

USBCHA-Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

5 PM PST, 8 PM EST

Attending:

Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder, Pearse Ward

Directors: Amanda Milliken, Cy Peterson, David Saunders, Dianne Deal, Faansie Basson, Frank Smith, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Joe Haynes, John Palmer, Kay Stephens, Laura Vishoot, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Sue Schoen, Wyatt Fleming

Guests: Tracee Treadwell, Carol Clawson, Dianna Sylvestre

President's Opening Statement:

Will limit initial discussion to short statements from the directors in the interest of time management.

Covid-19 committee has proposed 3 rule changes which will be discussed individually and voted on separately from the guidelines. These interim rules will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as needed. All documents were posted on BC Boards for USBCHA Directors to review and comment prior to this meeting.

Covid-19 Committee

Kay: The committee has been tasked with job of researching medical data and other sources to review and recommend best practices. They have produced a number of documents for the BOD to review. The committee has attempted to balance the needs of safety with not unduly burdening hosts. Special thanks to all in committee who spent hours putting the information together.

Tracee: Continues to use sources cited in previous reports. Cases are continuing to rise with the US number one in cases globally. Different states show differences in number of new cases with significant rise in percentage of increase. Deaths do seem to be leveling off at this point. Reasons: younger are less prone to die but have more long-term consequences, increased testing allows earlier intervention, and finally there is a delay between rise in new cases versus reported deaths. Concern for long-term effects for people who are asymptomatic. In addition there are some indications that number of deaths is beginning to trend upwards in some states.

Virus is throughout country and our hope is to take steps to mitigate the effects.

Carol: Thanks to committee for hard work. Reminder to all that the committee has trial hosts as members so interests of trial hosts are represented.

Proposed interim Rules

1. Trial hosts, workers and participants are required to follow local rules and regulations gathering size limitations, travel restrictions, quarantine requirements of person entering a state, and any other local requirements in effect at the time of the event.

Discussion

Carol: This rule ensures compliance and gives protection to HA and to some degree to hosts who follow guidelines

BOD comments:

Thank you and acknowledgement of quality of work done by the committee.

General consensus was that this rule makes sense.

Motion: Adopt #1 Linda Tesdahl

Second: Mich Ferraro

Vote: Passed with no objections.

2. Trial hosts must provide handlers a list of safety protocols they intend to follow for the trial at the time entries open.

Discussion

The checklist is a tool for the hosts to be able to inform the handlers about what safety measures they are going to institute so handlers can make an informed decision before entering. The checklist is not intended to be "set in stone". The hosts can modify it and either check an item or not based on their individual circumstances. Hosts have a variety of options for informing handlers. Several options were discussed such as sending to USBCHA secretary for loading on Upcoming Trials, adding to their own website, combining it with entry form.

Motion: Adopt #2 Mike Neary

Second: Dianne Deal

Vote: Passed with 2 opposed

3. Trial hosts are required to refund entry fees of any handler that has any symptoms consistent with, or believes that they may have contracted Covid-19, or been exposed to Covid-19 up until the trial begins.

Discussion

This rule is for protection of handlers to encourage caution. Recognize it is a burden to hosts and there is potential for abuse either way, handlers claiming refund for no reason or host retaining money they should refund.

Discussion included difficulties for hosts to institute and possibility of loss of funds versus risk to health and life of handlers. Point was made that hosts have a variety of options to mitigate losses such as reducing payouts, adjusting number of sheep as close to trial as possible. Possibility of applying to USBCHA for relief in the event of major loss although the proposed rule does not address this. If there is a huge amount of abuse of the rule, the rule could be repealed. Also discussed moving from rule to guidelines. Concern expressed that this rule could affect hosts willingness to hold trials. Need for individuals to, at some point, take responsibility for own actions and exposure to risks. Discussed possibility of requiring a doctor's confirmation of a positive test result- concerns about medical confidentiality and how long it takes to get results.

Motion: Adopt #3 Amanda Milliken

Second: Sue Schoen

Vote: Passed 11 yes, 10 no

Guidelines:

Discussion:

Covid-19 Guidelines

Covid-19 Fact Sheet for Trial Hosts- posters suggested

Proposed Portable Toilet Financing Incentive- Decided to work with Marianna how to implement it. Idea was to help expenses for hosts. Proposed to just put out an announcement that HA would help defray costs. Need to keep it as simple as possible to implement and administer. Accept in principle

Motion: Accept guidelines Amanda Milliken

Second- Mich Ferraro

Passed No objections

Covid-19 Liability Concerns (Carol Clawson, Lori Cunningham)

Trial Release (Protects USBCHA only)

Implementation

Discussion

For members only, not for non-members, spectators or others at trial due to great variance in state regulations. The hosts will need to consult with their individual state/province for waivers for their trial. They also need to be aware that the USBCHA insurance has a virus and bacteria exclusion in the policy predating the pandemic. Hosts need to consult with their own insurance companies for their own policies

Also discussed was methods for member notification, electronic/paper signing and tracking/enforcement. Determined that Pearse Ward (webmaster) will create a form that can be signed on website; Linda will track who has signed. Information will be posted on website and a group email will be sent out.

Consequence for not signing waiver were discussed from losing points, denial of entry up to making member in good standing contingent on signing the waiver. Final decision will be based on level of compliance.

Primary purpose of waiver is to inform members about risks of attending trials, as well as protecting USBCHA from being sued.

Motion: Require HA members to sign a waiver- Lori Cunningham

Second: Cy Peterson

Vote: Passed no objections

Other Issues

Options for Annual Meeting: use of zoom, possibility to get a moderator, on line forum on website. Don't have to make final decision at this point.

New Business

Reminder that nominations are open for district and at large directors.

Adjourn Jan Stebbins

7 pm PST adjournment