COCAtcon 2019

Welcome to
LOUISVILLE

November 14th - 17th
Omni Hotel Louisville, KY
Dear COCA-nuts,

Welcome to Louisville, Kentucky! We hope you take full advantage of all this amazing city has to offer and believe me, there is so much to do! If you hear horses coming, you might want to just step aside and let them pass. It has been my pleasure to have served as your president this past year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome you to COCA-Con 2019.

This year has marked such growth in our organization. Our membership continues to increase and our Gold Ribbon Program continues to award and assist camps in their quest. Opportunities for individual members has also grown this year. We have had larger numbers taking advantage of our Staff Exchange Program, Webinars and COCA is proud to have been able to offer scholarships at record numbers this year.

A huge thanks to our Conference Chair, Leah McComb, and the fantastic Conference Planning Committee for all the tireless hours you have put into the conference. We are excited to offer our “Triple-Crown” of programming with our COCAcademy again this year, our CEU track and keynote speakers and the Grief pre-conference. These and all the great sessions led by our members will provide an awesome experience for all those in attendance.

I also want to thank our partners and exhibitors for being a part of our conference and mission. I am so proud of our partnerships with Care Camps and Northwestern Mutual. With their continued support and that of our members, COCA will grow in numbers, passion and opportunities to provide the best experiences possible for all our campers and families!

Welcome to COCA-Con 2019! We are so happy you chose to join us!

Matthew R. Ruttler
Matthew R. Ruttler
President, COCA
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Hikes Point</th>
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<th>Olmsted 2</th>
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**Thursday November 14th**

Board Meeting (room)

Grief Pre-Conference Registration (Outside Olmstead 4)

Welcome & Announcements

Conference Registration and Information Desk (Outside Olmstead 4)

- Grief Soup Is a Camp Activity I Don’t Know what to Say! Strategies for Supporting Grief in Children and Youth
- Executive Directors Forum I
- Executive Directors Forum II
- COCA Heart - Joey Cavasos
- New Attendees Meet & Greet (Pre-function outside of Olmstead 1,2,3)
- President’s Reception (Pre-function outside of Olmstead 1,2,3)

Hospitality Suite (room)
Friday November 15th

Registration Desk (Outside Olmstead 4)

"Breakfast & Business" with the Vendors (Pre-Function outside of Olmstead 1, 2, 3)

Opening Ceremonies & Announcements - Commonwealth 1/2/3

Tom Rosenberg Keynote "Why Camp Is More Essential Today" - Commonwealth 1/2/3

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Hikes Point</td>
<td>Cancer Beats, Olmsted 1/2/3, Olmstead 5, Olmstead 6, Olmstead 7, Clifton,</td>
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<td>NuLu, Leadership, Supervision, &amp; Management I, Develop an Annual Fundraising</td>
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<td>Plan, Panel Discussion - Camper Similarities and Differences. Essential</td>
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<td>Staff Training, Your Staff Are Doing It Online.</td>
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<td>11:30 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Hikes Point</td>
<td>Camp Health Hot Topics, Olmsted 1/2/3, Olmstead 5, Olmstead 6, Olmstead 7,</td>
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<td>Clifton, NuLu, Leadership, Supervision, &amp; Management II, This One Time at</td>
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<td>Cancer Camp... Counselor Mentorship Program, Coffee Klatsch, Developing a</td>
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<td>Growth Mindset.</td>
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<td>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>Exhibits Open.</td>
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<td>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
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<td>New Hazardous Drugs Regulation, Difficult Management Conversations I, My</td>
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<td>Special Aflac Duck, Creating a SIBS Camp Program, How to be a Better</td>
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<td>Facilitator, How May I Help You?</td>
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<td>3:15 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
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<td>More Than Just a Craft, Difficult Management Conversations II, Volunteer</td>
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<td>Recruitment &amp; Retention, Developing a Leadership/CIT Program, Duct Tape and</td>
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<td>Safety Pins, &quot;Portraits of Joy&quot;</td>
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<td>Exhibits Open.</td>
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<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting (Olmstead 1, 2, 3).</td>
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<td>9:00 pm – 11:00 pm</td>
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<td>Dinner On Your Own.</td>
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<td>Hospitality Suite (room).</td>
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Exhibits Open

Regional Meetings / City Market Food Vouchers
(Each region will be assigned meeting location and time to get food at the Market)

New Hazardous Drugs Regulation, Difficult Management Conversations I, My Special Aflac Duck, Creating a SIBS Camp Program, How to be a Better Facilitator, How May I Help You?

Developing a Leadership/CIT Program, Duct Tape and Safety Pins, "Portraits of Joy"
### Saturday November 16th

**Registration Desk (Outside Olmstead 4)**

**Breakfast - Commonwealth 1/2/3**

Jim Cain Keynote "Small Steps" Commonwealth 1/2/3

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Hikes Point</th>
<th>Olmsted 1/2/3</th>
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<th>Olmsted 7</th>
<th>Clifton</th>
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<td>10:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Medications at Camp</td>
<td>Staff Training I: Teach Staff How to Think, Not What to Do</td>
<td>Dollars &amp; Donors</td>
<td>Life Lessons</td>
<td>A case study in teen-driven programming</td>
<td>Team Building with Index Cards</td>
<td>Camp Directors Forum</td>
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<td>11:15 am - 12:15 pm</td>
<td>Programming with Intention</td>
<td>Staff Training II</td>
<td>Designing Programs Kids Actually Want to Do</td>
<td>Working with Teens Roundtable</td>
<td>Understanding Ages &amp; Stages of Development</td>
<td>How to Write a Gold Ribbon Compliant policy</td>
<td>New Directors Forum</td>
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#### LUNCH - buffet table

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>How CDCA-I Camps Help Campers</td>
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<td>1:45 pm - 2:45 pm</td>
<td>Behavior: Why do they do what they do?! I</td>
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<td>3:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>How to Bring Music and Music Therapy to Camp</td>
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<td>4:15 pm – 5:15 pm</td>
<td>From Hospital to High Ropes</td>
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<td>5:30 pm – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Social Fundraising</td>
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<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Getting the Best for Your Board</td>
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#### Silent Auction (Olmstead 1,2,3,4)

#### "Best of COCAI" Awards Banquet (Olmstead 1,2,3,4)
## Sunday November 17th

Continental Breakfast (Olmstead 1, 2, 3)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Hikes Point</th>
<th>Olmstead 5</th>
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<td>Programming Round Table</td>
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<td>Fundraising Round Table</td>
<td>Child Development Round Table</td>
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<td>Gold Ribbon Workshop</td>
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COCacon 2019
Schedule at a Glance

Thursday November 14th

8:30:AM - 12:30:PM
Good Grief: The Art of Juggling Joy and Sorrow - Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist - Olmsted 2

2:00:PM - 3:30:PM
Workshop - I Don’t Know what to Say! Strategies for Supporting Grief in Children and Youth - Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist - Olmsted 2
Workshop - Grief Soup Is a Camp Activity - Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist - Olmsted 2

2:30:PM - 3:30:PM
Song Swap - Rich Brundige & Dave Smith - Hikes Point
Executive Directors Forum I - Hattie Johnson & Melissa McNichol - NuLu

3:45:PM - 4:45:PM
Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round
Table I - Dr. Kaye Wagner MD, Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist, Sanford USD Medical Center and Heather Fleming, RN - Hikes Point
Executive Directors Forum II - Hattie Johnson & Melissa McNichol - NuLu
COCA-I Heart - Joey Cavazos - Olmsted 2

Friday November 15th

8:30:AM - 10:00:AM
Why Camp Is More Essential Today: 21st Century Out-Of-School-Time Education - Tom Rosenberg, President and Chief Executive Officer American Camp Association - Commonwealth 1/2/3

10:15:AM - 11:15:AM
Essential Staff Training, Team Building or Team Bonding - Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay - Clifton
Cancer Beats: Using Music Therapy to Promote Survivorship and Coping for Teens and Young Adults Affected by Cancer - Brett Northrup, MT-BC - Hikes Point
Your Staff Are Doing It Online (Education, That Is) - Evan Heltay - NuLu
Develop an Annual Fundraising Plan - Shelby Russell & Becca Washer - Olmsted 5
Panel Discussion - Camper Similarities and Differences - "Normal" versus Medically Challenged Campers - Tom Rosenberg, Dr. Mike Amylon & Dr. Brandon Briery - Olmsted 7

11:30:AM - 12:30:PM
Coffee Klatsch - Hot Topics - Bruce Hooper & Mark Slocum - Clifton
Camp Health Hot Topics: Addressing Current Challenges and Concerns - Tracey C. Gaslin PhD, CRNI, CPNP, FNP BC, E.D. Association of Camp Nurses - Hikes Point
Developing a Growth Mindset - Brian Moore & Brad Palmer - NuLu
Leadership, Supervision, & Management Part 2 of 2 - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
This One Time at Cancer Camp... - Darryl Perkins, Jr. & Devin Ryan - Olmsted 5
Counselor and Mentorship Program: How to Serve Campers Long After They’ve Aged-Out - Ryan Campbell - Olmsted 7

2:00:PM - 3:00:PM
Becoming a Better Facilitator - Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay - Clifton
New Hazardous Drugs Regulation - Overview and Considerations for Oncology Camps - Christina Beckwith - Hikes Point
How May I Help You? - Sydney Jones - NuLu
Can I talk to you for a minute? Difficult Management Conversations Part 1 of 2 - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
My Special Aflac Duck (MSAD) Training - Buffy Swinehart & Mandy Flynn - Olmsted 5
Creating a SIBS Camp Program - Barbie Ricken, BSN RN - Olmsted 7

3:15:PM - 4:14:PM
Duct Tape and Safety Pins: Improvised and Wilderness Medicine in the Outdoor Group Camp Environment - Travis Mellon, DO, FAWM, DiMM - Clifton
More Than Just a Craft: Utilizing Therapeutic Art and Legacy Building Projects in the Camp Setting - Kristina Richetts, MSFS, CCLS - Hikes Point
" Portraits of Joy" How to TELL your camp story through pictures and testimonials! And raise money in the process! - Ann Walsh - NuLu
Difficult Management Conversations Role Plays Part 2 of 2 - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
Volunteer Recruitment and Retention - TBD - Olmsted 5
Developing a Leadership/CIT Program - TBD - Olmsted 7
**Saturday November 16th**

**8:45AM - 9:45AM**
Keynote: Small Steps - Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay - Commonwealth1/2/3

**10:00AM - 11:00AM**
Teambuilding with Index Cards - Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay - Clifton
Medications at Camp: Increasing Camp Nurse and Counselors’ Confidence in Safety and Efficiency - Meghan Gomez, RN, BSN, CPHON MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital in Houston, Texas - Hikes Point
Camp Director Forum - Melissa McNichol & Tom Prader - NuLu
Staff Training Part 1 of 2: Teach Staff How to Think, Not What to Do - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
Dollars & Donors: The never ending grind of fundraising. - Eddie Bobbitt - Olmsted 5
Life Lessons - COCA-I Young Professional Leaders Astin Godwin, Cassy Shea, and Iain Riddle - Olmsted 6
For Teens From Teens: A Case Study in Teen Driven Programming - Marjorie Scher - Olmsted 7

**11:15AM - 12:15PM**
How to write a Gold Ribbon Compliant policy - Jennifer Amundsen & Brian Crater - Clifton
Programming with Intention: How program evaluation and quality improvement lead to improved youth outcomes - Dr. Mike Amylon, Professor of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology Lucile Salter Packard Children’s Hospital, Emeritus - Hikes Point
New Directors Forum - Matt Ruttler & Gretchen Loose - NuLu
Staff Training Part 2 of 2 - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
Stuff in the Hospital: Designing Programs Kids Actually Want to Do - Morgan Marcinko & Stephanie Irwin - Olmsted 5
Working With Teens - Round Table - Sydney Jones - Olmsted 6
Understanding Ages & Stages of Development and Applying it in the Camping Environment - Deanna Slade - Olmsted 7

**1:45PM - 2:45PM**
Social Fundraising - Rich Brundige & Tom Prader - Clifton
How COCA-I Camps Help Campers: Results of the COCA-I Oversample in the ACA Youth Impact Study and Review of Other Research Opportunities - Dr. Mike Amylon, Professor of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology Lucile Salter Packard Children’s Hospital, Emeritus - Hikes Point
Getting the Best from Your Board - Mark Slocum - NuLu
The Behavior Session: Why do they do what they do?!? Part 1 of 2 - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
How to Bring Music and Music Therapy to Camp: A Collaborative Program between Kid’s Cancer Alliance and Norton Children’s Cancer Institute - Brett Northrup, MT-BC and Leah McComb, Program Director - Kids Cancer Alliance - Olmsted 5
Teen Program Refresh - Cassandra Shea - Olmsted 6
Building Trust and Maintaining Relationships with Families - Nick Toyne & Luke Van Ryn - Olmsted 7

**3:00PM - 4:00PM**
Teambuilding for Free (no prop activities, right here, right now). - Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay - Clifton
Healthy Eating at Camp - Corey Hawes MS, RDN, CNCS, LDN - Hikes Point
The Behavior Session: Why do they do what they do?!? Part 2 of 2 - Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon - Olmsted 1/2/3
Staff Development - Training and Recruiting - Bert Kennedy - Olmsted 5
Camp Theme Round Table - Becky Felak - Olmsted 7
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Help Me Help You - Jennifer Mercer - Clifton

Providing Support of Siblings of Pediatric Cancer - Dianna L. Holtzhauer, APRN CPON - Hikes Point

Become a Gold Ribbon Accreditation Visitor! - Brian Crater & Jennifer Amundsen - NuLu

The Camp Experience for Adolescent Cancer Survivors - Katie Riley - Olmsted 5

Sexuality and Disability Following Cancer Treatment - Brandon G. Briery, Ph.D. Clinical Child & Pediatric Psychologist - Olmsted 6

Talking to Campers About Cancer at Camp: What the research tells us and how to train inexperienced staff to have these discussions. - Jayme & Nick Bellamy - Olmsted 7

Sunday November 17th

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Child Development Round Table - Open Participation - Clifton

Programming Round Table - Open Participation - Hikes Point

Gold Ribbon Workshop I - For Camps Being Visited in 2020 and Those Being Mentored - Jennifer Amundsen - Olmsted 6

Fundraising Round Table - Open Participation - Olmsted 7
**Good Grief: The Art of Juggling Joy and Sorrow**  
Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist

**Summary**
Grief is a natural and healthy part of the human experience yet in our contemporary society it is an experience permeated by myths and misconceptions. While it can be challenging enough to know how to best support others and even ourselves during life’s windstorms, knowing how to best support children often proves to be an even greater challenge. Children and youth with cancer are not only grieving the impact of their illness, but may also be grieving other losses such as the separation of parents or the death of a friend who was at camp last year, but not this year. When children and youth come to camp – so does their grief. This plenary presentation will explore ways of juggling life’s joys and sorrows by identifying practical tips for supporting a healthy grief process in ourselves, our colleagues, and our campers.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
1. Identify common myths and misconceptions about grief
2. Identify strategies for navigating grief in oneself in a healthy way
3. Recognize how grief presents in children and youth

**Outcome Measure:**
* Learner will be able to identify common myths and misconceptions about grief.
* Learner will be able to identify strategies for navigating one’s own grief process in a healthy way.
* Learner will be able to recognize when a camper is expressing feelings that may be related to grief.
Workshop - I Don’t Know what to Say! Strategies for Supporting Grief in Children and Youth
Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist

Summary
This session will build on the morning’s “Good Grief” keynote presentation by diving deeper into strategies for supporting a healthy grief process in campers, as well staff and volunteers. Common well-intended but misguided grief support strategies, such as praising and “story-topping” will be identified. Together we will explore, identify, and practice strategies that do tend to help people of all ages navigate their most difficult times in life including the art of “Bearing Witness”.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: As a result of this program the learner will be able to:

1. Identify statements to avoid saying to campers and colleagues who are grieving
2. Identify strategies that tend to be helpful for supporting grieving campers and colleagues
3. Practice “bearing witness” to the story of another’s struggle or suffering

Outcome Measure:
* Learner will be able to identify things to avoid saying when supporting children, youth and adults who are grieving.
* Learner will be able to identify strategies for supporting children and adults who are grieving an illness or death.
* Learner will enhance their comfort in witnessing the suffering of another without feelings the need to fix it.
Workshop - Grief Soup Is a Camp Activity
Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist

Summary
Play and creativity have a unique capacity to help children and youth understand their feelings and to develop skills to help them navigate these feelings in healthy ways. The camp environment provides endless opportunities to make learning about grief fun. In this session a wide range of easy to use (and modify) creative ideas will be shared including activities that foster emotional literacy such as “feelings Jenga”, activities that facilitate understanding of cancer such as “You can’t catch cancer”, and activities that facilitate the processing of grief such “sponge balls”. Bereavement-specific activities will also be shared, including ways to introduce the activities and support the campers through the activities.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
1. Define the concept of emotional literacy and how it benefits grieving children
2. Describe the concept of teachable moment and ways to seize teachable moments in the camp environment
3. Identify camp activities that can be used to foster emotional literacy in campers, enhance their understanding of cancer, and to support a healthy grief process

Outcome Measure:
* Learner will be able to define “emotional literacy” as well as how it benefits campers who are grieving difficult life situations.
* Learner will be able to identify the concept of teachable moments and ways that they can be used to help campers develop their emotional literacy.
* Learner will be able to identify creative activities that can be used to help support emotional literacy and a healthy grief process in campers, as well as enhance their understanding of cancer.

Song Swap
Rich Brundige & Dave Smith

Summary
Be prepared to sing your favorite camp song, and swap with others.
**Executive Directors Forum I**  
Hattie Johnson & Melissa McNichol

**Summary**  
Come join us in a round table discussion of key issues facing Executive Directors.

Both sessions (1 and 2) are geared towards issues that Executive Directors work with outside of Camp sessions. From Board of Directors to Succession Planning, Staff Development (non camp sessions) long range planning, program development and other topics that are related to the day to day operations of Not-For-Profit organizations. Bring your thoughts, concerns, questions.

Let’s solve those tough issues together.

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**Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round Table I**  
Dr. Kaye Wagner MD, Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist, Sanford USD Medical Center and Heather Fleming, RN

**Summary**  
Objectives/Outcomes:
1. Identify concerns common to all pediatric oncology camping programs
2. Discuss ideas for providing medical care for campers, staff and volunteers across a range of pediatric oncology camping settings
3. Describe options for staffing models that can be applied across a range of pediatric oncology camping settings
4. Recognize the important contributions of the medical team to reach the overall goal of providing safe and effective pediatric oncology camping programs
Executive Directors Forum II
Hattie Johnson & Melissa McNichol

Summary
Come join us in a round table discussion of key issues facing Executive Directors.

Both sessions (1 and 2) are geared towards issues that Executive Directors work with outside of Camp sessions. From Board of Directors to Succession Planning, Staff Development (non camp sessions) long range planning, program development and other topics that are related to the day to day operations of Not-For-Profit organizations. Bring your thoughts, concerns, questions. Let's solve those tough issues together.

COCA-I Heart
Joey Cavazos

Summary
Explore, learn, expand your horizons. A terrific experiential event to begin COCAcon 2019. During this venture, individuals will get out of it what they put into it. It is a powerful tool you can use for team members during your camp training sessions.
Friday November 15th

**8:30 am - 10:00 am**  Commonwealth 1/2/3

Tom Rosenberg, President and Chief Executive Officer American Camp Association

**Summary**
Join Tom Rosenberg for an inspiring presentation of trends, impacts and implications around the field of American camp which will shape our programs and our profession over the next decade. Followed by a panel discussion.

**10:15 am - 11:15 am**  Clifton

*Essential Staff Training, Team Building or Team Bonding*
Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teambuilding Guru

**Summary**
Teambuilding Guru Dr. Jim Cain shares his favorite, newest and best team and community building activities from around the world. Come prepared to engage with others as you learn valuable techniques and activities for building unity, community and connection.
Cancer Beats: Using Music Therapy to Promote Survivor-Ship and Coping for Teens and Young Adults Affected by Cancer
Brett Northrup, MT-BC

Summary
This presentation will define music therapy and its use as a supportive service for Teens affected by cancer. We will explore the treatment process and the many uses of music, both in and as therapy, and how it can be used to help with survivor-ship and coping for these individuals. We will also focus largely on the use of songwriting and legacy creation and explore how special programming and community involvement can enhance the experience.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
1. Be able to define music therapy
2. Be able to identify appropriate referrals, goals and treatment objectives within this population
3. Be able to describe the application and benefit for the use of songwriting and Legacy creation for this population
4. Be able to describe the concept of the cancer beats program and how community involvement can enhance the patient experience
Your Staff Are Doing It Online (Education, That Is)
Evan Heltay

Summary
Students in high-school and college are getting much of their education via online learning and studies confirm that they both enjoy the flexibility it offers along with the access to top educators that it affords them.
Online learning is arguably an even better fit for summer camps.
No director has their staff on-site for long enough to cover every key topic and standard prior to opening day. To mitigate risks of an undertrained staff and the challenge of training late hires, EOT offers a comprehensive pre-season solution featuring a faculty of 30 industry experts and a library of more than 140 video training modules that directors can assign to new, returning, and supervisory staff every spring. The result is a staff that arrives prepared, confident, and acculturated.

Outcomes:
1. Understand the change and improvement in learning standards and training methods for youth today and how it impacts student’s expectations of their employers and the organizations they’re involved with.

2. Explore how providing pre-season, online learning frees up time for owners and directors to take a deeper dive into essential topics during their on-site orientation.

3. Learn how to create custom courses and draw from current libraries of expert-taught, professionally-created video training modules while tracking compliance and student comprehension.
**Leadership, Supervision, & Management Part 1 of 2: Positive Management Principles**
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

**Summary**
COCAcademy

Let’s face it: Our staff members and volunteers can sometimes really irritate us. It is easy to get annoyed when things go wrong—sometimes, it seems like our staff just aren’t listening, or that they are even messing up on purpose! In this session, we will workshop what it takes to build a positive camp culture, where directors are guides and not police officers; where staff and volunteers ask the right questions (but not too many!); and where a foundation of mutual respect between supervisors and supervisees is built so that everyone at camp can learn and grow together.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Participants will what it means to have a positive camp culture
2. Participants will management techniques that use positive psychology in order to have productive and generative interactions with staff and volunteers
3. Participants will practice challenging management scenarios and work to determine how to address them while maintaining a positive camp culture

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**Develop an Annual Fundraising Plan**
Shelby Russell & Becca Washer

**Summary**

Plan the work, work the plan. Join Kids Cancer Alliance’s Executive Director and Philanthropy Director in working to develop your 2020 fundraising plan. Come prepared with your 2020 budget needs as we work together to put your plan on paper and discuss ways to then put your plan into action leveraging your current resources and connections.

Attendees will leave presentation with:
1. An Understanding of the importance of a formal annual fundraising plan.
2. Learn best practices for annual fundraising.
3. Practical knowledge of how to create an annual fundraising plan.
4. An action plan for executing their 2020 annual fundraising plan.

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  [https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations](https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations)
**Panel Discussion - Camper Similarities and Differences - "Normal" versus Medically Challenged Campers**
Tom Rosenberg, Dr. Mike Amylon & Dr. Brandon Briery

**Summary**
Listen to Tom Rosenberg, President and CEO of the American Camping Association and COCA-I leaders talk about the similarities, differences and challenges of today's youth whether or not they are medically challenged.

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**Coffee Klatsch - Hot Topics**
Bruce Hooper & Mark Slocum

**Summary**
Spend the next hour talking with and learning from your COCA-I colleagues about those things that keep you up at night ... staff, volunteers, risk management, boards, and burn out. We will make a list, address as much as we can, and introduce you to people that may have a solution.

Outcomes:
* Connect with others and build a network that you can reach out to when you find yourself challenged
* Discuss hot topics and ways to address them

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**Camp Health Hot Topics: Addressing Current Challenges and Concerns**
Tracey C. Gaslin PhD, CRNI, CPNP, FNP BC, E.D. Association of Camp Nurses

**Summary**
This presentation will highlight current topics and challenges being faced in camp health services. These topics will include immunizations, CBD oil, homeopathics, vector-borne illness, staff medications, documentation, and others. This discussion will help provide guidance for camps as they develop guidelines and directions for health operations.

**Outcomes:**
1. Participants will identify the importance of immunizations for creating herd immunity and safety for the camp community.
2. Participants will list considerations related to CBD oil and other homeopathics when deciding to distribute at camp.
3. Participants will outline a plan for vector-borne illness (i.e. ticks, mosquitos) management and care.
4. Participants will identify key components for a policy regarding management of staff medications.
5. Participants will outline documentation activities to minimize risk related to health services.

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**Developing a Growth Mindset**
Brian Moore & Brad Palmer

**Summary**
Did you know there is scientific evidence that the neural connections grow and become stronger the more you struggle with learning and correct your mistakes? Based on research by Stanford Professor Carol Dweck and her colleagues, we know that people with a growth mindset - the belief that intelligence is not just something that you are born with - have higher levels of success than those with a fixed mindset. Teaching your staff and volunteers about this concept has the potential to make them grittier, more positive, and more successful in their career and everyday lives.

**Outcomes:**
1. Understand of the concepts of growth mindset
2. Distinguish between behaviors and statements associated with a growth mindset and those associated with a fixed mindset
3. Identify benefits of growth mindset as it relates to your staff and volunteers
**Leadership, Supervision, & Management Part 2 of 2**
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

**Summary**
Leadership, Supervision, & Management Part 2 of 2

Continuation of 10:15--11:15 session.  
Attendance at both sessions is recommended

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**This One Time at Cancer Camp...**
Darryl Perkins, Jr. & Devin Ryan

**Summary**
Making on-the-spot decisions during a program can be a daunting undertaking. Engage in critical thinking and group discussions to get hands-on experience working through challenging scenarios from a camp leadership perspective. Learn from peers as you dive into different roles and perspectives based on actual events.

Participants will:
* Utilize critical thinking to engage in on-the-spot decision making.
* Discuss potential implications and outcomes associated with given scenario(s).
* Benchmark given scenarios with emerging camp trends.

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Counselor and Mentorship Program: How to Serve Campers Long After They’ve Aged-Out

Ryan Campbell

Summary
In 2017, researchers from the University of Illinois discovered that children with cancer, especially those with brain tumors, are up to 5 times less likely to find a job than their peers without cancer and up to 15 times less likely to attend college than their own siblings. We will discuss Happiness Is Camping’s Counselor and Mentorship Program (CAMP), which has successfully combatted these findings since 2018. We’ll talk about developing a STEM program, teaching campers basic life skills for life on their own, and establishing a Counselor-In-Training program to provide campers with real working experience. We'll also discuss how to collect data and raise money to fund your program.

Outcomes:
1) Instill confidence in attendees that a similar program is worthwhile at their camps and that they have the tools to create the program
2) Show how to fund program and explore resources available to develop programming
3) Provide attendees with surveys and ways to collect data of their own
4) Prove the benefit of hosting a program similar to CAMP and how it can lead to long-term success for children with campers

Becoming a Better Facilitator

Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay

Summary
Teambuilding Guru Dr. Jim Cain shares his favorite, newest and best team and community building activities from around the world. Come prepared to engage with others as you learn valuable techniques and activities for building unity, community and connection.

Outcomes:
* Exposure to best practices in teambuilding.
* Learning by Doing.
* Identifying resources that can make you a better facilitator.
New Hazardous Drugs Regulation - Overview and Considerations for Oncology Camps
Christina Beckwith

Summary
New federal regulations about safe handling of hazardous drugs in healthcare settings go into effect December 1, 2019. While not all aspects of the regulation will apply to oncology camps, most camp healthcare staff will be following new safe handling practices in their places of work and will likely be more aware of the risks involved with handling hazardous drugs. This session will help camp professionals better understand the regulation and how it may affect camp staff, as well as discuss how oncology camps can make their healthcare center safer for their staff.

Objectives/Outcomes:
1 - Explain the purpose of and need for USP <800> hazardous drug regulation.
2 - Describe the 3 classes of NIOSH hazardous drugs and be able to list examples of drugs in each class.
3 - Recommend at least 1 practice your oncology camp can change to increase safety for camp staff who may be exposed to hazardous drugs at camp.

How May I Help You?
Sydney Jones

Summary
Volunteers and staff make camp happen every year. Their passion and excitement give an amazing experience to our campers. How do we make sure they have as good a week as their campers? Are there different ways to support them if they are having a challenging experience? This presentation will address different ways we support and thank our volunteers and staff who spend time at camp. There will also be some ideas from other camps and time to share out how we support and thank our camp volunteers.

Objectives & Outcomes:
Share and generate ideas for volunteer support.
Can I talk to you for a minute? Difficult Management Conversations Part 1 of 2
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

Summary
The most sought after leadership training topic is working through difficult management conversations. This session covers the essential skills and characteristics that leaders and managers need to have effective and successful conversations. We will cover the six steps in every conversation, practical techniques and tips for each step, strategic language, and approach & response suggestions. We will broaden the framework of how we think about corrective conversations, by including ideas about building a culture of feedback at your camp and organization.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Participants will learn the outline of difficult management conversations
2. Participants will learn and discuss techniques for each step of the outline
3. We will workshop several leadership ideas and skills that create the foundation for more successful conversations.
**My Special Aflac Duck (MSAD) Training**
Buffy Swinehart & Mandy Flynn

**Summary**
*Children effectively communicate their emotions to caregivers with MSAD.*

*Nurses, CLS and social workers use MSAD to understand how children feel, and to facilitate deeper conversations about emotions.*

*Nurses, CLS and social workers can effectively use MSAD as a distraction therapy tool.*

*Nurses, CLS and social workers can use MSAD to engage in medical play with children.*

*Nurses, CLS and social workers can use MSAD to help children regulate their emotions.*

*Nurses, CLS and social workers can use MSAD to help children maintain routines such as eating and bathing.*

*Nurses, CLS and social workers can assist families in cleaning MSAD’s fur to keep the product germ free.*

**Outcomes:**
Nurse/CLS/Social Workers can:
1. Use MSAD’s feeling cards to prompt conversations about feelings.

Nurse/CLS/Social Workers can:
1. Use the Spaceship accessory to trigger distraction therapy.
2. Use the MSAD app to facilitate distraction therapy.

Nurse/CLS/Social Workers can:
1. Use MSAD’s port to engage in medical play.
2. Attach a replica saline syringe to the port to demonstrate flushing the duck’s line.
3. Use other replica medical equipment to customize medical play to the specific needs of the child.
4. Activate the duck’s heartbeat with medical port accessory to facilitate calming.

Nurse/CLS/Social Workers can:
1. Use the “calm feeling card” to initiate breathing exercises.
2. Extend breathing exercise activity by activating the duck’s touch sensors.

Nurse/CLS/Social Workers can:
1. Use MSAD and the MSAD app to make mealtime and bath time fun!

Nurse/CLS/Social Workers can:
1. Remove MSAD’s fur and clean with a washing machine.
2. Explain to families how to clean MSAD’s fur.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
1. Effectively use My Special Aflac Duck with children with cancer.
2. Effectively train families about how to use My Special Aflac Duck.
Creating a SIBS Camp Program
Barbie Ricken, BSN RN

Summary
In this program, we will be sharing the details of how we created a new SIBS Camp program. SIBS Camp is for the Super Important Brothers and Sisters of our oncology campers. We are excited to share our successes and lessons learned from creating a SIBS Camp program.
Objectives for this presentation:
- Explain importance of programming for siblings of children with cancer & why we decided to create a program for siblings
- Detail how we created a sibling camp program
- Share our successes & lessons learned
- Looking toward the future of SIBS Camp

Duct Tape and Safety Pins: Improvised and Wilderness Medicine in the Outdoor Group Camp Environment
Travis Mellon, DO, FAWM, DiMM

Summary
In the group camp setting we do not always have easy or immediate access to all the equipment or resources needed in every situation. This lecture will strike upon multiple scenarios to give ideas, certainly, but to help open the minds of our camp providers to potentially thinking outside of the box when necessary.
There will also be up to date information on quick high yield topics such as arthropod envenomations (ticks to skeeters), wild bites (snakes to bats), trauma (dodgeball to poolside), lightning strikes and ANAPHYLAXIS.
There will be a few small group short activities to break up the "lectures".
This presentation will be at the level of EMT/Paramedic through RN to NP/PA and MD/DO of any specialty
Objectives/Outcomes:
- Open the mind of the various providers to outdoor thinking and preparedness
- Up date on common outdoor urgent care and emergencies
- Hands on skills and equipment
- Brief info on a few meds such as epinephrine, certain antibiotics, supportive care OTC meds
- Ideas for the carry-around medical kit
- Discussion/Q&A time
More Than Just a Craft: Utilizing Therapeutic Art and Legacy Building Projects in the Camp Setting
Kristina Richetts, MSFS, CCLS

Summary
The presentation will help camp professionals understand the value and therapeutic benefits of legacy-building activities within camp setting. During this session we will identify multiple therapeutic and legacy-building activities to use in the camp setting, and help camp professionals practice creating and completing therapeutic and legacy-building activities.
As part of the presentation’s hands-on approach, attendees will independently complete a minimum of one therapeutic art and legacy-building project.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
* Define therapeutic components of art and legacy-building projects and describe the benefits of incorporating such activities at camp settings.
* Identify five therapeutic art activities and/or legacy-building projects that can be implemented in a camp setting.
* Complete hands-on activities to practice the therapeutic art and legacy-building projects presented in this session.

"Portraits of Joy" How to TELL your camp story through pictures and testimonials! And raise money in the process!
Ann Walsh

Summary
"Portraits of Joy" is a book that was a collaboration of artist Karen Chick and Ann Walsh, CMM Camp Founder, as a way to "tell" the story of camp through impressionistic oil paintings of campers who have attended CMM. Included are comments written by the campers, parents and volunteers. The sometimes tear-jerking testimonials, humble us as camp personnel, as to what a family goes through with a childhood cancer diagnosis. And then the "JOY" they experience when they attend camp! The book sales also offer a great way to raise money for your camp!
Outcomes:
To share an innovative way to raise funds for your camp!
**Difficult Management Conversations Role Plays Part 2 of 2**
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

**Summary**
We will put it all into action in this interactive session. We will practice, debrief, and continue the conversation about meaningful and effective difficult conversations.

Continuation of 10:15--11:15 session.
Attendance at both sessions is recommended.

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**Volunteer Recruitment and Retention**
TBD

**Summary**

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**Developing a Leadership/CIT Program**
TBD

**Summary**

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Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  [https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations](https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations)
Saturday November 16th

8:45 am - 9:45 am  Commonwealth1/2/3

Keynote: Small Steps
Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay

Summary
Author and teambuilding guru Jim Cain shares his favorite stories of how people are changing the world in simple ways, how to ignite your passion and techniques for connecting with others around the world.

10:00 am - 11:00 am  Clifton

Teambuilding with Index Cards
Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay

Summary
Teambuilding Guru Dr. Jim Cain shares his favorite, newest and best team and community building activities from around the world. Come prepared to engage with others as you learn valuable techniques and activities for building unity, community and connection.

Outcomes:
* Exposure to best practices in teambuilding.
* Learning by Doing.
* Identifying resources that can make you a better facilitator.

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
Medications at Camp: Increasing Camp Nurse and Counselors’ Confidence in Safety and Efficiency
Meghan Gomez, RN, BSN, CPHON MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital in Houston, Texas

Summary
The ability to administer medications, including chemotherapy and other specialized drugs, is vital in making the experience of camp a possibility for hematology/oncology patients. In 2016, with two years of experience as a hematology/oncology nurse, I attended and worked as a camp nurse for Camp Star Trails for the first time. Camp Star Trails is a week-long, overnight camp for patients of MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital and their siblings located approximately 100 miles from MD Anderson’s main hospital. The resources and staff available at Camp Star Trails allow for campers on or off treatment to continue taking prescribed medications as they would at home, receive certain chemotherapy, and have lab drawn all without leaving the campgrounds.
Throughout my first experience as camp nurse, I was able to witness first-hand the life-changing effect that attending camp had on so many of our patients and siblings. I felt privileged to be a part of making this experience possible for kids that have faced so much adversity so early in life.
Along with the amazement of what camp can do, I felt a large amount of responsibility. Without electronic medication administration records that nurses have available in a hospital setting, camp nurses are responsible for maintaining safe medication administration using paper records, documentation, and great attention to detail. This can seem like a “routine” nursing task, until asked to perform this task in a large cafeteria full of hungry, overjoyed campers without medical ID bracelets.
With the motivation to create the safest way for campers to receive medications while also not being held from camp activities, I began a Quality Improvement project aimed at increasing the safety and efficiency of medication administration at camp. Over the next three years, with the help of my manager and fellow camp nurse, additional safety measures and health center practices were implemented. Camp nurse and counselors’ confidence in safety and efficiency of medication administration was measured through anonymous surveys at the end of each year. Feedback was considered and used to further develop and standardize the medication administration practices at camp.

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
**Camp Director Forum**

Melissa McNichol & Tom Prader

**Summary**

Come join us in a round table discussion of key issues facing Camp Directors.

This Session is geared towards Camp Directors who are Directors over Camp Programs/events. Bring your thoughts, concerns, questions regarding all things Camp Programs: staffing challenges, volunteer retention (or not!!), cell phone issues, social media policy questions...the list is long and not in any way limited to those listed. This is your time as Camp Directors to chat with other Camp Directors to get and give ideas for making your job more efficient, effective, and fun!

Let's solve those tough issues together.

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**Staff Training Part 1 of 2: Teach Staff How to Think, Not What to Do**

Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

**Summary**

Staff Training Part 1 of 2: Teach Staff How to Think, Not What to Do
(Attendance at both sessions is recommended.)

Training your staff and volunteers an seem like an impossible task. You have a limited amount of time (in some cases, just a few hours!) and you have staff at all different levels of experience. Most of us end up relying on the default: the efficient (albeit boring) lecture. However, staff training doesn’t have to go this way. In this workshop, we will show you how to teach your staff how to think instead of what to do. No two kids or no two days at camp are ever exactly the same—it is most important to teach camp staff how to handle ambiguity.

Learning Outcomes:
* Participants will reassess staff training schedule practices in order to maximize staff members’ practical learning
* Participants will learn hands-on techniques for training staff how to think and manage ambiguity
* Participants will take away at least three interactive staff training modules that they can institute at their camps right away.

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**Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form**

Dollars & Donors: The never ending grind of fundraising.
Eddie Bobbitt

Summary
Participants in this session will learn new and practical fundraising ideas for their camp. We will specifically discuss ways to establish a sponsorship program, ways to collaborate with local high schools and the do’s and don’ts of a Poker Run. Open dialogue will be encouraged. Therefore, those attending the session should be prepared to be active participants throughout the session.

Life Lessons
COCA-I Young Professional Leaders Astin Godwin, Cassy Shea, and Iain Riddle

Summary
Come and learn about the COCA-I Young Professional Leaders! Learn about our goals, mission and programs. Most importantly, you’ll hear from 7 different experts covering a variety of topics. We promise this will be a different kind of conference session!

Outcomes:
* Build a sense of community outside of conference.
* Begin discussions centered around making camp a better experience for all stakeholders.
* Have fun!

Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
**For Teens From Teens: A Case Study in Teen Driven Programming**
Marjorie Scher

**Summary**
This presentation will hold a magnifying glass to Heart of Passion's business model of empowering healthy teens to be our next generation of engaged community members via their planning and execution of an urban summer retreat for their peers with cancer. First, the presentation covers the evolution of our program which will help give context for why "for teens from teens" is the program's defying feature today. Second, we will look at the current program including peer leader and guest testimonies, work products from the teen leaders, and support from the Child Life and medical communities for teen focused oncology programming. Finally, the presentation will provide an outlook on Heart of Passion's growth trajectory (including anticipated learning pains as we continue to involve teens in our scaling) and ways that other oncology camps can empower their current teen community to create their own versions of teen driven programming.

**How to write a Gold Ribbon Compliant policy**
Jennifer Amundsen & Brian Crater

**Summary**
The COCA-I Gold Ribbon Standards were developed as guidelines for pediatric oncology camp Best Practices. How do you go about interpreting the intent of the Gold Ribbon standards? How do you judge whether our camp's policies meet these guidelines? How can you improve your policies based on Gold Ribbon Standards?

Jen and Brian will answer these questions and many more..
Program with Intention: How program evaluation and quality improvement lead to improved youth outcomes

Dr. Mike Amylon, Professor of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Emeritus

Summary
Many camp medical professionals see the camp experience as primarily recreational rather than educational. Too few camp medical professionals are focused on tailoring camp programs to the desired outcomes in their patients and their well siblings.

Many times even those who are motivated to evaluate their programs lack specific skills and tools. Too few camp medical professionals are familiar with the appropriate tools for program evaluation and quality improvement.

Most camp medical professionals lack knowledge of or practice with camp evaluation tools. Lack of familiarity and practice with available camp evaluation tools

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
* Understand the importance of intentionality in programming camp activities to increase the impact on their campers.
* Understand some specific program evaluation tools and how to incorporate them into their camp schedule.
* Become familiar with using several commonly available camp evaluation tools.

New Directors Forum
Matt Ruttler & Gretchen Loose

Summary
Come join us in a round table discussion of key issues facing new Camp Directors. Bring your thoughts, concerns, questions. Get advice from people who have been through the process. Get your questions answered. Anyone can participate. Let’s solve those tough issues together.

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
**Staff Training Part 2 of 2**  
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon  

**Summary**  
Continuation of 10:15-11:15 session.  
Attendance at both sessions is recommended.

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**11:15 am - 12:15 pm**  
Olmsted 1/2/3

**Stuff in the Hospital: Designing Programs Kids Actually Want to Do**  
Morgan Marcinko & Stephanie Irwin  

**Summary**  
We will be addressing common issues and stressors that children with cancer face during hospitalization and how we, as a community partner, can help design fun, exciting activities to help address these stressors. We will present on activities that have been successful in the hospital and those that have not and how planning an activity in the hospital is different then planning one at camp.

We will have a fun, hands on activity so those participating in the presentation can experience a program that we enjoy doing in the hospital.

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Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  
**Summary**
A round table discussion of how different camps support their teen population. Participants can bring questions to get new ideas or just be ready to share how each camp addresses the needs of teen campers.

Outcomes:
* Identify needs of teen campers.
* Generate a list of ideas for teen activities.
* Problem solve issues around teen campers.

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**Understanding Ages & Stages of Development and Applying it in the Camping Environment**
Deanna Slade

**Summary**
It's never good when you find yourself at camp and your 5 year old campers are being asked to whittle wood from a tree trunk, or your 16 year old campers are using dot-dot paint to paint in a circle at their art activity. Finding it hard to believe that the 12 year olds are singing "the wheels on the bus" and shaking maracas? Or that your 6 years olds are being taught basketball drills with a standard height basketball net? These issues are NOT a result of bad staff, but more a result of not understanding the ages and stages of development and what is appropriate for our kids. This session will address the "why's and how's" of applying our knowledge of ages and stages at camp regardless of position or title. We will discuss the challenges it presents at camp and modifications we can make for a more successful camp season. We will be focusing on camp programming, behaviors we can expect from all age groups and how to manage them appropriately.

1. Participants will discuss the importance of understanding ages and stages while working within the camp environment.

2. Participants will gain knowledge on how to modify their programs and train their staff to insure that their structure is developmentally appropriate.

3. Participants should walk away with deeper knowledge of what to expect while working with a variety of age groups.
Social Fundraising
Rich Brundige & Tom Prader

Summary
Learn the basics of using Social Media to help you Fundraise for your camp. From Facebook and Instagram to Amazon Smile we will share what we’ve learned to help you get your non-profit on the right path to being more on target.
Learn the steps to get your non-profit eligible to be able to accept donations through various Social Media platforms. Discover what Camp Can-Do, Camp Kids Are Kids Chicago and other COCA-I member camps are doing to fundraise through Social Media. Discuss ideas to help your camp be more in line with the current trends and think out-side the box to stand out when it comes to social media fundraising.

How COCA-I Camps Help Campers: Results of the COCA-I Oversample in the ACA Youth Impact Study and Review of Other Research Opportunities
Dr. Mike Amylon, Professor of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Emeritus

Summary
Many camp medical professionals are unaware of the results of the COCA-I /American Camp Association Youth Impact Oversample Study, which shows that the impact of camp programs on campers with pediatric cancer and their well siblings are greater than the impacts seen after attendance at mainstream camps.

More camp medical professionals, including nurses, need to understand how the ACA Youth Impact Study COCA-I Oversample results can help them improve their camp programs, attract donations and volunteers, and strengthen the support they get from parents and Oncology caregivers.

We will also spend some time reviewing other ongoing or planned camp based research studies, and provide opportunities for attendees to discuss research they are interested in.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
* Understand the value of research studies to improve the camp experience for their campers
* Know specific research techniques to measure the long term impact of the camp experience for their campers.
* Use the results of this COCA-I oversample study (of the ACA Youth Impact Study) to empower staff, recruit volunteers, increase donations, calm nervous parents, and increase the support they get from their referral treatment centers.

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
Getting the Best from Your Board
Mark Slocum

Summary
Let’s take a journey and explore the value of a well-designed board of directors. Is their purpose governance, advisory, or fund raising? Is your board designed with the needs of the organization in mind or is the board in the way? Together we will look at the purpose of your board and how to intentionally create a group that will support you and work hand in hand to meet your goals and serve your clients.

Objectives/Outcomes:
* Identify where your organization is in the Board Life Cycle
* Identify what are board functions and what are staff functions
* Discuss ways to engage your board in governance and fundraising
* Take away key components for a proper board orientation

The Behavior Session: Why do they do what they do?!? Part 1 of 2
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

Summary
(Attendance at both sessions is recommended.)

Unfortunately, most discussions about camper behavior are about dealing with the negative stuff. However, there is a direct correlation between getting support, guidance, and creating the right environment for positive behavior and a decrease in negative behavior. So we are missing a big part of the conversation! This session will strike a balance by digging into the best techniques for supporting positive behavior as well as working through challenging behavior, including ideas and strategies for supporting campers with special needs. You’ll leave this session with the best ideas in behavior management and ways to support and sustain these behaviors as the culture of your camp.

Participants will learn the philosophical underpinnings of seeing behavior as an expression and how to teach to under-developed skills.
We will discuss and share strategies and techniques for supporting and guiding the best behavior and choices.
Participants will learn how to strategies and techniques for working with challenging camper behavior.
Participants will having a working knowledge of how to train, coach, and supervise their frontline staff on these ideas and principles.
How to Bring Music and Music Therapy to Camp: A Collaborative Program between Kid's Cancer Alliance and Norton Children's Cancer Institute
Brett Northrup, MT-BC and Leah McComb, Program Director - Kids Cancer Alliance

Summary
Learn about the partnership between journey Kid’s Cancer Alliance and Norton Children’s Cancer Institute to successfully introduce music therapy.

Teen Program Refresh
Cassandra Shea

Summary
Brief summary of CAMP KEMO Programs teen programming, what type of activities we do, and how we connect with our teen population to create a tight knit community of teenagers. From there there will be open discussion time to work through barriers other organizations are facing and get new ideas from each other.

Outcomes:
* Breakdown barriers seen in teen programming
* Acquire new ideas for re-energizing and re-engaging the teen population

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
Building Trust and Maintaining Relationships with Families
Nick Toyne & Luke Van Ryn

**Summary**
A camper’s journey with Camp Ooch takes them from their first day at the hospital through their last night of overnight camp. Throughout this journey, there are several areas where we offer programming to campers and families. We have found that building trust and maintaining relationships are crucial elements of retaining and growing our camper population. In this presentation, you will learn about our 3 areas of programming and how we are able to develop trust and meaningful relationships with families.

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**Teambuilding for Free (no prop activities, right here, right now).**
Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay

**Summary**
Teambuilding Guru Dr. Jim Cain shares his favorite, newest and best team and community building activities from around the world. Come prepared to engage with others as you learn valuable techniques and activities for building unity, community and connection.

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Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  [https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations](https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations)
Healthy Eating at Camp
Corey Hawes MS, RDN, CNCS, LDN

Summary
The impact of nutrition throughout Cancer treatment is immense. The vital importance of nutrition education and reinforcement is crucial to improving the overall lifestyle and nutritional quality of pediatric cancer patients. Pediatric Cancer Camp is a perfect and more importantly an ideal time period, to not only educate children on healthy options but also provide examples and activities that introduce healthy and potentially new food options to campers.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
* Recognize the importance of quality nutrition and pediatric cancer outcomes.
* Discuss how to provide fun and innovative ways to include healthy food options into camp meals, and into fun camp activities.
* Discuss potential ways to gain healthy food options supplied for camping.

Coca-I On the Move - More Services, More Benefits, More for Members
Don Golden, Matt Ruttler & Jennifer Amundsen

Summary
What is your membership association is up to these days? Come and find out!

We have terrific programs available to you and your camps. Gold Ribbon accreditation. Travel to another camp with COCA Connect. Take advantage of scholarships, conference travel stipends, camping excellence awards. Learn about the exciting COCA-I rebranding program, and let us know your vision for the future.

These are just a few things we will discuss.

Don’t Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
The Behavior Session: Why do they do what they do?!? Part 2 of 2
Scott Arizala & Sarah Kurtz McKinnon

Summary
Continuation of 2:45-3:45 session. Attendance at both sessions is recommended.

Staff Development - Training and Recruiting
Bert Kennedy

Summary
Relative to most at the conference this is my first year volunteering at any summer camp. The impact it's had on my life is indescribable. I would like to share best practices from a recruiting and training perspective that I captured from the two different organizations I volunteered for this summer. My hope is the discussion will bring new ideas that each individual can take back and implement at each respective camp.

Key Objectives:
* Share my overall experience at each camp and highlight the best practices and areas of opportunity.
* Engage with group and collect shared positive/successful training tips and recruiting ideas
* Challenge the status quo to ultimately create best in class camp programs that recruit, train and retain camp staff to provide the magical experience that every camper deserves.

Outcomes of Presentation:
* New, fresh ideas that each participate will take back and actively implement into their program
* Measurable change in staffing quotas
* Generate excitement and motivate leaders to make positive change within their organization that will impact every campers experience.

Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Olmsted 7

Camp Theme Round Table
Becky Felak

Summary
Session for folks to share their past and upcoming camp themes, then have some time to connect with those who have done their upcoming theme in recent years.
Objective/Outcomes:
* Networking and sharing ideas for fun theme-related activities.

4:15 pm - 5:15 pm  
Clifton

Help Me Help You
Jennifer Mercer

Summary
Care Camps corporate partners love to have things to share with their teams across the nation. Many of them are trying to find ways to make their employees feel good about their part in being able to give back, and COCA-I camps can play an instrumental role in encouraging donations. The more "connected" they feel to our cause and these kids, the more likely they are to give from a corporate and employee level.

Care Camps would like to encourage all COCA-I Camps to "help me help them" to encourage our generous benefactors:

Anything that we can do to make Care Camps donors feel more appreciated will encourage to A) keep giving, and B) increase their commitment and donations to the cause.

Let's talk about how we can work together!

Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  
https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations
Providing Support of Siblings of Pediatric Cancer
Dianna L. Holtzhauer, APRN CPON

Summary
The impact of pediatric cancer on siblings is often under recognized. The unique challenges and health risks found in siblings of pediatric cancer patients will be outlined.

The lack of knowledge related to the impact of pediatric oncology diagnosis on siblings prevents discussion and implementation of programs. We will discuss the positive impact of sibling dedicated programs, and how to apply this information to current practice.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
* Recognize the unique challenges and health risks found in siblings of pediatric cancer patients.
* Discuss the positive impact of dedicated sibling programs.
* Apply information to current practice.

Become a Gold Ribbon Accreditation Visitor!
Brian Crater & Jennifer Amundsen

Summary
Are you considering becoming a Gold Ribbon Visitor? What is the process like? How much training is required?

This is the right session for you! There is no one more qualified that Brian and Jennifer to address these issues.
The Camp Experience for Adolescent Cancer Survivors
Katie Riley

Summary
To date, few qualitative studies have explored the phenomena of camp for adolescent cancer survivors. This presentation will focus on two separate qualitative studies from two oncology camp locations, where commonalities and differences in experiences will be discussed. Furthermore, possible future directions for activities and intentional conversations within the camp context will be discussed.

Outcomes:
* The audience will gain an understanding of adolescent cancer survivors’ social and emotional experience at camp.
* The audience will be able to identify areas for growth in intentional activities and conversations with adolescent cancer survivors.
* The audience will better understand the meaning of different camp activities and the interactions that occur within the camp context for adolescent cancer survivors.

Sexuality and Disability Following Cancer Treatment
Brandon G. Briery, Ph.D. Clinical Child & Pediatric Psychologist

Summary
There is a dearth of understanding of risks to typical sexual and cognitive development following cancer treatment. We will discuss the risks to typical sexual and cognitive development following cancer treatment.

In addition, a portion of the program will address risks to typical physical development following cancer treatments.

The presentation’s goal will be to help caregivers support cancer patients, survivors, and their families through acute and late effects of cancer treatment.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
As a result of this program the learner will be able to:
* Identify risks to sexual development following cancer treatment.
* Identify risks to cognitive development following cancer treatment.
* Identify risks to physical development following cancer treatment.
* Apply new knowledge and skills to their practice in educating their patients, survivors, and their families on acute and late effects of treatment for cancer.
**Talking to Campers About Cancer at Camp: What the research tells us and how to train inexperienced staff to have these discussions.**

Jayme & Nick Bellamy

**Summary**

This presentation will attempt to answer the question: How and why should we be talking about cancer at our camps? AND How do we train our young and inexperienced volunteers to participate in these discussions in a safe and helpful way? We'll review current research on the topic, talk about our camp's "share circle" program, and how we train our volunteers to participate in a safe, responsible, and helpful way.

1. To present and review current research on this topic to help us answer: SHOULD we be talking openly about cancer at our camps?
2. To present current research to help us answer: WHY should we be talking about cancer at our camps?
3. To present current research to help us answer: HOW should we be talking about cancer at our camps?
4. Explain our camp's "share circle" program, where kids get the opportunity to talk
5. Attendees will learn training techniques through an interactive experiential session that they can use with their volunteer staff regarding talking to their campers about cancer at camp.

Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  [https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations](https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations)
**Child Development Round Table**

Open Participation

**Summary**
This is an open & unstructured participation for anyone who wants to join the round table discussion about Child Development. Some suggestions include the following:
- Child Development issues in our campers
- Age appropriate ideas for camp programs and activities
- Serving those campers who exhibit developmental problems

Bring your ideas, solutions and ability to openly discuss these items and more!
This is also a great way to network with others in our industry!

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**Programming Round Table**

Open Participation

**Summary**
This is an open & unstructured participation for anyone who wants to join the round table discussion about Programming. Some suggestions include the following:
- Share your fun and wacky ways you keep your campers learning and not just having fun!
- Share new programs and/or activities you did this summer
- Discuss other ways you can provide programs for your campers outside of summer camp

Bring your ideas and openly discuss these items and more!
This is also a great way to network with others in our industry!

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Don't Forget to Complete an Evaluation Form  [https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations](https://www.cocacon.org/2019_evaluations)
Gold Ribbon Workshop I - For Camps Being Visited in 2020 and Those Being Mentored

Jennifer Amundsen

Summary
Do You Want to Be a Gold Ribbon Camp?

Will You be Visited in the next 2 Years?

Don’t miss this very rare opportunity. Bring your policy manuals and questions. Experts will be on hand to work with you face-to-face, and hand in hand to walk through the Gold Ribbon program.

Fundraising Round Table
Open Participation

Summary
This is an open & unstructured participation for anyone who wants to join the round table discussion about Fundraising. Some suggestions include the following:
* Discuss any new ideas on how to raise money
* Discuss biggest fundraising obstacles
* Ways you show donor appreciation

Bring your ideas and ability to openly discuss these items and more!
This is also a great way to network with others in our industry!
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Jennifer Amundsen

Session(s):

- COCA-I On the Move - More Services, More Benefits, More for Members
- How to write a Gold Ribbon Compliant policy
- Gold Ribbon Workshop I - For Camps Being visited in 2020 and Those Being Mentored

Jennifer Amundsen, Assistant Executive Director for COCA-I

Jennifer is passionate about helping kids with cancer and their families! She has dedicated her entire career working in pediatric oncology programs such as Camp Sunshine, GA and Smile-A-Mile, AL. Program development and fundraising are her specialties.

Prior to joining the staff of COCA-I as the Assistant Executive Director in 2018, Jennifer was the Program Director for 23 years at Smile-A-Mile. She served on the COCA-I Board of Directors numerous terms as the Secretary, Member at Large as well as two years as the Conference Chair. In 2013, after 20 years in pediatric oncology camping, Jennifer was awarded the “Spirit of COCA-I” Award.

Jennifer has a degree in Family and Child Development from Auburn University and has recently been chosen to serve as a member of the inaugural Advisory Board for the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University.

Dr. Mike Amylon, Professor of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Emeritus

Session(s):

- Programming with Intention: How program evaluation and quality improvement lead to improved youth outcomes
- How COCA-I Camps Help Campers: Results of the COCA-I Oversample in the ACA Youth Impact Study and Review of Other Research Opportunities
- Panel Discussion - Camper Similarities and Differences - "Normal" versus Medically Challenged Campers

Mike Amylon, MD, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplantation) Thirty-four years of experience with Camp Okizu, providing peer support, respite, mentoring and recreational programs to children with cancer and their family members. Medical Director of the programs, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the organization. President elect of Children’s Oncology Camping Association – International, and a Board member for many years. 35 years of experience in caring for children with cancer and their families at Stanford University and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.
Scott Arizala

Session(s):

Leadership, Supervision, & Management Part 1 of 2: Positive Management Principles
Leadership, Supervision, & Management Part 2 of 2
Can I talk to you for a minute? Difficult Management Conversations Part 1 of 2
Difficult Management Conversations Role Plays Part 2 of 2
Staff Training Part 1 of 2: Teach Staff How to Think, Not What to Do
Staff Training Part 2 of 2
The Behavior Session: Why do they do what they do?! Part 1 of 2
The Behavior Session: Why do they do what they do?! Part 2 of 2

Scott Arizala is one of the leading experts and premier trainers on kids, staff and the experience of summer camp. He earned his B.A. from Ithaca College, with a double major in Psychology and Sociology with a concentration in Gender Studies. He has been involved with camps and youth development for over thirty years as a camper, counselor, administrator, teacher and consultant.

Scott grew up at Camp Al-Gon-Quian in Northern Michigan where he spent 18 summers going from the youngest camper to the director. He went on to direct traditional resident camps, day camps, single gender camps, and camps for kids with special needs.

He is currently the Founder & Chairman of Chasing Summer, an organization dedicated to creating access for people with autism in summer camp, recreation, and education, Founder of Camp Stomping Ground a camp focusing on radical empathy and child freedom, and the National Consultant for Camp Kesem, a student-run, national organization delivering camp to over 8000 kids who have been affected by a parents' cancer. He is the proud partner of Bioverativ, delivering the Camp Academy staff training program to camps for kids with bleeding disorders and has trained with other major associations including the American Camp Association, YMCA, Girl Scouts, Campfire, the International Association of Burn Camps, the Children’s Oncology Camp Association International, the Diabetes Education & Camp Association, Western Alliance for Independent Camps, and many more.

He is an internationally recognized professional speaker, educator, and trainer, and has given keynotes, workshops, seminars and educational sessions at hundreds of professional conferences, training events, and with organizations. He is currently the CEO of The Camp Counselor, and one of the most sought-after consultants and trainers working with hundreds of camps and thousands of staff & administrators across the world.

He has had articles published in trade journals and on various industry websites and is a pioneering faculty member of Expert Online Training, the world’s leader in online training for camp staff. He is an award-winning author of the best-selling book on summer camp and youth development, S’more Than Camp and contributing editor of Happiness, Diversity & Autism: Practical Strategies for Inclusion.

Scott lives in Michigan with his wife, Karin and their three kids, Linnea, Desmond, and Griffin. They both grew up at Camp Al-Gon-Quian and got married in the assembly ring at Camp in 2007. Karin has her PhD in counseling psychology and has worked as a staff psychologist at the University of Michigan, the National Mental Health Consultant for Camp Kesem, the Mental Health Coordinator for Dragonfly Forest, and currently has a private practice in Ann Arbor.
Christina Beckwith

Christina Beckwith (aka Wapiti Mama) is the Executive Director of Camp Hobé and has been involved with camping for most of her life! She attended Girl Scout camps as a child, then became a camp volunteer as a teenager. She volunteered at camps for children with muscular dystrophy and asthma, before finding her happy place at Camp Hobé.

Prior to becoming Executive Director in 2003, Christina served as Camp Hobé Program Director from 1995 to 2002.

In addition to her work in oncology camping, she is employed full-time at University of Utah Health as a Drug Information pharmacist. She is married with a grown daughter and 2 toy poodles. Her personal favorite non-camp activities are hiking in the mountains, watching Orphan Black reruns, and listening to live music.

Jayme Bellamy

Nick and Jayme Bellamy direct Camp HIS KIDS, near St. Louis, Missouri. Nick entered the world of oncology camping when he was 7 years old. His brother, TJ, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1989. Nick and T.J. both attended Camp HIS KIDS for several years and then Nick came back as a volunteer in 2005.

Meanwhile, Jayme began as a volunteer in 1999 and later led the teen program at camp for several years. Nick and Jayme met at camp in 2006 and were married in 2010.

Jayme earned her master's degree in art therapy and counseling in 2010 and Nick finished his bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation in 2011.

These days, Jayme runs the HIS KIDS Cancer Support office full-time as the Executive Director. She celebrated her 20th summer at camp this year. Nick helps HIS KIDS part time as a program coordinator and has been volunteering at camp for 13 years.

Nick & Jayme now live in Highland, Illinois with their 2 children; Emmett and Gracie.
Nick Bellamy

Session(s):

_Talking to Campers About Cancer at Camp: What the research tells us and how to train inexperienced staff to have these discussions._

Nick and Jayme Bellamy direct Camp HIS KIDS, near St. Louis, Missouri. Nick entered the world of oncology camping when he was 7 years old. His brother, TJ, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1989. Nick and T.J. both attended Camp HIS KIDS for several years and then Nick came back as a volunteer in 2005. Meanwhile, Jayme began as a volunteer in 1999 and later led the teen program at camp for several years. Nick and Jayme met at camp in 2006 and were married in 2010. Jayme earned her master’s degree in art therapy and counseling in 2010 and Nick finished his bachelor’s degree in therapeutic recreation in 2011. These days, Jayme runs the HIS KIDS Cancer Support office full-time as the Executive Director. She celebrated her 20th summer at camp this year. Nick helps HIS KIDS part time as a program coordinator and has been volunteering at camp for 13 years. Nick & Jayme now live in Highland, Illinois with their 2 children; Emmett and Gracie.

Eddie Bobbitt

Session(s):

_Dollars & Donors: The never ending grind of fundraising._

Eddie is the Executive Director of Camp Quality Kentuckiana. He has been a part of Camp Quality for 14 years, but this is his sixth year in charge of fundraising efforts. He has developed a very successful sponsorship program that could be duplicated at most other camps. When he is not eating s’mores at camp, he serves as high school counselor, adjunct professor at the University of Louisville & Region 3 Director for COCA.
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Brandon G. Briery, Ph.D. Clinical Child & Pediatric Psychologist

Session(s):

Sexuality and Disability Following Cancer Treatment
Panel Discussion - Camper Similarities and Differences - "Normal" versus Medically Challenged Campers

Dr. Brandon Briery is a Clinical Child and Pediatric Psychologist by education and training, and a special needs camp professional by addiction compulsion passion avocation (insert some word that sounds professional and appropriate here). In all seriousness, Dr. Briery believes he has the best job in the world, helping to make camp happen for kids who otherwise might never get to ride a horse, paddle a canoe, or go down a slip 'n slide. He knows there are thousands of dedicated staff and volunteers out there in COCA camps who share his devotion (could that be the right word?) to helping make the world better through camps. He is thrilled to share some of his knowledge and experience gained in 27 years of working in camps for children with cancer and their siblings with you today.

Rich Brundige

Session(s):

Song Swap

Rich has been involved with Pediatric Oncology camps since 1997 and has been attending COCA-Con since 2000. Rich has volunteered at a multiple of COCA Member Camps - Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, Camp Can Do, Camp CAMP, Camp Bring It On, Camp GoodTimes - and is also the Camp Director at Camp Kids Are Kids Chicago (CKAKC) and Camp H-Town. Rich also is an avid "Room Escaper" with 24 Room Escapes attended and created. And if anyone is still reading this, Rich would like you to know he finds it's strange writing about himself in third-person.

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Dr. Jim Cain, Teamwork & Teamplay

Session(s):
- Becoming a Better Facilitator
- Teambuilding with Index Cards
- Teambuilding for Free (no prop activities, right here, right now).
- Essential Staff Training, Team Building or Team Bonding
- Keynote: Small Steps

Dr. Jim Cain is the author of 16 team and community building texts, including the classic Teamwork & Teamplay, A Teachable Moment, Find Something To Do! and his latest book, 100 Activities that Build Unity, Community & Connection. He is also the creator of the innovative T&T Training Cards.

He has traveled to all 50 states and 31 countries (so far), sharing his knowledge on subjects ranging from teamwork and leadership to creative problem solving and trust building.

His train-the-trainer programs are legendary and his conference keynotes/playnotes are active, engaging and tremendously fun.

With regard to Jim’s group facilitation skills, Tom Leahy of NCCPS remarked, "Jim, you are a Jedi Master!"

Ryan Campbell

Session(s):
- Counselor and Mentorship Program: How to Serve Campers Long After They've Aged-Out

Ryan has served as the full-time Camp Director of Happiness Is Camping for five years. He developed the Counselor and Mentorship Program to serve campers through their teenage years and also created HIC's Family Camp program. Ryan was the recipient of the 2018 COCA-I Camp Spirit Award.
Joey Cavazos, Executive Director, VISIONWORKS, LLC

Joel “Joey” Cavazos is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and Criminal Justice. His career with the Juvenile Justice Department in San Antonio, Texas lasted 25 years before he retired as a supervisor in 2010. He is the owner of Elements of Change, LLC, a company that provides outdoor experiential programming to various organizations.

Longer than his law enforcement career, Joey has been involved with Camp Discovery since its inception. He has held a variety of roles at camp through the years and is currently one of the Co-Directors along with Zeff Gomes. Joey is also the current Board Chairman of the YMCA Camp Flaming Arrow.

Brian Crater, Associate Executive Director, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times

Brian joined camp in 1988 as Camp Director. Brian currently over sees facility development & operations and works closely with the Camp program team. In addition to his CRM responsibilities, Brian has been a standing faculty lecturer at California State University, Long Beach, Department of Recreational and Leisure Services in the fields of outdoor recreation and organized camp management. In addition, Brian currently serves on the National Board of the American Camp Association (ACA), a Standards Visitor for ACA, chair of the National Council of Leaders Steering Committee; is the past-president and a current board member of Children’s Oncology Camp Association International (COCA-I) strengthening over 120 international camps serving over 35,000 pediatric oncology campers and their families. Brian’s passion for research has led to co-authoring papers on the Psychological Impacts of a Camp Experience for Children with Cancer and the Camp Awareness Project, a multi-facility study assessing the value of a camp experience with healthcare professionals and unserved patient families. Brian is married to wife and best friend, Corrie, has three grown daughters and is known for his love of Diet Coke.
**Becky Felak**

Session(s):

*Camp Theme Round Table*

Becky Felak entered the oncology camping world as a camper after her sister's diagnosis in 2003. After serving as a volunteer at Camp Goodtimes in Seattle for 8 years, she was hired as the Program Manager for The Goodtimes Project which runs Camp Goodtimes and other, year-round programming. Recently, she has taken on the role of Program and Event Manager, taking on new fundraising responsibilities while continuing to run year-round programs.

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**Heather Fleming, RN**

Session(s):

*Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round Table I*

Heather has worked as a RN in pediatric oncology since 2007 in hospitals throughout North America and through the SickKids Global Health program. She is currently on the Bone Marrow Transplant floor at SickKids in Toronto.

Her work at oncology camps began in 2003 at Camp Trillium in Ontario, Canada and since then has been a counselor and RN at many camps in North America including Serious Fun Camps, Trillium and Camp Ooch.

For the past 4 years she has been working as the Medical Adviser for the Canadian Association of Pediatric Oncology Camps and been to visit all of the camps in Canada!

Heather has been involved on the COCA board and Gold Ribbon Committee to help in the development of standards, mentorship program, and as a medical visitor for accreditation. She is very passionate about ensuring safe and fun oncology camping and looks forward to visiting more camps next summer!
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Mandy Flynn

Session(s):

*My Special Aflac Duck (MSAD) Training*

Mandy Flynn is part of Aflac’s Corporate Social Responsibility team and serves as Foundation Manager. In her role, she manages philanthropic initiatives of The Aflac Foundation, Inc. and The Aflac Childhood Cancer Foundation, Inc., as well as Aflac’s corporate donations program. Prior to joining Aflac in June 2017, she worked in non-profit marketing, communications and development, and has more than 20 years of experience in on-staff and freelance feature and news writing. A native of Sumter County, Georgia, Mandy and her husband, Mike, have two children – Trey, 25, and Carter, 22.

Tracey C. Gaslin PhD, CRNI, CPNP, FNP BC, E.D. Association of Camp Nurses

Session(s):

*Camp Health Hot Topics: Addressing Current Challenges and Concerns*

A professor and dual certified nurse practitioner in pediatrics and adults. She completed her PhD in Educational and Organizational Leadership and taught nursing for 10 years. Dr. Gaslin periodically works as a consultant and publishes in the areas of camp nursing, service leadership, hemophilia, and pediatric development. Dr. Gaslin served as the Medical Director at The Center for Courageous Kids for six years and currently serves as the Executive Director for the Association of Camp Nursing. She travels to different areas of the US and Canada educating healthcare providers and camp staff about camp health services and the many benefits for children and adults.

Astin Godwin

Session(s):

*Life Lessons*

Astin is responsible for family camps, sibling camps, and school age programs for Camp Sunshine in Georgia. He visits the Aflac Cancer Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta weekly to connect with newly diagnosed and hospitalized children. Astin was a volunteer with Camp Sunshine for several years prior to joining our professional staff. He served in the United States Peace Corps and previously worked in volunteer management in the non-profit sector.

Saturday, November 9, 2019
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Meghan Gomez, RN, BSN, CPHON MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital in Houston, Texas

Session(s):

*Medications at Camp: Increasing Camp Nurse and Counselors’ Confidence in Safety and Efficiency*

Meghan Gomez is a clinical nurse for MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital in Houston, Texas. She earned a bachelor of science in Biology from Southeastern Louisiana University and a bachelor of science in Nursing from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She has five years of hematology/oncology nursing experience, three of which are in pediatric hematology/oncology, is a member of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses, and earned the title of Certified Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurse in 2018. She has worked as a camp nurse for MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital’s Camp Star Trails, a week-long camp for patients and siblings ages 6-13 located nearly 100 miles from MD Anderson, for four years. She also worked as camp nurse for MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital’s very first Camp H-Town, a camp for patients and siblings 6-13 years old, but in a setting located much closer to the hospital. In the role of camp nurse is where Meghan found her interest in providing safe and efficient nursing care, specifically medication administration, while at camp.

Corey Hawes MS, RDN, CNCS, LDN

Session(s):

*Healthy Eating at Camp*

Corey manages nutrition needs for the Inpatients/Outpatients of DanceBlue Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Kentucky Children’s Hospital Congenital Heart Clinic and Joint Heart Program. He assists children with managing symptoms and side effects from chemotherapy as well as cardiac surgery. Corey focuses on improving the nutritional quality of children seen both inpatient and outpatient.
COCacon 2019 Speakers

Evan Heltay

Session(s):

*Your Staff Are Doing It Online (Education, That Is)*

Evan Heltay is a serial entrepreneur focused on helping other parents and camp professionals achieve their child-centered goals. After creating the first large-scale, web-based summer camp directory, Evan co-founded Expert Online Training (EOT), along with renowned child psychologist, Dr. Chris Thurber. EOT has grown to become the world leader in e-learning for youth development professionals. The program allows camps to begin training their staff immediately from any location in the world via a simple web-based app. Camp directors can choose from over 140 camp focused modules delivered by 30 of the leading minds in camping or post their own homemade content to the platform. To date, EOT’s pre-season videos, quizzes, and handouts have helped prepare over 1.5 million staff in 41 countries for their most important responsibilities.

Dianna L. Holtzhauer, APRN CPON

Session(s):

*Providing Support of Siblings of Pediatric Cancer*

Nurse Practitioner Adolescent Young Adult Program UK Healthcare
Master of Science in Nursing, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights
Certifications and Special Training
PNCB-Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Bruce Hooper

Bruce is the Executive Director of Smile-A-Mile (SAM) in Birmingham, Alabama. Bruce is a CPA who began his involvement with SAM when he joined its Board of Directors in 2006. During his five-year board term, he served as Treasurer, Board President (2008) and Executive Committee Member while also being involved on various standing committees of the organization. As a board member, Bruce developed a deep understanding, perspective and passion for the mission of Smile-A-Mile.

After more than 25 years in the corporate world, including eight years with an international accounting firm and 15 years as Chief Financial Officer of a large general contractor, Bruce joined Smile-A-Mile (then known as Camp Smile-A-Mile) in 2011 as its Executive Director. Bruce has a strong commitment and daily focus to “Dream Big” for children and their families across the state of Alabama and beyond who are going through the childhood cancer journey.

One big dream was fulfilled in early 2017 with the opening of Smile-A-Mile Place. Smile-A-Mile Place is a 13,000 square foot programming facility located just three blocks from Children’s Hospital of Alabama. Among the goals for SAM Place is to be a safe haven and place of respite for children and families in which Smile-A-Mile can continue expanding its mission by providing year-round programming tailored for age, stage of treatment, etc. while focusing on the unique needs of patients, survivors, parents and siblings.

In his spare time (which his wife Beth would say is far too infrequent), Bruce enjoys traveling with Beth, hanging with their kids and being the best Papa to the joys of his life—his four grandsons (Landon, Jackson, Wesley and Carson).

Stephanie Irwin

Stephanie Irwin is responsible for connecting families in the Savannah area with Camp Sunshine and implementing Sunshine 2U at the Dwaine & Cynthia Willett Children’s Hospital of Savannah.

Stephanie is a Certified Child Life Specialist that joined Camp Sunshine in 2014. She coordinates all programming and community outreach in the Savannah area.
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Hattie Johnson

Session(s):
- Executive Directors Forum I

Hattie Johnson is a Chapter Philanthropy Advisor for Make-A-Wish America. Hattie works with CEOs and their Development teams at Make-A-Wish chapters across the country to help them develop a sustainable Major Gift fundraising program. Hattie is known to many within the COCA-I community for her time spent as the Executive Director for Camp Ta-Kum-Ta in Vermont. During her time as ED at Ta-Kum-Ta, Hattie played a major role in building a new facility for Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, growing Camp’s programs to become year-round and serving the entire family, creating a rental program for Camp’s new facility, implementing a structure to support the organization’s needs and growth, building long-standing relationships within the local hospital, growing Camp’s donor base and creating a sustainable development program that was focused on relationship based fundraising, and much more. Hattie is a graduate of Saint Michael’s College where she achieved a Bachelor’s Degree in Business & Psychology and later a Masters of Science & Administration Degree. Hattie also holds a Certificate in Non-Profit Management. Hattie currently serves on COCA-I board as the Region 1 Director and chairs the Development & Marketing committee.

Sydney Jones

Session(s):
- How May I Help You?
  - Working With Teens - Round Table

Sydney Jones is a 18 year veteran educator in Texas public schools. She also has 18 years of counselor experience with Camp Sanguinity, an oncology camp servicing campers in Fort Worth, TX. The past ten years at Camp Sanguinity Sydney has worked with the 14 to 16 year old campers. She has created evening activities focused on the needs of the oldest campers. Sydney also shares her passion for oncology camping as past president of the board of Camp Sanguinity. She has also served three years as a region 5 director for COCA-I.
COCacon 2019 Speakers

Bert Kennedy

Session(s):

Staff Development - Training and Recruiting

Gretchen Loose

Session(s):

New Directors Forum

Gretchen, like so many of our COCAI members, spends her work day in a classroom where she teaches students ages 2-21 with autism. She has worked for the Delaware Autism Program for 22 years and currently serves as the supervisor of the Safe and Positive Approaches program for the Brennen School. After the school day is finished, Gretchen can be found on a field or in a gymnasium coaching. She has coached at all levels including high school and college. Oncology camping became a part of her life when a close friend invited her to run some activities for Sports and Games at Camp Sunrise in Maryland. After volunteering for 3 years with Camp Sunrise, Gretchen and 8 other individuals started Kay’s Kamp, Delaware’s first and only oncology camp. During the camp’s first two years, she served as Program Director followed by six years as Kamp Director and has been Executive Director for the past 2 years. Gretchen won the Spirit of COCAI for Region 2 in 2016 and will be a Gold Ribbon visitor for 2020.

Morgan Marcinko

Session(s):

Stuff in the Hospital: Designing Programs Kids Actually Want to Do

Morgan Marcinko is responsible for developing and delivering Camp Sunshine activities in the community – regionally and in the hospital and outpatient setting, including Sunshine 2U, our hospital based camp program.

Morgan is a Certified Child Life Specialist with experience at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite in the Emergency Department.
Leah McComb, Program Director Kids Cancer Alliance

Session(s):

How to Bring Music and Music Therapy to Camp: A Collaborative Program between Kid’s Cancer Alliance and Norton Children’s Cancer Institute
Sarah Kurtz McKinnon graduated cum laude from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in 2008, earning her degree in political science and journalism.

Although she had a passion for writing, she had another passion, and that was changing lives through the power of summer camp. In 2009, she earned the opportunity to become one of the youngest YMCA camp executives in the country, taking the helm of Ann Arbor YMCA Camp Al-Gon-Quian at the age of 23. Sarah served as the director of Camp AGQ for nearly six years. During that time the camp saw incredible growth with a 40 percent increase in positive annual net for the program and nearly $1 million in capital construction improvements.

Her dynamic and creative leadership approach took an already great camp to another level of excellence, receiving recognition at the national level for the camp's success.

Sarah lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with her husband, Robert (a licensed builder and carpenter), and their Brittany Spaniels, Ranger and Marley. Robert worked at Camp AGQ in the years before Sarah arrived, and they met via mutual camp friends. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys tennis, reading and art. Sarah is also a volunteer board member for the Washtenaw Camp Placement Association (a local non-profit that sends kids to camp who otherwise would never have the opportunity), Recycle Ann Arbor, and serves as the director of the Siblings Program at Camp Tall Tree.

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Melissa McNichol

Melissa has had the privilege of working with countless children and their families through their journey with childhood cancer. She also has had the incredible opportunity to work with innumerable volunteers, donors, and staff that make Camp Rap-A-Hope a 32+ year success story for families.

From grant writing, fundraising events, Board of Directors meetings, planning for events that are attended by hundreds of people as well as smaller events, hospital visits for newly diagnosed children, sadly funeral attendances...the list is long and humbling. She is Executive Director of Camp Rap-A-Hope.

Travis Mellon, DO, FAWM, DiMM

Camp Horizon (Kingston Springs, TN) Volunteer since 1999, I think {just a big kid}
Counselor {big kid watching littler kids}
Jack of all trades general activities, operations, fundraising, recruitment, and programming grunt {ask me to do anything for the kids}
Med staff doc now Medical Director {unless you need me, I will be playing}
Emergency Medicine Physician {fun job} Residency Trained and Boarded in Emergency Medicine
Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (FAWM) {passion}
Diploma in Mountain Medicine (DiMM) {mountains are my medicine}
Work in Solvang, CA at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital {love sunshine}
Associate Emergency Department Director {apparently I like headaches}
Envision Regional Lead Coach {help colleagues figure out how to communicate more effectively}
Jennifer Mercer

Session(s):

Help Me Help You

Care Camps Director of Development.

Jennifer has worked as a strategic business and marketing consultant for corporations and non-profits around the region. She also filled in as a host for a TV segment, “Montana Matters,” spotlighting Montana businesses and nonprofits for a CBS affiliate KTVQ in Montana. She also served as executive director of The Historic Billings Depot. She established a series of profit-generating fundraising events and earned the venue numerous accolades. After graduating from Montana State University-Billings, she worked in the pharmaceutical sales arena for almost a decade.

Brian Moore

Session(s):

Developing a Growth Mindset

Brian Moore MSW LISW-S Associate Professor, Human Services and Justice Studies. I have been married for 27 years to my wife Lisa, 2 boys Luke 18 and Kade 20. I have been teaching in Higher Education since 1998. My back ground is in Community Corrections/Chemical Dependency treatment, I have worked with people who were HIV+ or living with AIDS, as a Guardian Adlitem, as an Outpatient Therapist. In 1991 I became a licensed Social Worker and a member of the National Association of Social Workers. I began volunteering with Oncology Camps, primarily Camp Quality Ohio in 2006. I have volunteered or visited multiple oncology camps via Camp Quality USA, the COCAI Exchange program, and as a Gold Ribbon visitor.
COCacon 2019 Speakers

Brett Northrup, MT-BC

Session(s):

*Cancer Beats: Using Music Therapy to Promote Survivor-Ship and Coping for Teens and Young Adults Affected by Cancer*

*How to Bring Music and Music Therapy to Camp: A Collaborative Program between Kid’s Cancer Alliance and Norton Children’s Cancer Institute*

Brett Northrup, MT-BC: I was born and raised in upstate NY. Completed my Bachelors in Music Performance with Music Therapy Emphasis and 200 hours of student clinical experience in medical music therapy at the University of Louisville. Completed a nine month internship at Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville, KY, with an emphasis on treating and improving inpatient pain scores and reducing sedation. I have been Music Therapist, Board Certified since July of 2012. Was hired by Norton Hospital as a PRN music therapist, serving various inpatient and outpatient populations across the hospital system in August of 2012. Was hired by the Norton Cancer institute, using music in and as therapy, to help meet the medical and psycho-social needs of pediatric and adult oncology patients and their families from March of 2013 to present. Since working with this population, I have worked closely with, and provided programming for, several local and national organizations serving those affected by cancer. Music is my passion, and I am honored to get the opportunity to have this career and see how it can inspire and help others.

Brad Palmer

Session(s):

*Developing a Growth Mindset*

Brad Palmer MA, Associate Professor, Communication, Humanities and Reading. Brad has his Master’s degree in Communication and has been teaching at the collegiate level since 2006 and conducting trainings on various communication related topics since 2010. Before teaching, Brad has a background in Hospice and campaigns and elections. He began volunteering with Camp Quality Ohio in 2006. His areas of interest are Persuasion, Political Communication, and Communication in comics.
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Darryl Perkins, Jr.

Session(s):

This One Time at Cancer Camp...

Darryl Perkins, Jr. started as a volunteer with Camp One Step back in 2007. He then stepped up as a program leader for multiple programs in 2010, and became a full-time staff member in 2013. Darryl now serves as the organization's Chief Programs Officer.

Tom Prader

Session(s):

Camp Director Forum

Tom first came to Camp Can Do as a camper in 1984. Camp had such a powerful and positive effect on Tom that he knew it would be a part of him forever. In 1984 he could never have guessed how much he would also be a part of Camp Can Do. Over the years Tom has been a counselor, assistant director, handled many assists for the medical team and once, JUST ONCE, served a full day as the Craft Lady!
Kristina Richetts, MSFS, CCLS

Session(s):

More Than Just a Craft: Utilizing Therapeutic Art and Legacy Building Projects in the Camp Setting

Kristina Richetts has been Certified Child Life Specialist at UK HealthCare for five years, working in acute care for two years before transferring to our hematology/oncology clinic. Among her other responsibilities, Richetts works with our friends at DanceBlue to host events, manage student volunteers and help prepare for the dance marathon every year: “At the marathon, our clinic families are surrounded by so much love and compassion. The marathon is where our clinic families and our clinic staff are embraced by thousands of students who work tirelessly to make sure that every patient receiving treatment at our clinic has the absolute best care possible and has access to resources that ease some of the burdens of treatment. Many people hear that I work with the hematology/oncology population, and they assume that working in the clinic must be so sad. While there are definitely some sad and hard days, the truth is that most of my days are full of laughing and smiling patients.”

Barbie Ricken, BSN RN

Session(s):

Creating a SIBS Camp Program

Barbie Ricken is a Staff Nurse & Charge Nurse in the pediatric Hematology/Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant unit at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. She serves as the Program Director for SIBS Camp Rainbow, a week-long summer camp for the Super Important Brothers & Sisters of children with cancer and blood diseases in the St. Louis area. Barbie’s older sister was diagnosed with cancer when she was in middle school. Her experiences as a sibling of a child with cancer have inspired her to give back to other kids whose siblings have cancer. Barbie also volunteers as a nurse at Camp Rainbow Summer Camp & Teen Camp and serves on the Camp Rainbow Medical Advisory Board.
COCacon 2019 Speakers

Iain Riddle

Session(s):
Life Lessons

IAIN IS CAMP. They both have an A in the four letter word & that's no coincidence. He is the sole, fearless leader at camp and without his spirit and energy camp would not be in such good shape. He is the leader of the "things" (program areas, special events coming in, the groundwork of making camp run). With this job, he is able to see everyone in a day and put a smile on their face. It's hard to explain how someone stands out in a room full of camp directors and those who do everything, like all the other submissions you are reading. But Iain does stand out. He stands out at the fishing docks at 6:30 am to help send off the morning fishing/boating crews. He stands out in the heat helping teach campers basketball drills before lunch. He just stands out!

Katie Riley

Session(s):
The Camp Experience for Adolescent Cancer Survivors

Katie Riley, Ph.D., CCLS, is an Assistant Professor in the Children’s Studies, Child Life and Health Program at Eastern Washington University. She has her B.S. degree in Psychology from The University of Iowa, a M.A. in Family & Consumer Sciences- Child Life from The University of Akron, and a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies with certificates in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Developmental and Family Sciences Advanced Research Design and Methods from Iowa State University. Dr. Riley’s primary area of research concerns the social, emotional, and behavioral impact of chronic illness and stress in childhood. She is also interested in childhood cancer survivorship, therapeutic camps, psychosocial interventions within and outside of the pediatric hospital setting, research methods in child life, and evidence-based child life practices. For her dissertation research, she specifically focused the social and emotional wellbeing of adolescent cancer survivors and the social phenomena within the context of an oncology camp. She has expanded upon this research to include therapeutic camps supporting children with a variety of chronic illnesses or in survivorship. Her research has been presented at the ACLP national conference, in addition to the Society for Research on Adolescence and The Society for Research in Child Development. Dr. Riley plans to continue pursuing research that will contribute to addressing the needs of children and families impacted by illness and hospitalization, in hopes that this research will help inform health professionals’ interactions and interventions with children and families, in addition to evidence-based practices.
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Tom Rosenberg

Session(s):

Panel Discussion - Camper Similarities and Differences - "Normal" versus Medically Challenged Campers

President/CEO American Camp Association

Tom Rosenberg has a distinguished career in the camp profession and a long resume of service to ACA. He most recently served as the executive director of Camp Judaea in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Prior to Camp Judaea, Tom spent more than two decades with Blue Star Camps in North Carolina, most of those years as a director.

Tom is a past national treasurer and board member of the ACA as well as a past board president and treasurer of ACA Southeastern. A founding board member of the North Carolina Youth Camp Association, Tom was awarded the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce’s inaugural Camp Industry Leadership Award as well as the American Camp Association’s National Honor Award and ACA Southeastern’s Distinguished Service Award.

With an educational focus in business, Tom graduated with distinction from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California with an MBA and from the AB Freeman School of Business at Tulane University with a BS in Management. He is also a graduate of ACA’s Camp Director Institute.

Tom melds his experience in the camp profession with business expertise, inspirational vision, successful fundraising experience, professional agility, organizational skills, and strategic focus.

Tom, his wife Pam Sugarman, and their son Daniel live in Atlanta, Georgia

Shelby Russell

Session(s):

Help Me Help You
Develop an Annual Fundraising Plan

Shelby Russell joined Kids Cancer Alliance, Inc. as ED in May 2010. Shelby volunteered at camp as a counselor for five years and worked as the outpatient social worker at the U.K. Pediatric Hematology-Oncology clinic before her employment with KCA.
Matt Ruttler

Session(s):

**COCA-I On the Move - More Services, More Benefits, More for Members**

**New Directors Forum**

Matt Ruttler - President of COCA-I

Matt had dedicated his life to working with children every day. As a Special Education Teacher working with children with multiple and severe special needs, Matt has implemented many camp songs and activities in the classroom. Outside the classroom Matt has spent many hours, days and weeks planning and implementing programs for not just one camp, but several camps across the country. Matt has been a counselor and the current Camp Director at Camp Happy Times for 17 years. During his tenure, Matt has been instrumental in program and theme development and implementation, staff training and recognition as well as camper recruitment and all camp logistics prior to, during and after the camp week. In addition to CHT, Matt has been a counselor and current LIT Director for Kay's Kamp in Delaware. He is a SIBS counselor for Camp Magical Moments in Idaho as well as the former Camp Director for Camp No Worries.

Devin Ryan

Session(s):

**This One Time at Cancer Camp...**

Devin Ryan began as a volunteer in 2012. She has since recently accepted her full-time role as Programs Manager in February 2019.
Margie Scher

Session(s):

For Teens From Teens: A Case Study in Teen Driven Programming

Margie Scher sits on Heart of Passion's Board as the organization's Volunteer Engagement Coordinator working to create and fill year-long and ad-hoc volunteer positions in Heart of Passion's three cities. Margie has been with the organization on- and off- since 2014 when she volunteered as a young adult mentor to the New Orleans cohort, and while her career has taken her back to New York City, she continues to lead the organization's volunteer engagement from the northeast, visiting our southeast cohort cities when possible. Teen focused oncology camping programming is especially important to Margie, since she believes that as one begins to refine their own personality, moral compass, and sense of self during teen years, and cancer should not be a barrier to that process.

Cassandra Shea

Session(s):

Teen Program Refresh

Cassy is the Director of Camp KEMO in Columbia, SC and a key member of the Camp KEMO Programs psychosocial staff at Prisma Health Children’s Hospital-Midlands. Camp KEMO Programs offers year-round psychosocial programming to patients with cancer and blood disorders and their families.

Before coming to Camp KEMO in 2013, Cassy attended The University of Illinois at Chicago where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology. From there Cassy spent four years at SOAR wilderness based school and summer camps in North Carolina teaching youth with ADHD/ADD and learning disabilities to develop self-confidence, social skills and life skills. Cassy also served on the COCA-I Board of Directors and as the Region 4 Director for four years (2014-2018). She remains active in COCA-I as a leader in the Young Professionals Group.

Cassy currently lives in Columbia, SC with her husband Tripp and her two children Fletcher (3 years old) and Xavier (3 months old).
**COCAcon 2019 Speakers**

**Deanna Slade**

Session(s):

*Understanding Ages & Stages of Development and Applying it in the Camping Environment*

Deanna Slade is the camp director of Sunrise Day Camp - Long Island and consultant for the Sunrise Association. MSED, Art Education K-12.

**Mark Slocum**

Session(s):

*Coffee Klatsch - Hot Topics*

*Getting the Best from Your Board*

Mark Slocum has spent his career in the non-profit industry. For more than 35 years, Mark has worked with both national and local agencies. During his time in the non-profit sector, Mark has led organizations through their growth phases and successfully transitioned both staff and board members to reach their potential through strategic visioning.

Mark is passionate about helping organizations become more effective by identifying their key strengths and aligning their mission with those strengths. Mark has been a part of everything from helping an organization identify its “uniques” to a complete brand overhaul. He is an experienced fund raiser and grant writer, as well as a strategist, who believes in the value of deepening donor relationships.

Mark lives his life by the quote, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
Dave Smith

Session(s):

Song Swap

Since 1987, Dave Smith has been with Special Love, Inc., a community of support for children and young adults with cancer and their families in the Mid-Atlantic region. Dave is Senior Director, Outreach and Programs.

He also spent a 2-year stint as the President of COCA-I and holds degrees in Creative Writing, Technical Writing, Political Science, and Strategic Leadership.

Buffy Swinehart

Session(s):

My Special Aflac Duck (MSAD) Training

Buffy Swinehart is Aflac’s Corporate Social Responsibility Senior Manager. She joined Aflac in 2001, and in her role, Buffy has helped raise over $136 million for Aflac’s chief philanthropic cause, childhood cancer. She proactively identifies and develops strategic philanthropic initiatives, oversees the Aflac and Aflac Childhood Cancer Foundations, and integrates the CSR into Aflac’s brand by engaging key stakeholders including childhood cancer advocates, employees, sales agents, brokers, policyholders, influencers, general public, analysts and regulators. Buffy raises public awareness of Aflac’s commitment to childhood cancer through the Aflac Childhood Cancer Campaign, which includes My Special Aflac Duck, Duckprints awards, and additional issue leadership activities. Buffy is responsible for maintaining an effective program for employee volunteers through solicitation and evaluation of volunteer opportunities and communication within the employee base as well as reporting accumulated hours for internal use and as benchmark with outside organizations.

Prior to joining Aflac, Buffy served as the Marketing/Special Events Manager for TSYS. She currently serves on the Right from the Start board and as a volunteer for Young Lives and St. Luke United Methodist Youth. She is married and has two sons who keep her busy in her time away from Aflac.
Nick Toyne

Session(s):

*Building Trust and Maintaining Relationships with Families*

Nick Toyne is an In-Hospital Program Specialist with Camp Oochigeas. He has spent the last year and a half serving campers and families at SickKids Hospital in Toronto and McMaster Children’s Hospital in Hamilton. His camp experience extends to volunteering at overnight camp for the last 3 summers. He is a passionate musician, and is thoroughly dedicated to learning the proper technique associated with the dance move "The Floss".

Luke Van Ryn

Session(s):

*Building Trust and Maintaining Relationships with Families*

Luke Van Ryn is the Coordinator of Leadership Programs with Camp Oochigeas. He has been with Ooch since 2017 and previously worked as an In-Hospital Program Specialist, primarily based out of SickKids and McMaster Children’s Hospital. Before Ooch, Luke spent three summers serving the pediatric oncology population at Camp Trillium, where he served as a Leadership Program Coordinator. Luke has a deep love and appreciation for the world of camp and also vehemently believes that cereal is a breakfast soup.

Dr. Kaye Wagner MD, Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist, Sanford USD Medical Center

Session(s):

*Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round Table I*

Dr. Kayelyn J Wagner, MD, MME, Sanford USD Medical Center Dr. Wagner is a pediatric hematologist-oncologist in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and is affiliated with Sanford USD Medical Center. She received her medical degree from University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and has been in practice between 11-20 years. She is part of the only multi-disciplinary team providing specialized Pediatric Hematology/Oncology care in South Dakota. Dr. Kaye serves as both the camp physician and medical director for Camp Bring It On and is certified by American Board of Pediatrics, and American Board of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.
COCAcon 2019 Speakers

Ann Walsh

Ann Walsh is the founder and director of Camp Magical Moments. She started the camp in 2004 and they just celebrated their 15th year of camp. CMM is proud to not only offer the yearly oncology camp, but three additional camps for the family - as cancer does not just effect the child, it effects the entire family. All of the camps are FREE and have NO paid staff members.
Ann, was a former Executive Director of the Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society.

Andrea Warnick, RN, MA Registered Psychotherapist

Andrea is a Registered Psychotherapist, Registered Nurse, and thanatologist with 20 years of experience supporting grieving children and families and communities. Her caring and unique approach to dying, death, grief and healing has helped thousands of people, from toddlers to the elderly, across North America and internationally. Recognizing the provision of support for grieving children and youth as a social justice issue, Andrea brings the topics of dying, death, and grief into the necessary realm of discussion, education, and advocacy.
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