

EXISTENTIAL THREAT AND POWERFUL OPPORTUNITY: ABUSE AND ABUSE PREVENTION AT YOUR CAMP

Gareth Hedges — The Redwoods Group

Child sexual abuse has always been a potential risk at camps. In recent years, however, societal and legal factors are converging in such a way as to make this an existential threat for camps and other youth-serving community organizations. Fortunately, while the crisis is real, it is also an opportunity to finally take the steps to ensure that abuse has no place to thrive at our organizations.

SECRETS OF A GOOD CAMPFIRE STORY

Matthew Huffman — Firelight Productions

One of the definitive experiences of camp is sitting around a campfire and telling stories. Night falls, the fire crackles, and we cozy up with friends and listen to a counselor tell a story. But how does the counselor or staff member do this? How do we tell a good story to our campers? How do we weave a tale that will inspire (and not frighten) them? In this session, you will learn the techniques and secrets behind the art and science of telling a good campfire story.

UNPLUGGED OR PLUGGED IN? STRIKING A BALANCE WITH DIGITAL MEDIA IN CAMPS

Ashley DeHudy, MD, MPH — Primary Care Pediatrician

During this interactive session, participants will refresh their knowledge on social media trends and their potential health implications. We'll delve into "digital media-based" challenges facing camps and workshop strategies and solutions to improve the camp experience. We'll highlight positive uses of digital media that can spark creativity and engagement and ensure all participants develop strong foundational knowledge that will be key in crafting an effective camp digital media policy.

CRISIS — IT REALLY CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!

Tori Barns — American Camp Association

Harassment, drugs, politics, relationships, working with minors . . . these are some areas that raise tough questions facing camps utilizing ACA's Camp Crisis Hotline. Do your policies and practices support and guide your actions? Are they strong enough? Learn about these unexpected moments and emerging issues. Practice with real case studies and gain resources, explore lessons learned and the implications on your policies and practices at camp, and what you can do to plan for emergencies and/or crisis.

STATE CHILDCARE LICENSING Q&A

Jane Sanborn — Sanborn Western Camps

Reid McKnight — Geneva Glenn

Kim Betts — Cheley Colorado Camps

Join our panel of camp experts. Come hear what is new/hot in the world of childcare licensing, background checks, wage law, and more in this roundtable discussion. Bring your questions!

IMPLICIT BIAS AT CAMP: WHAT WE DON'T KNOW CAN HURT US

Pamela Chambers — Beyond Diversity

Robin Parker — Beyond Diversity

Everyone has biases. When we know what our biases are, we can work to minimize their effect on those with whom we interact. But what about the biases that we are not aware of? Research teaches us that we have biases that are outside of our conscious awareness, known as implicit bias. Join us as we examine implicit bias and share techniques to reduce its effect on our cross-cultural relationships.

FINDING AND CELEBRATING THE DEEP AND SIMPLE MOMENTS IN SERVING YOUNG PEOPLE

Dana Winters, PhD — Fred Rogers Institute

Serving children and young people requires us to understand and address a complex system of challenges and opportunities. It is sometimes difficult to imagine how a single, small, and ordinary moment fits within these complex challenges and rising demands for outcomes, yet such moments are the most essential building blocks of a healthy community. Finding meaningful ways to talk about such moments can be encouraging, enriching, and empowering at every level of a youth-serving system. Each simple interaction lays the groundwork for lasting developmental relationships — showing children and youth that they are cherished and have a place in this world. At the foundation of every child's healthy development is the power of human connection — and we will explore the power we have to build connections and contribute to the positive development of the children and youth around us.

GROWING SIMPLE INTERACTIONS THROUGH PRACTICE

Dana Winters, PhD — Fred Rogers Institute

How do we encourage, enhance, and empower the human relationships around children and youth? In this workshop session, we apply an approach to understand practice, program, and policy. We rely on capturing and learning from every day "simple interactions" in a variety of settings, including orphanages, youth development, and childcare providers. We explore how this approach may complement and support the larger work of professional development and system change. By capturing and learning from what ordinary people do extraordinarily well in simple, everyday moments, we can grow practice, nurture intuition into intention, and plant the seeds for sustainable systems change.

LGBTQ CAMPER AND STAFF: QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

Jessica Weissbuch & Kayla Weissbuch — Brave Trails

Bring your questions, answers and scenarios to this interactive, judgment-free Q&A session about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) campers and staff. Together we will brainstorm solutions to your specific needs.

TRANS TWO: THE NEXT LEVEL

Jessica Weissbuch & Kayla Weissbuch — Brave Trails

This presentation focusses on gender and dives deeper into transgender and LGBTQ issues. Participants should have a basic level of understanding on LGBTQ issues for these "next-level" conversations.

CREATING AN INCLUSION PROGRAM AT CAMP

Courtney Jacobson — JCC Camp Shai

Molly Cohn — JCC Camp Shai

JCC Camp Shai has been offering inclusion services for day camp campers for a number of years. We are not a special needs camp, but we are able to accommodate a significant number of children with identified needs, both diagnosed and some undiagnosed. We have developed an intensive intake process, system for working with parents and a robust training for Inclusion staff. Furthermore, we also train our general counselors on inclusive practices that result in a greater empathy and understanding of the campers we serve, which ultimately permeates the camp culture.

WHEN DOES A CHALLENGE COURSE BECOME AN AMUSEMENT RIDE OR DEVICE IN THE STATE OF COLORADO?

Rhonda Mickelson — Cheley Colorado Camps

Tom Leahy — Rope Works

Leslie Sohl — Colorado Dept. of Labor & Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety

Dave Knight — Colorado Dept. of Labor & Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety

Scott Narreau — Colorado Dept. of Labor & Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety

Join staff members from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety (this is who regulates aerial adventure/amusement rides and devices) as they share:

- Brief history of the regulations related to challenge courses in CO to include how they were developed
- Overview of regulations and where to find them
- What it means to be "exempt" from the state regulations
- Responses to questions from the group

As more camps (and other entities) install and use challenge courses and zip lines, it is important to know when the use of these structures moves outside the realm of educational and private event programming and into the realm of open to the public/amusement — therefore making the operator no longer "exempt" from regulatory jurisdiction. This session will help answer that question along with other questions.

MINIMUM WAGE

Jane Sanborn — Sanborn Western Camps

There is no minimum wage exemption for seasonal camp staff in Colorado and it is becoming an increasing problem. We are considering taking action to try to achieve a legislative fix. Please join us if you would like to be involved in this effort.

CONNECTING THE DOTS FOR HEALTH

Jo Burns — Jo Burns Consulting

Parks, recreation, and camp is an important "dot" in the big picture of health. Who are the other "dots" filling out the picture? What is national research showing? What makes us a great fit in the overall picture of health for our citizens, our communities and our state? Together, we can complete the picture of health by connecting all the dots!

APPLYING MINDFULNESS INTERVENTIONS TO RESPOND TO THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THE CAMP COMMUNITY

Amy Scott — Amy Scott Psychotherapy

Presenter will recap the emerging mental health crisis. Next, we will be introduced to a theoretical framework for looking at mental health called ACT (acceptance and commitment therapy). Through the application of metaphors, we will begin to frame a new way of thinking about distress. Finally, we will learn and practice simple mindfulness strategies for working with our vulnerable campers and the community around them to bring our youth back to a state of being grounded, safe, and stable.

SHARPEN YOUR AXE — USING FEEDBACK AND FRUSTRATION TO CHALLENGE YOUR STATUS QUO AND REFOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Eric Rightor — Avid4 Adventure

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I’ll spend the first four sharpening the axe.” As camp professionals, we spend a lot of our time chopping the tree without sharpening the axe. This session will provide the space, tools, and support for important self-reflection on your program and yourself and how you can get your camp focused back on what really matters, serve your families better, and make your life easier in the process.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

Michael Ohl — Camp Chief Ouray YMCA

This session will focus in on the evaluation process and how information is gathered, truth is gleaned, and resolution process if needed. We will delve into the CCO evaluation process, real life survey results and how we handle info from surveys to try to mitigate negative reviews.

HELP! IS IT A TRIP? OR TRAVEL CAMP? WHAT ACA STANDARDS APPLY?

Rhonda Mickelson — Cheley Colorado Camps

Does your camp offer programming away from your “main property?” Does it last a half day or five days? Is it to the local waterpark or a five-day backpack trip? Chances are those programs occurring off-site are considered a trip by ACA standards. Join the former ACA Director of Accreditation and current members of the ACA standards team to learn more about trips, travel camps, and the newly released ACA standards as they related to trips and travel camp.

A HITCHHIKER’S GUIDE TO CAMP EVALUATION TOOLS

Andrew Leary — The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

It’s no secret that camp changes young people’s lives. Through research we know how camp can change lives— but where and when do these changes happen in our own programs? We’ll explore the answer to that question through the wonderful world of evaluation and assessment. With your friendly guides Ariella and Andrew, attendees will get hands on experience using the Camp Program Quality Assessment (CPQA). Come learn how simple and effective program quality tools can be!

More Sessions-Descriptions to Come:

WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON “CHANGE

Matt “Sully” Sullivan — Camp Chief Ouray, YMCA of the Rockies

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AT CAMP

Matt “Sully” Sullivan — Camp Chief Ouray, YMCA of the Rockies