

ACAP UPDATE 5-15-20

ACAP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Hello, friends! Thursday evening's "Ask ACAP" Zoom event went very well! Thank you to the 50 or so people who joined us. We were delighted to see the smiling faces of our members and their families. We also appreciated the participation of representatives of our Board of Directors, our community partners, our volunteers, and of course, our hard-working staff.

Meeting Summary

- ACAP briefly outlined the major changes we have made to respond to the coronavirus pandemic since March.
- We described our staff "Working Groups," which are tasked to keep ACAP moving forward on current concerns. They include:
 - Virtual programming
 - Safe return to on-site programming
 - Community partner relations
 - Advocacy
 - Site preparation
 - PlayMakers
- We gave a brief update on authorizations for virtual programming from our funding partners. All partners have verbally affirmed authorization, but some details are still being worked through contractually. Members need to approach their Care Managers or IRIS Consultants to get these services.
- We shared initial plans for a safe return to on-site programming:
 - We are in an information gathering stage.
 - The recent survey sent to members is part of our information-gathering and not a sign-up list.
 - ACAP will be following the science and recommendations from health experts to guide our return to on-site programming.
 - ACAP likely will be requiring new safety measures, such as doctor approvals, masks, and other conditions for a safe return.

Community Questions

ACAP responded to specific questions asked by our community:

- *Is there anything we can do to improve the quality of the virtual experience, which is sometimes hampered by drop-offs and audio problems?* ANSWER: We apologize for frustrations due to technology issues. We are working on our program delivery platform and considering how we can upgrade our service. Please continue to share with staff any issues you are experiencing.
- *How can parents/caregivers help ACAP deliver services?* ANSWER: ACAP is not at this point in need of volunteers, but we will add this possibility to our planning for on-site programming.

- *Will you reopen with social distancing and masks?* ANSWER: Under Phase 1, these will be necessary. We are exploring any alternatives to masks, such as face shields, for members who may be challenged to wear them.
- *How many members will be able to attend per day?* ANSWER: Under Phase 1, we will need to keep numbers low. We are working on a ratio of 1 staff to 3 or 4 members.
- *Will we continue with virtual programming after returning to on-site programming?* ANSWER: Yes. It is possible it may be a permanent feature of our programming moving forward.
- *Is ACAP financially stable, or will it close in the near future?* ANSWER: We are confident of continuing to operate with full staff through the end of July. At that point, we will have to consider the strength of our income streams to know what is next for us.
- *Can you handle another shut down if warranted in the fall or winter?* ANSWER: We are focused on making it to the other side of the pandemic. We will have to see where things stand later in the summer to know how to operate through any future shut-downs or how ACAP may need to change to sustain operations.
- *How will ACAP be affected by the recent legislation striking down "Safer at Home" orders?* ANSWER: This is an example of the shifting landscape in which we are working. We will take all new recommendations from our health experts into account.

Ways to help ACAP weather the storm:

Board President Rick Verthein thanked the community for its support and said that we are looking for connections to new potential funders and sources of support.

- Please let ACAP know of any funding or funders who might support ACAP with grants or donations.
- Help ACAP reach our capacity in virtual programming. We are accepting new virtual ACAP members, so please share this sign-up link: [Virtual Program Preference Form](#).
- Consider making a monthly, sustaining donation to ACAP. We understand that many in our community are suffering lost income themselves, but if you are able to give to ACAP, we need your help.
- Please give us your trust and patience as we find the best path forward.

In gratitude for the ACAP community,



Sandra Gines
Executive Director
Adaptive Community Approach Program

For updates about COVID-19: [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) ; [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).