

## MRPA Programming Network Meeting NOTES

### **Meeting Date:**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Friday, February 24, 2023

**Location:** Virtual

### Adaptive Programming

- Share what you are offering
  - Bring fliers if you have them!
- Internal programs and trainings vs. contracted
- Logistics & Lessons Learned

Discussion:

- Egan:
  - Sensory bags with fidget tools noise canceling headphones – at selected events.
  - Dance with inclusive portion with a second room with lower lighting, lighter music (9 participants) used it, they could interchange.
  - Summer programs with caregivers attending
  - Working with Autism Society –
    - Should ask them to be at the conference as a presenter.
  - No TR specialist specifically. Years ago, did do adaptive programs, Egan has a lot of resources so it fizzled out. Dipping toes back in now with inclusive playground, trying to be wholly inclusive rather than set aside adaptive programs.
- Eden Prairie
  - Has a CTRS on staff.
  - Specific adaptive program and implement it into swim lessons and open swim time.
  - Citywide events –
    - 1 hour before event starts it's advertised just to persons with special needs so they can enjoy it without the crowds.
    - Sensory tent/area 1 large or up to 4 tents together.
  - Use adaptive programming for seniors.
  - Trips and fieldtrips
  - Intern that will sit for CTRS, staff on site can be his supervisor.
- Transportation for fieldtrips?
  - Will do meet at the site with their own transportation.
  - EP has 2-13 passenger vehicles that staff can drive for smaller trips.
  - Rent out larger busses for bigger destinations.
- City of Duluth

- No CTRS on staff, Courage Kenney northland has a strong presence.
- Accessibility standpoint, try to be more forward thinking on website.
- Adding statements on terrain to expect.
- Received a Greater MN Regional Parks and Trail Commission grant for a track chair and will be bringing it to events, available at a nature center for daily rental.
  - If anyone has experience using one of these let them know any lessons learned.
  - Can share info on the grant if anyone wants it reach out.
- Therapeutic Recreation
  - Bunker Beach – highlights for individuals with disabilities going to water park type facilities.
    - Aquatic wheelchair is an idea.
      - Grants out there?
    - A lot of stimulation
    - Sensory Swim Idea – take away the stimulating items like the splash pads. EP has information on this idea.
- Inver Grove Heights
  - No dedicated CTRS. Working with other cities to do adaptive bowling league, had 19 participants!
  - Swimming partner with swim possible – some swimming lessons and do have sensory friendly swim 2X per week.
  - Special events – sensory friendly time the first ½ hour before event.
    - Partner with Therapy Opps to have sensory friendly area.
  - Also, in contact with Emily and REACH to do partnership, is expensive, focus on west metro.
- Woodbury
  - New partner with REACH – furthest east reach has come.
  - For inclusive services, not for adaptive recreation.
  - Miracle league, bowling, day camps. Expanding adaptive programming as much as they can.
- Sensory tents – how have you been running the tents? Staffing, volunteers, on their own?
  - A sponsor (business) staffed the tent for Inver Grove Heights
  - EP – contact Nicole Weidman for more info.
    - Activities/craft in the area but low key and come and go style.

## Financial Assistance - Scholarship Funds

- Share your policy & logistics.

## Discussion:

- Egan – multifaceted approach
  - All non-resident fees go into a fund to fund scholarships. Increase need, reworked policy, new proposal to city council and they approved additional funds. Do ask for donations/sponsors to fund it.

- Do not say it only covers 50% because sometimes it's not enough. They say, what can you pay or can you pay at all, max \$300/person.
  - Preschool families met max but the budget was there so some families could get additional funds to continue to attend preschool.
- Donate now button on RecTrac.
- Work in a way that allows people to have dignity, one form they use. Federal Standard. Do not require documentation, they just check a box. Follow up info is needed if they do get audited.
  - Fillable PDF.
- Idea of what if we don't have enough \$ or people will take advantage but that is not the case.
- Can always ask director if more is needed beyond \$300.
- Activities only – if it has a class number you can use it.
  - Dream – extend to all such as rentals.
- IF anyone wants to see memos or PPT's from asking council permission ask Eagan!
- Duluth
  - Similar to Egan, no proof just checks a box.
  - New this year – get \$300/year and after that, do not need manager approval for 50% off every program after that.
  - **Anyone doing it on Civic Rec? if you are reach out!**

#### MRPA

- awards of excellence due today!
- Lots of virtual training coming up in partnership with Florida parks and rec association.
- Virtual race & Equity training on April 4.
- Umpire clinics have started.
- State Volleyball March 12 in Apple Valley
- Rec Sports Commission met yesterday.
- MRPA working with consultant on org structure.

Other – for the good of the group:

- [Northland ACA](#)
  - Offering Winnekota Leadership Summit takes place at YMCA Camp St Croix.
  - A lot of great topics that apply to all kinds of programming.