



Town Hall Topic: Ready to Resume?
*Safety Protocols, Liability, Experience, Strength & Hope
from our Members & Groups*

IFAA TOWN HALL MINUTES

May 20, 2021

7:00 Greetings and Introductions

7:03 Serenity Prayer/IG Intro/Ground Rules

1. Find resources at aasfmarin.org/resuming

7:10 Presentation by SF Dept. of Public Health, Angela Pownall-Elizade

1. As of today in "Bright Yellow" tier
2. All slides from the presentation will be sent out in The Buzz, please subscribe!

Q&A

1. Temperature checks and asking covid symptom questions still needed?
 - a. Ms. Pownall-Elizade: Not required as of today; some people more maintaining that practice
2. What will June 15 look like as far as opening up / requirements? Minimal guidelines discussion?
 - a. Ms. Pownall-Elizade: Looking at case rate, replication rate and how easily people who have been exposed may be in contact with others are factors. Vaccination percentage is very heavily weighted, please urge all to vaccinate. Still have large risk of variants that could surge and get people sick but no one knows yet - urge others to continue to wears mask
3. Does signage apply to all counties? I'm in Contra Costa
 - a. Ms. Pownall-Elizade: please check local guidelines I'm not aware
4. Regarding children too young to be vaccinated, is there a risk to enter a building / meeting with people unvaccinated in attendance and continue to work w/ population that can't be vaccinated?
 - a. Ms. Pownall-Elizade: I'm hopeful that younger children will continue to be approved for vaccination. We have a pediatrician who has reported that children who contract covid have much less debilitating symptoms if they are healthy when they contract the virus. Ultimately judgement call, urge to continue to wear a mask if it's a question. Each group is autonomous about cohesion within

the group and if that will add / detract to feeling of inclusiveness regarding mandating vaccinations or masks

5. Regarding understanding mandates, if AA doesn't fit into an exact category (church, institution etc) how do we clarify our guidelines?
 - a. Ms. Pownall-Elizade: need to modify for the space, church would be a discussion - they can guide on how to implement. A lot of guidelines are overarching - 6ft, masks indoors. Different counties are not all in the yellow / bright yellow tier. You are correct that SF isn't putting out a mandate specifically for AA meetings, you'll need to judge by the space and cobble together per other use cases because meetings are held in a variety of locations and facilities.
6. Sonoma County, can you send slides to email?
 - a. Ms. Pownall-Elizade: yes! Guidelines may be different in your county and city. These slide numbers came from a (B-Cap) Business Capacity information grid. These are public information but imperative to check in with your city and county.

7:40 Insurance Considerations

1. Intergroup does provide insurance to IFAA AA groups.
 - a. IFAA coverage extends to a facility or government organization that requests a certificate of insurance proof. Not in the name of the group, IFAA is named insured.
 - b. Follow all safety guidelines of your meeting place to keep your members and AA as a whole safe.
 - c. State and City set the guidelines, CDC is broader advisory.
 - d. If someone gets covid and sues the *meeting or AA* and the meeting is following the guidelines, the responsibility is on the facility, not on the meeting or AA
 - e. Follow A) State, B) Local, C) Facility guidelines without question
 - f. If something happens in a meeting and a person(s) sues, and the attorney goes up to district to assembly etc, there is autonomy that may be integrated but, there will still be an expensive lawsuit - best to avoid by following guidelines
2. Q&A
 - a. Maury: clarification communicable diseases have never been (and are currently not) covered under this insurance policy. There is no risk of being legitimately sued for covid infection.

7:50 Club and Fellowship Panel

1. Castro Country Club - Billy L
 - a. Zero in person meetings right now, in the process of rebuilding the entire meeting schedule. Still devastating membership. 47 meetings weekly prior to covid, 7 days per week / 365 days per year.
 - b. Safe space for queer recovery community, one of which is meetings. Not there yet. Best guess 6 weeks out from any in-person meeting.

2. First Place - Peter M
 - a. Meetings open the entire time (noon meetings), that group dedicated to keeping them, about 10 people. Space must be reserved by texting. Most of group fall in category of not comfortable with technology.
 - b. Just began adding a few more, up to 10-12 meetings.
 - c. One member did test positive, shut down for 2-3 weeks, no one else was infected, resumed meetings
 - d. About 30 ish people overall attending meetings there
 - e. Not publicly open so still low attendance
 - f. Some meetings advertising on their sites, we aren't
3. Gratitude Center - Greg
 - a. Have a strong team that's organized meetings and space overall
 - b. Social distancing, cleaning protocols followed
 - c. Early am meetings not many people attending
 - d. Because of covid fear, attracting people back to in-person meetings has been difficult. May be hard for newcomers to find the original recovery, one alcoholic talking to another. Much is lost on zoom.
 - e. 5-10x more people died from addiction or addiction-related events, than from covid. This could be seen as a public health risk to peoples lives, just like covid
 - f. Health protocols need to be followed, but clubs have a responsibility to provide a safe space so people do get back to in-person.
 - g. Hybrid will continue to be the future which is great but also think in-person is needed, requests have been increasing
 - h. 30 meetings anticipated soon
 - i. 2 evening meetings simultaneously on some days
 - j. Primary purpose - support sobriety
 - k. Had to fundraise and cut rent in half to survive
 - l. Clubs survive because of the participation of the membership not the leaders
 - m. Inclusiveness for all recovery groups, that's the club's job and mission
 - n. Clubs are the glue that's kept in-person alive and the value is dramatically illustrated by the effects of covid
4. Marin Alano Club - Gigi
 - a. In-person since June (2020) large backyard, signs printed, a few months full closed but rented portable bathroom and hand washing stations. Had "Covid Captains" which provided masks. Took temperatures, chair 6ft apart (40 chairs fit in backyard), table for secretary and speaker 6ft apart. Two mics and people who shared came up to mic and mask mandated. One person did pass a basket with a glove. Had open pink can didn't have to hold it. Until last week, if your feet are on alano club property - you have to wear a mask - not if outside and seated no mask mandated. Mandated if walking around.
 - b. Have a food license, have had in-person meetings at 50% capacity for several months per restaurant guidelines.
 - c. Right now it's mostly up to members now what risks they want to take.

- d. Have older members that don't have access to technology, did not feel appropriate to mandate vaccinations for in-person attendance on behalf of fellowship or meeting.
- 5. Mission Fellowship - Daniel
 - a. Only dedicated AA facility in all of SF
 - b. Took a few months but in September the facility upgraded per CDC standards for a critical care unit so they could have in-person meetings.
 - c. Couldn't serve coffee or food, lowered homeless attendance
 - d. Compliance with health protocols exceeded expectations and guidelines.
 - e. People thrilled to be back in-person
 - f. 18 meetings per week right now, population pressure growing so will be holding more. 7am group is not feeling this pressure. Could grow when people go back to work at a physical location.
 - g. Donations primarily cash

8:17 Q&A

- 1. What if someone does get covid?
 - a. Daniel: one incident where a member felt ill after meeting, was tested the next day, results day after. Protocol is everyone would leave phone numbers and destroy after 1 week so everyone was notified and got tested.
- 2. Integrity and vaccinations: people will say they're vaccinated when they're not. Has anyone had to address this?
 - a. Billy: vaccinations are so new we get randomly updated when people share it.
- 3. Benefit or need to carry vaccination card on our person from a liability standpoint?
 - a. Jay McD: I don't think so, rules are set by facility versus any liability on our part.
- 4. John: advice on tech part of hybrid?
 - a. Greg: bring a camera that is speaker, secretary, zoom participants and in-person participants. Cell phone hooked up to mic. Connect with Grac Center.

8:25 Ready to Return Survey Results (Patrick)

- 1. Demographics of participants: $\frac{2}{3}$ SF, $\frac{1}{3}$ Marin answered poll
- 2. Vaccine status: 98.6% of poll participants are either partially or fully vaccinated
- 3. Masks
 - a. 65% fine w/ wearing one
 - b. 2.7% won't attend a meeting that requires it
 - c. 31.5% are fine either way
- 4. Social distancing, majority yes, some okay either way, 14% still not comfortable either way
- 5. Groups have a social distancing protocol form? 49% no, not done yet. Members can talk to group - also go to SF DPH sheet
- 6. Contact tracing: 81.5% fine with it
- 7. Digital 7th Tradition, majority uses it, up in air when in-person resumes

8. Rent & meeting space: 44% not paying rent. If June 15 is opening deadline, flagging to re engage with facility to get conversations in place and all required safety and distancing protocols
9. Most likely outcome for meetings: 60% have a plan, spread over all options (in-person, hybrid, online only, haven't decided, don't know) + more

8:31 Accessibility Concerns: anything that prohibits people from getting to or feeling safe in an AA meeting

1. Issues of Concern Raised at Last CNCA06 Accessibilities Committee:
 - a. Members feeling safe returning and the need to comply with local regulations – and groups knowing what those are and how to follow them.
 - b. The fact that many meetings have lost their physical spaces and have no place to go back to.
 - c. Challenges for those who are hard of hearing and rely on lip reading which will be restricted with members wearing masks in the rooms; and
 - d. Continued issues with members having access to online meetings – some not having the tech equipment needed, or access to wifi or knowing how to use technology
2. Sat 10am meeting to discuss what the area committee can do to help. These are access issues and important to address + getting information out and help groups so they're not alone.

8:35 Results of Accessibilities poll discussed

8:40 Breakout Rooms:

1. SFDPH (Alan)
2. Clubs/Fellowships (Maury)
3. Insurance (Patrick and Marcus)
4. Other (Charlie and Drew)

(Meeting closes with breakout rooms)