

Town Hall I Chat, 2/16/22

Communication:

From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP

I'm not on the panel - but we operated last summer (and with Family Weekend Retreats prior to and following summer) - and we have been communicating more than ever and in a variety of ways - we did hold some Town Hall Zoom meetings for families to ask questions last spring, but they were not well-attended. Disclaimer: We serve a variety of medical conditions and disabilities, not specifically focused on cancer.

From EmJ, Camp Happy Days

We were really worried about the attendance rate, Brandon. It can be a lot

From Miriam Paas:

what platform did you use for the group chat?

From Ryan Campbell:

WhatsApp

Cohorting:

From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP

In our family retreats we give very specific schedules - each family is a cohort - and we have 10 families at a time and 10 activities scheduled, so each family goes to one activity just as a family and they move every hour, so we don't have any bottlenecks.

From Krystin Camp Casco she/her

For those that had cohorts, what do your lodging accommodations look like? Bunk rooms in larger cabins? Individual cabins?

From Beverley Tidwell - Candlelighters Camp Tucson AZ

Individual cabins, one per family,

From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP

Same - we always do one family per cabin, even prior to COVID, so families are not sleeping or sharing restrooms with people they don't know.

From Deb-Camp iHope

We have always been in cohorts naturally, our cabins can sleep a total of 14 so we have always been in camper groups of 10-11 campers at the most

From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP

We did not require masking within a cohort, but as families (in family camps) and kids (during other camper-only sessions) rotate through activities, the activity leaders stay with their activity, but wear masks at inside activities or if they are unable to socially distance in outside activities.

Summer 2022 Plans (Family Camp vs. Kids Only):

19:29:04 From Tanya_Goodtimes Project/Camp Goodtimes to Everyone:

Kids-only camp is the plan

19:29:06 From Krystin Camp Casco she/her to Everyone:

We don't have any family camp intentions. All kiddos.

19:29:09 From Shayna Rosenblum Camp Enchantment New Mexico to Everyone:

We are going to try to do kids only

19:29:10 From Leighana - Camp Kindle to Everyone:

Kids camp in summer

19:29:11 From Colleen Murray to Everyone:

Kids camp

19:29:11 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

We did kids only last summer and will be again this summer, but we serve more than just cancer.

19:29:14 From Darla Dakin to Everyone:

Camp Wapiyapi is planning on kids again.

19:29:15 From Heather - Camp Okizu to Everyone:
Okizu is planning to do kids camp

19:29:15 From Marcia Bettenhausen to Everyone:
kids camp

19:29:30 From Deb-Camp iHope to Everyone:
We are doing kids programming

19:29:30 From Jason - Camp Rising Sun MS to Everyone:
Camp Rising Sun will be doing a kids camp.

19:29:31 From David Mann to Everyone:
Resident camp

19:29:35 From Melissa Acquazzino to Everyone:
Kids-only camp

19:29:43 From Cindy Candela-Ryan to Everyone:
Kids overnight camp and a virtual camp

19:29:49 From Jennyfer Balkema to Everyone:
We ran 2021 sort of normal, not family and we plan to do the same for 2022 - one week kids only overnight camp :)

19:29:51 From Katie Swain to Everyone:
Family type camp at Camp Goodtimes at YMCA Camp Reed

19:29:56 From Julianne : Dream Day on Cape Cod to Everyone:
We are strictly a family camp. Each family lives in their own cabin (even prior to covid)

19:30:05 From Mindy Bean to Everyone:
Camp Millennium is planning on a kids only week long camp in June

19:30:08 From Cindy Hall to Everyone:
In person resident camp, kids only

19:30:40 From Anisa Hoie to Everyone:
Kids overnight camp and a sibling camp

19:30:44 From Lynn Barr to Everyone:
Kids only - Camp Millennium

19:30:47 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:
We also hold one kids-only weekend overnight camp each month (although we've canceled the one for this upcoming weekend due to high severity of inaccessibility of healthcare resources in the San Antonio area related to COVID right now) and plan to hold two different 4 day/3 night Spring Break camps next month.

19:41:25 From Fran Wiley to Everyone:
still deciding. hope to do overnight and postpone family camp to fall. hoping vaccine may be available for little kids

Q&A :

19:33:22 From Cindy Candela-Ryan to Everyone:
Are the activity leaders assigned to cohorts or do they lead all the groups who are rotating around? (Waterfront, ropes, etc).

19:33:36 From Shayna Rosenblum Camp Enchantment New Mexico to Everyone:
How did you cohort for meals?

19:34:05 From Gayle Morris to Everyone:
What age groups are included in the kids camp?

19:34:19 From Miriam Paas to Everyone:
Kelsey - how did you problem solve for the day camps that had small numbers of the oldest group?

19:35:17 From Kelsey Merritt - R9 - WCK to Everyone:
Thanks for asking!! As soon as we gave the older kids more choice and made it clear that they do not need to do what the younger kids were doing they eased into the activities We had teen volunteers who we would pair the participants up with and then pull them out and find new things to do that felt more age appropriate! The teen volunteers were great and acted a peer for the 12/13 year old participants.

19:34:55 From Darla Dakin to Everyone:

Did you need to change the contact at all with the Camp Director?

19:41:11 From Edith Tomasetti to Everyone:

What numbers were you serving for each of the camps?

19:42:01 From EmJ, Camp Happy Days to Everyone:

We served 25 families, about 100 people total for a 4 day, 3 night family camp

19:43:36 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

We do a 1:1 camper:counselor ratio as well, plus healthcare volunteers, plus a seasonal staff, so we had about 200-250 people on camp at a time. It was smaller than normal - usually we serve up to 120 campers per week for 9 weeks, with up to 350-400 people on camp at a time.

19:42:30 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

Last summer we fed in two shifts and sanitized between seatings using bleachwater and electrostatic disinfectant sprayers... It was not the most fun logistically and harder on kitchen staff, but it kept everyone safe - we had zero cases of COVID during Summer Camp 2022 with 6 sessions - each serving about 80 campers.

19:47:16 From Chris Lehman to Everyone:

What percentage of campers and counselors were fully vaccinated?

19:47:16 From Cindy Candela-Ryan to Everyone:

Any ideas to engage teens who are used to picking all of their activities and don't usually participate as a cohort?

19:47:17 From yvonne wood to Everyone:

Are you reducing total camp size? if so, by what percent?

19:47:25 From Jen EW - Camp Mak-A-Dream to Everyone:

Did anyone have anyone ask for an ADA accommodation to NOT wear a mask? Do you have a form you have them fill out requesting an accommodation?

19:49:17 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

Texas governor's orders required allowing a disability exception for masks, and because of the variety of campers we serve (including many on the autism spectrum who have sensory issues about having masks on their faces) we had to allow those exceptions... But most families and campers were very compliant overall.

19:50:23 From Jen EW - Camp Mak-A-Dream to Everyone:

Thanks Brandon. Did you have them submit an "official" exception? We had the same issue Krystin!

19:51:24 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

Jen - we did not require an official exception, but we didn't find it to be a problem.

19:47:57 From Miriam Paas to Everyone:

Did anyone use eye protection at their camps alongside masks?

19:49:35 From Krystin Camp Casco she/her to Everyone:

For masking, did anyone have any hearing impaired campers? We tried the clear masks for lip reading last year, but they were just awful, and are not medical-grade. Any suggestions for solutions for those that lip read?

19:50:59 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

Krystin - I would say not requiring masks within the cohort, and when needing to mix cohorts try to have speakers socially distance and pull their mask away when speaking. It's not perfect, but may be the best you can do.

19:51:20 From Krystin Camp Casco she/her to Everyone:

We actually got all of our participants the clear masks. So the participant could read everyone else's lips. We also used a tablet and microphone to help pick up conversations, but that still wasn't great in group settings

19:50:12 From Dr. Mike - Camp Okizu to Everyone:

The N95 and KN95 masks are definitely more effective. They are also significantly more expensive and much less comfortable to wear, especially if you are being physically active. Kids or parents might resist more, I don't know.

19:53:03 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

In Texas we have to fight having a governor whose orders defy commonsense and penalize measures geared toward personal safety. We have learned to be strategic about walking the line and still keeping people safe... and early voting for our gubernatorial primary just opened, so maybe we can get rid of him!

19:55:33 From Chris Lehman to Everyone:

Does anyone have a minimum of campers causing you to shift from onsite to virtual camp?

19:56:31 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

We are not planning to limit number of campers to the 2/3 capacity limit that we had last summer.

19:57:14 From Julianne : Dream Day on Cape Cod to Everyone:

Our camp involves children and their families who have trachs/vents/requiring suction, many of which will have doctor defined mask waivers sent to me. Is it too aggressive to completely close the dining hall for use due to the diagnosis I serve? I can require people to eat outside, but if bad weather that will mean everyone is forced inside their cabins. Too aggressive?

19:58:52 From Brandon Briery - Camp CAMP to Everyone:

Hard to say Julianne... not knowing what the size, ventilation, etc., is like in your dining hall... Can you do shifts and spread cohorts out? Do you have porches? Can you do a combination of inside and outside?