



**Multi-County P&R Professionals COVID-19 Coordination**  
**Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 12PM  
**Location:** Conference Call  
**Meeting ID:** 168 918 878  
<https://zoom.us/j/168918878>  
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Polleverywhere poll was organized as the first order of business. Over 100 participants engaged in today’s call. Pete will make available the full survey results with these meeting minutes. Some of the highlights of the poll are listed below.

- Sunshine and exercise were voted as the top two things getting people through the week.
- Uncertainty in the restrictions of the phasing process is shown as the greatest impediment to reactivation.
- 3-4 weeks is the general lead time needed in order to implement summer camp programs.
- If Phase III opens on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 58% of participants are highly likely to provide summer camps.
- 2-4 weeks is the general lead time needed to prepare pools for reopening.
- Most participants are moderately likely to open pools given the June 22<sup>nd</sup> possible reopening date.
- 52% of participants have furloughed full time employees.
- Most of these furloughs are set to last for a duration of 7-8 weeks.

**1) Concepts of Operational Planning –**

**a. Childcare Programming – Childcare Expansion & Youth Summer Camps**

- i.** What do operations look like moving forward?
- ii.** Under the WA Phased Approach are we able to expand childcare/day camp services to those beyond first responders when people return to work?
- iii.** Is it intended that Youth Summer Camps are allowed under the guidance of the WA Phased Approach (Phase III)?

The draft guidance document from Oregon Parks was discussed. Oregon Parks worked with the Oregon Health Authority and governmental advisors to develop this plan. It is known that the typical summer camp experience will be different moving forward. It will be necessary to operate in small groups of less than 10 participants while maintain distances. Field trips and outings will be limited or cut from the programming. The main priority is to operate sustainability and maintain a safe environment for the children. Oregon Parks will also implement sanitization stations and further operational changes to their programs.

The City of Tacoma is hopeful that they will have summer camps later this year. They will operate with smaller group sizes and create a wider dispersal of camp groups. They want to be able to continue to provide food programs for children. Their specialty camps cost recover at a rate of 130-180%. These are programs such as theater, music, and Lego camps. They are considering changes to these types of programs which allow them to operate under new restrictions such as relocating them outdoors and contracting with partner agencies to provide these services in need areas. They are considering using Tacoma Public School sites for day camps. They would like to partner with community groups to help implement summer meal programs. WRPA has listed day camp guidance on their webpage for review as well.

The City of Olympia is compiling resources and data on day camps and their respective possibilities in order to determine program modifications. In doing so, they can determine which type of programs and modifications will become the new normal and how they will evolve over the summer. It is important that agencies do not try to model reopening strategies similar to those on the other side of the country. It is paramount that we each focus on local government guidance

The City of Federal Way is trying to re-brand their typical day camp as more of a school aged childcare option that would integrate the CDC safety and sanitization protocols. They will discontinue the offering of field trips and swimming as well as cut participation by 50%.

Maddy Thompson, Senior Education Advisor to Governor Inslee, encouraged agencies to think of childcare outside of the Phase parameters. She insisted, instead, that agencies review the Department of Health guidelines and figure out how to run programs within these given guidelines. It is also important to consider the age of the participants and the likelihood of their ability to social distancing. At these times we can think of childcare more broadly as it encompasses licensed childcare as well as the necessary services provided by our Parks and Recreation camps. The best guidance regarding safe programming with kids is the Department of Health's recommendations. This guidance will likely last through the summer and can be found at the following link: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/ChildCare> . Maddy Thompson can be reached at [maddy.thompson@gov.wa.gov](mailto:maddy.thompson@gov.wa.gov) .

**b. Aquatic Facilities and Programming**

- i. "What is happening out there in aquatics?"
- ii. What remains to be determined before we can safely open our pools?
- iii. Any re-opening guidance?

Metro Parks Tacoma provided updates regarding the aquatic division of park and recreation. It was noted that the level of risk is more heightened in aquatics programming when compared to other programs. The mantra of "just because we can, doesn't mean we should" was shared regarding opening aquatics facilities once we are allowed do so. It

will be important to consider whether opening, once allowed, is fiscally responsible. In the current phase, Phase I, aquatics entities are in waiting mode. Agencies are waiting on advisement from the American Red Cross on lifeguard protocols. They are also waiting for specific aquatic venues guidance from the CDC which will come out next week. There is much concern about staffing considering the workforce in aquatics is primarily made up of youth employees. PPE requirements will also need to be known for employees and visitors to aquatic sites. There will be a survey sent out to determine what the public would like to see when aquatic facilities reopen. No pool openings will be possible until at least Phase III which is anticipated to begin June 22nd. In preparation, it is important to reconsider maximum capacities given the 6-foot distancing requirements. Many aquatic facilities opening across the countries are beginning with lap swim, reservation only swim, and blocking off every other swim lane. As primary educators of water safety we need to consider how to provide this important service as people head out to open bodies of water due to pool closures. The phased reopening dates are determinant on meeting low case count thresholds per region and these phase dates can be pushed back if we do not experience low enough case counts. We need to be creative in our training and consider new practices such as lifeguards using family members for drills or performing training at their home pools. Oregon Parks is looking ahead to impacts of their aquatics system into next year as they will have to recertify all guards whose two-year certification have expired.

**2) Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition Data Roll Up – Doug Levy**

- a. Compile data of impact from COVID 19 that can be used with the Legislature and during a Special Session to prevent cutbacks from sector
  - i. A sampling of layoff and revenue impact info for various parks and rec agencies
  - ii. A listing of many of the outdoor special events that have had to be cancelled as a result of COVID-19 – and any revenue impact examples we can cite from that

Discussion of the future special session of the legislature and how parks and recreation industries can display the cuts we have already taken. The state is in a difficult position given the 7-billion-dollar revenue leakage thus far. Massive cutbacks will be necessary on the operational side. As parks agencies we need to determine the best possible way in which we can provide data to protect ourselves against further potential cutbacks. In addition to all the general cutbacks our agencies have experienced, huge summer festivals are not happening. We need to harness this information which depicts the financial impacts of these large-scale cancellations and determine how can we best be protecting existing funding. It is in the self-interest of our agencies that we show the legislature and the Governor's office information regarding constraints and funding hits that we have already taken as to not incur more hits when they begin to cut deeper. A request was made for six agencies representatives to come together separately to begin to work up sample numbers. Interested agencies are to email Doug at [Doug@Outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Doug@Outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com).

**3) Group share/Questions for the Group**

- ORPA and CPRS followed the lead of this group and have incorporated our framework which we advanced to the Governor last week. They have transmitted these to their respective Governors.

- Discussion of Tennis as a function of Phase II reopening. This will be allowed by some agencies during Phase II given proper distancing. Signage will also be in place where Tennis/pickleball is allowed in order to outline specific restrictions of play.
- Discussion regarding the CARES Act as it applies to municipalities and funding for summer camp programs and extra costs incurred due to COVID19 (PPE, extra staffing, extra cleaning, etc).

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:02pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Emily Young

Administrative Coordinator

City of Everett Parks and Community Services