

Summary of Advocacy by MCA and TSG in response to COVID-19

Tremont Strategies Group (TSG) has been a critical member of the MCA team as we designed and executed an Administrative and Legislative response to COVID-19. TSG ACANE, ACA National and MCA have been constantly engaged with the Department of Public Health, the Covid-19 Command Center, and the Administration at every step of the way to support camp-friendly guidance and encourage timely responses from the government.

Below are is a highlighted summary of the work TSG and Savannah, in very close partnership with Matt (MCA President), Bette (ACANE Exec. Director), and Scott (ACA National Board President and MCA Government Affairs Chair) have done to allow summer camp to operate this year:

March: COVID-19 State of Emergency Declared

- MCA serves as central hub for COVID guidance from CDC and other federal agencies
- COVID related conversations begin with MDPH re: summer camp concerns
- ACA/YUSE partners with EH&E to being drafting summer camp guidance to be used by the CDC and state DPH
- MCA/TSG joins other summer camp leaders (inducing Hale, Alliance of YMCAs, Boys and Girls Club, JCC/JCRC, Mass Audubon) on weekly zoom calls to craft a comprehensive strategy
- TSG raises the alarm that summer camp must operate with the DPH Chief of Staff and Lt. Governor
- TSG learns that guidance will be drafted in coordination/oversight by EEC
- TSG has daily conversations with EEC field re: summer camp -- encouraging DPH to remain as the regulator
- TSG weekly conversation with DESE re: summer camp -- educating DESE on DPH's role as regulator

April:

- TSG communicates directly with the Summer Camp/Youth Programming Interagency Task Force which includes EEC, DPH and DESE on specific summer camp guidances
- TSG has daily conversations with EEC field re: summer camp -- encouraging DPH to remain as the regulator
- TSG weekly conversation with DESE re: summer camp -- educating DESE on DPH's role as regulator
- TSG has weekly conversations with DPH re: summer camp guidance
- TSG directs the weekly summer camp leadership calls to move the strategy forward and maintain pressure on critical decision makers using the summer camp leadership network

May:

- TSG drafts Summer Camp Industry Reopening Advisory Board letter and coordinates sign-on campaign to include MCA, ACANE, JCC/JCRC, Y Alliance, Boys and Girls Club, Mass Audubon, and Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association
 - Letter sent directly (via personal connections) to Members of the Reopening Advisory Board including co-chairs Lt. Governor Polito and Secretary Keneally; EOHED Chief of Staff and Legislative Staff; EOHHS Acting Secretary; EOHHS Legislative Staff; DPH Chief of Staff; Advisory Staff in the Command Center and Gov. Baker's office
- TSG drafts Summer Camp Concern letter re: lack of Phase 2 guidance and coordinates sign-on campaign to include MCA, ACANE, JCC/JCRC, Y Alliance, Boys and Girls Club, Mass Audubon, and Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association
 - Letter sent directly (via personal connections) to Members of the Reopening Advisory Board including co-chairs Lt. Governor Polito and Secretary Keneally; EOHED Chief of Staff and Legislative Staff; EOHHS Acting Secretary; EOHHS Legislative Staff; DPH Chief of Staff; Advisory Staff in the Command Center and Gov. Baker's office
- TSG has daily conversations with EEC field re: summer camp -- encouraging DPH to remain as the regulator
- TSG weekly conversation with DESE re: summer camp -- educating DESE on DPH's role as regulator
- TSG has weekly conversations with DPH re: summer camp guidance
- TSG facilitates Legislative strategy for Phase 2 guidance release and financial impact including outreach to House Reopening Advisory Committee; Senate Child Care Reopening Advisory Committee, Senate Economic Recovery Committee, Senate Leadership, House Leadership
 - Meetings ongoing

June:

- Phase 2 Guidance Released on June 1
- Feedback on guidance communicated directly with DPH via daily conversations, emails, and Zoom to express concerns and request changes including Massachusetts resident staff and camper restriction, mask wearing, emergency space requirements, among other things
- TSG facilitated a call with EOLWD General Counsel who communicated with DPH, Command Center, EOHED, Governor's Team
 - Restriction was removed within 48 hours
- TSG has daily conversations with EEC field re: summer camp -- encouraging DPH to remain as the regulator
- TSG weekly conversation with DESE re: summer camp -- educating DESE on DPH's role as regulator
- TSG has weekly conversations with DPH re: ongoing summer camp guidance

- TSG facilitates Legislative strategy for Phase 3 guidance release and Financial Impact including outreach to House Reopening Advisory Committee; Senate Child Care Reopening Advisory Committee; Senate Economic Recovery Committee; Senate Leadership; House Leadership
 - Meetings ongoing
- TSG maintains pressure on DPH for Phase 3 Guidance and provides field feedback
- TSG has regular communication with DPH, Lt. Governor's office and Legislative Members to pressure the Administration to release Phase 3 guidance in advance of Phase 3 reopening