as well! Sealed With A Kiss Camp

Camp Mak-A-Dream (to Everyone): 12:00 PM: Thanks everyone...it is encouraging to know that we are all in this and working through it together...wishing you all the best!

Ann Walsh (to Everyone): 12:00 PM: LOVE these town Halls! Thanks for doing them.

Jennifer Amundsen (to Everyone): 12:00 PM: Thank you all for joining today. Great ideas shared! Please complete our survey. We appreciate you very much and know COCA is working to help in anyway we can. We love you guys and wish you and your programs all the best. :)

Iain Riddle (to Everyone): 12:00 PM: Thanks so much COCA!

Tanya; Goodtimes Project (to Everyone): 12:00 PM: Take care everyone! Gotta do a staff interview. Take care, be safe!

Faye Sledge (to Everyone): 12:01 PM: Thanks everyone for sharing concerns, ideas, and solutions!! Best of luck to everyone!!

Katie Swain (to Everyone): 12:02 PM: Thank you COCA!

Kim McKearnan (to Everyone): 12:02 PM: Jennifer, guessing this will affect Gold ibbon visits this summer?

Mindy Bean (to Everyone): 12:03 PM: Thank you all for this meeting. It helps alot to know that we are all in this together. I got some great ideas. Stay safe and hopefully we will get back to normal soon.

Camp Mak-A-Dream (to Everyone): 12:10 PM: Be well everyone...thanks for all you do!

Matthew Ruttler (to Everyone): 12:10 PM: Take care!