

american **CAMP** association™  
Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Committee Name: Public Policy Committee
2. Committee Chair: Sharon Kosch
3. Meeting Dates: May 25, 2006
4. Meeting Location: Via Teleconference
5. Role Call:

Committee Members Present: Sharon Kosch, Chair; Scott Brody, Don Cheley, Darrow Milgrim, Jane Sanborn, Ann Sheets, Steve Shiveley, Steve Sudduth, and Teresa Younger

Committee Members Absent: Vance Gilmore and Phillip Lovell.

Staff Present: Gillian Short-Frasier (Intern), Peg Smith, Rachel Williams and Susan E. Yoder

6. Discussion and Actions:

A. Welcome and Introductions: Kosch called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. She introduced the two new Committee members – Steve Shively and Teresa Younger.

B. Public Lands: Sanborn gave an update on the status of the Federal Budget bill that would sell public lands to support education. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the group that near the end of the Summer, we should contact camps with information about the potential public land sale including: impact on camps, how to access more information, and how a camp can find out what its land "track" number is.

Kosch discussed an issue that has arisen at the Santa Cruz State Park. Their new policies require that ...anyone 14 and under must have a parent with them in order to "camp". Discussion followed about the intent of the policy and impact on day and resident camp programs that use the park. Shively and Milgrim agreed to follow up and find out more information about this state public land issue and potential impact on camps and likelihood of other state lands adopting a similar policy.

C. International Staffing: Kosch updated the Committee on an emerging issue related to internships for foreign nationals. She explained that at this time, there is no impact

on camps. She added that the Alliance is on top of the issue and will keep ACA posted.

Kosch then updated the Committee on an issue that has just emerged concerning the international placement agencies. (See attachment A). Discussion followed. Kosch noted that she and Smith are working on a framework document for the issue that will be shared with the Committee. Kosch added that the issue is not effecting placements right now. She also noted that our desire in the end is that the regulation wording be altered to allow for “vulnerable adults” in addition to “American youth”.

**D. Unaccompanied Minors:** Kosch noted that the Board of Directors referred the unaccompanied minor issue back to the Committee for consideration of two other perspectives: partnering with single parent and grand parent organizations, and considering if it is an accessibility issue. (See Attachment B). Yoder provided an update on staff research on the issue. She said that Williams had been seeking out numerous single parent organizations and none of them currently are concerned about this issue. She said that instead, most provide information on how to travel with your child. She also said that many advise NOT putting your child on any flight alone. Yoder then reported on a conversation with Fathers Rights. She explained that this organization advocates for the rights of single fathers. She said that their organization has taken the approach of trying to get airlines to offer cheap tickets to the parent traveling to deliver their child to someone else (such as the other parent.) She said that they advocate for NOT putting children on flights alone. She said she would follow up with more information from that organization. Discussion followed. **Younger agreed to be the main Committee member following the unaccompanied minor issue and will do further research, monitoring, and reporting back to the Committee.** Discussion followed concerning what message to send back to the Board and others about what steps are being taken. Key messages:

- We are seeking out potential partners.
- Alternative solutions are being investigated.
- This is still regional issue and needs to be solved regionally – however –
- There is potential that this issue will grow if other airlines also eliminate the possibility for unaccompanied minors to travel on connecting flights.

**E. Criminal Background Checks:** Yoder provided an update of the status of ACA’s application to be included in the pilot of the Protect Act. She said that she is talking with the FBI in the afternoon and with the National Mentoring Partnership the next morning. She reported that she is confident that ACA will be accepted and that we just need to know the extent of ACA’s operational involvement. **Yoder will report on the SAFETYNet status as soon as she has more information.**

Yoder introduced Short-Frasier. They explained that Short-Frasier is an intern from Indiana University and she is doing work on our “State Regulations” document.

Kosch said that we have offered assistance to the National Standards Commission as they work on HR-4 and its interpretation – and all education and training related to criminal background checks and staff screening.

Kosch noted that we still need to update the Criminal Background Check Strategic Plan by adding the input from the Council of Delegates Meeting. Yoder and Kosch will redraft the CBC Strategic Plan this summer.

F. ACCT Relationship: Kosch noted that ACCT has been championing the issues related to regulation of challenge courses. Sudduth offered more information concerning the status of draft regulations in Mass. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the group that ACA become more proactive in this issue and in supporting ACCT. Milgrim agreed to contact Will Evans to find out the perspective of Markel. Shively, Sudduth, and Milgrim agreed to form a small work group to continue to work on this issue and report back to the Committee and needed.

G. Issues Groups: Because the meeting was coming to a close, Kosch said she would be contacting Younger and Shively about working with an ACA Public Policy Issue Group. She will contact them via email.

H. Communication: Kosch said that recent communication has convinced her that this Committee needs to do a better job of informing the members and staff of what we are working on. She said that she'd like to consider communication methods – such as the use of InsideACA as a tool to provide emerging public policy trends to the members. She asked the Committee to share communication models with her via email.

I. Next Committee Meeting: Kosch asked for potential dates for the Fall Committee Meeting. Discussion followed. Dates following the national Board meeting in October were considered. Kosch and Yoder will send out potential dates for consideration by the Committee.

J. Adjourn: Kosch thanked the Committee for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

## 7. Summary of Items Requiring Action By Staff:

- A. Yoder will prepare and distribute meeting minutes.
- B. Yoder will report on the SAFETYNet status as soon as she has more information.
- C. Yoder and Kosch will redraft the CBC Strategic Plan this summer.
- D. Kosch and Yoder will send out potential dates for consideration by the Committee.

## 8. Summary of Assignments to Committee Members:

- A. **Shively** and **Milgrim** agreed to follow up and find out more information about the state public land issue and potential impact on camps and likelihood of other state lands adopting a similar policy.
- B. **Kosch** noted that she and Smith are working on a framework document for the issue that will be shared with the Committee.
- C. **Younger** agreed to be the main Committee member following the unaccompanied minor issue and will do further research, monitoring, and reporting back to the Committee.
- D. Yoder and **Kosch** will redraft the CBC Strategic Plan this summer.
- E. **Milgrim** agreed to contact Will Evans to find out the perspective of Markel (regarding the challenge course issues.)
- F. **Shively**, **Sudduth**, and **Milgrim** agreed to form a small work group to continue to work on this issue (state challenge course regs) and report back to the Committee and needed.
- G. **Kosch** said she would be contacting Younger and Shively about working with an ACA Public Policy Issue Group.
- H. Kosch asked the **Committee** to share communication models with her via email.
- I. **Kosch** and Yoder will send out potential dates for consideration by the Committee.

## 9. Summary of Motions

None

## 10. Next Meeting:

Indianapolis, Fall 2006

## 11. Minutes Submitted by:

Susan E. Yoder

ATTACHMENT A  
american **CAMP** association™

DATE: May 23, 200  
TO: International Cultural Exchange Organizations  
FROM: Peg Smith, CEO  
Sharon Kosch, Chair, National Public Policy Committee  
Don Cheley, Chair, International Cultural Exchange Organizations group

We know this is a busy time for you and hope that your placements are going well.

We'd like to inform you of an evolving situation with the international camp counselor program that may in the long term affect a number of you and your placements. There has been activity within the State Department questioning placements of camp counselors within camps that serve adults. Since virtually all placements with adult campers are in special needs camps, this issue is of particular significance to the special needs camp segment.

It appears the compliance unit within ECA/EC is involved and has requested information from the program officers of two agencies about their placements citing the specific use of the term "American youth" in the camp counselor regulations (item 62.30 (a)). A third agency has received correspondence but no actual request as of yet

This does not appear to present an immediate threat to the program this summer but will most certainly need to be addressed before the next placement year begins. ACA has agreed to coordinate the response to the issue. This is where we are at the moment:

- We are drafting an issue statement that will help to frame the discussion.
- In an effort to contain, manage, and respond to the issue as carefully and professionally as possible we would ask that we all agree to the following:
  - Please let us know as soon as possible if you have been contacted by the state department about this issue,
  - Please do not get others involved (such as camps, lobbyists, etc) right now as contact with the State Department from others not currently involved may just push the situation over the edge.
  - Please proceed this summer paying the same careful attention to the compliance regulations that you always do.
  - Please let us know if this subject surfaces during any of your regular summer compliance visits.
  - Please speak with a unified voice if you are contacted by any camp or special needs professional.
    - Acknowledge your awareness of the issue
    - Reassure that there is no indication of any immediate threat this season
    - Advise them that ACA is taking the lead in coordinating a unified response and they can contact the ACA national office or wait until they receive a request from ACA for any necessary resources.
- We'd like to schedule a conference call for all agencies sometime in mid-July to do a check on the issue and think towards the fall. If you all agree, we will work on possible dates and times.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Sharon and Peg will be taking the lead as Don is at camp.

ATTACHMENT B

american **CAMP** association™  
COVER SHEET FOR BOARD AGENDA DECISION ITEMS  
April, 2006

Subject: Airlines and Unaccompanied Minors

Relevant Policies:

GP 9.5 Public Policy committee charge

Background:

A message from Rodger Popkin was forwarded to the public policy committee in December 2005 asking for support in dealing with a change in policy of US Airways concerning unaccompanied minors. He felt this policy change had the potential of impacting a number of camps including many in western North Carolina. US Airways merged with America West during 2005. Many of the policies of America West were adopted including the unaccompanied minor policy that prohibited minors on connecting and non-stop flights.

Board Action Requested:

- Option 1: Approve the recommendations made in the committee report
- Option 2: Do not approve the recommendations made in the committee report and send the report back to the committee for further discussion

Supporting Documents:

See attached

american **CAMP** association™  
**US AIRWAYS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**

**Background**

A message from Rodger Popkin was forwarded to the public policy committee in December 2005 asking for support in dealing with a change in policy of US Airways concerning unaccompanied minors. He felt this policy change had the potential of impacting a number of camps including many in western North Carolina. US Airways merged with America West during 2005. Many of the policies of America West were adopted including the unaccompanied minor policy. America West had a history of difficulty with the supervision of these passengers.

***New Policy - Children Traveling Alone  
US Airways' Commitment***

***Note: As of August 17, 2005, unaccompanied minors will no longer be accepted on connecting flights, direct (one-stop) flights with no change of plane, and "change of gauge" flights. Children ages 5 to 14 who are traveling as unaccompanied minors will be accepted by US Airways for travel only on nonstop flights. The fee for unaccompanied minor travel will be reduced to \$40.***

*Children traveling alone on US Airways (unaccompanied minors) are always supervised while in US Airways' care. Uniformed employees provide assistance for each child from the point of departure to the final destination airport into the care of the receiving party.*

***Age Requirements for Children Traveling Alone***

***Under 5 years old:*** Children under 5 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

***Between 5 and 14 years old:*** Unaccompanied children, between the ages of 5 and 14, may travel on US Airways nonstop flights for a [fee](#). Connections are not permitted on US Airways or other airlines.

***Between the ages of 15 and 17 years old:*** Minors between the ages of 15 and 17 traveling alone are considered young adults and are not required to purchase unaccompanied minor services from US Airways. Upon request, unaccompanied minor services will be provided by US Airways for a [fee](#). Flight connections to other airlines are permitted and additional fees may be required.

**Action To Date**

1. A review of policies of other airlines was done and it was determined that some did prohibit travel with connecting flights (Southwest, Frontier, JetBlue, America West, US Airways) and many did not (Air Tran, American, Continental, Northwest, United, Delta, Alaska). There did not appear to be any move to change those policies.
2. The public policy committee communicated in January of 2006 and decided we needed more information on the potential impact before we could strategically problem solve. A message was sent to section executives and legislative liaisons explaining the situation and asking for input on potential impact for the camps in their area. Some section execs forwarded the message to their camps.

3. We also communicated with Rhonda Mickleson, section exec from the Southeast Section. She told us the camps in her section were impacted and put us in contact with a camp director, Garrett Graham, who had written to Douglas Parker, CEO of US Airways. Garrett shared the email he sent as well one sent to US Air by another camp director, David Trufant. Both directors received responses from Mr. Parker's Executive liaison, A.J. Rosner that were similar and that response is excerpted here.

“The America West/US Airway merger has altered a number of policies, and the Unaccompanied Minor Program was one that was effected. The policy to restrict unaccompanied minors from traveling on connecting flights has been so successful in preventing miss connect incidents on America West, it was rolled over into the new US Airways policies. I can understand your concerns, however the safety of children traveling alone will always take precedence with US Airways.”

AIC was also contacted by Rodger and asked to send the same letter to US Airways officials in their region. We do not know if any letters were sent or if any replies were received.

4. To date, we have received 20 responses to the ACA public policy email from individual camps and from three section execs. They appear to be from Southeast, Keystone, Southern California, Upstate New York, New England and Heart of the South. The areas that expressed impact or potential impact were Southeast, Keystone and Upstate New York. There are approximately 14 camps in western North Carolina that are impacted in addition to the responses below. The following is a summary of the 20 email responses
  - Yes impact – 6 (3 private and 3 not for profit camps) (It should be noted that some of these camps had other airlines to use but preferred US Airways because of price, service or personnel)
  - Minimal impact because have other airlines to use – 3
  - No impact - 7
  - No impact but would worry if other airlines followed the same policy – 2
  - No impact and concerned about ACA action – 2

The last two responses were camp directors citing apprehension that ACA would be seen to be on the wrong side of the child safety issue and felt airlines needed to be able to make decisions based on child safety.

5. Contact was also made with Girl Scouts of the USA, as one of the six potentially impacted camps was a Girl Scout camp. The camp director was worried about the impact on their national Girl Scout teen travel program. GSUSA did a quick survey of their programs and determined that the impact was minimal or non-existent. They do have 13 and 14 year olds traveling to special programs in the summer but they have other airline choices. There was no appetite on their part to discuss the situation with US Airways.
6. Sharon Kosch and Susan Yoder met with Chuck McGrady in early February to discuss the situation and Chuck agreed to be the local North Carolina leader to the response. He is a member of the Asheville, North Carolina Airport Authority and felt they might be of some help. He has approached them and gotten permission for the staff of that Airport Authority to send a letter to US Airways explaining some of the camp issues. Asheville is a main airport used by the 14 camps in that region. The camps do have other options of airlines in Asheville but many prefer to work with US Airways because of the staff relationships and customer service.

7. Garrett Graham is currently working with the Greenville South Carolina airport to establish a relationship for the North Carolina camps for this summer. There are more airline options there than Asheville. It will mean the camps have to apply for interstate transportation permits (rather than intrastate) and will have a longer commute to the camps. Graham cites a 90 minute ride to his camp rather than a 30 minute ride from Asheville. They will also have to establish supportive working procedures with the officials of that airport to allow for gate access and luggage handling.
8. Possible regional responses were discussed with Chuck and others
  - Hiring staff to meet campers in Charlotte and escort them to their connecting flights. There is precedence with organizations in many other airports around the country for this type of response. It would take the approval of US Airways to grant access to the gates in the Charlotte airport and to allow parents to purchase the through ticket.
  - Meeting campers in Charlotte and transporting them by van or bus to camp. This would be a much longer commute.
  - Paying for staff to accompany campers on the flights from Charlotte to Asheville.

### **Initial Conclusions**

- This airline policy change will impact a small number of camps both private and not for profit.
- This impact will most likely be limited to specific regions of the country primarily around small airports feeding from the Charlotte hub and perhaps a PA hub.
- Creative responses will be essential in order to balance the needs of the camper, parent, camp and airline.
- ACA needs to proceed carefully with respect to the child safety issue and any further communication with the airline needs to reflect our shared concern in this area.

### **Public Policy Committee Recommendations**

- Continue to work regionally by facilitating communication among camps and sections potentially impacted
  - Help them explore regional alternatives, compromise options and shared response
  - Help them explore possible regional/local approaches to airline with those options
- Continue to monitor the situation with US Airways in the Charlotte hub area and be alert to issues developing in other regional hubs
- Watch for signs of shifts in policy from other airlines
- Do not consider a national response at this time
- Reassess the situation during and after the camp season