

Addressing Predatory Behavior – Twelve Month Report, April 2018 – March 2019

Prepared by Karin S., Chair, APB working group, March 23, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS:

SERVICE POSITIONS:

CHAIR: KARIN S

VICE-CHAIR: ERIN D

SECRETARY: JOSH W

LITERATURE LIAISON: KARIN S

LITERATURE VOLUNTEERS: KARIN S, ERIN D, JOSH W

FOUNDATION OF APB WORKING GROUP AT 2018 ABC—formation of APB working group inspired by AWC workshop on “Crosstalk and Meeting Safety.” Meetings by teleconference started in May 2018. Due to its mission of creating and providing (printed) resources on the topic of APB to the fellowship, the working group collaborates closely with the Literature Committee.

MISSION AND PURPOSE – mission statement approved in June 2018:

(1) To provide education and resources for members, groups, intergroups, and newcomers to address predatory behaviors within the ACA fellowship.

(2) To create safe spaces for open discussions about Predatory Behavior in the fellowship.

CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR OPEN DISCUSSION – multiple channels for two-way communication were established: e-mail, Slack, Special Edition ComLine (see more details below).

PROVIDING RESOURCES – also in June 2018, a repository page was established to share resources developed by meetings and Intergroups, as well as information about the work of the working group (see detailed list of resources below).

SPECIAL EDITION COMLINE ON ADDRESSING PREDATORY BEHAVIOR – publication was completed in March 2019 (see more details below)

LOOKING AHEAD – safety card for use in meetings; define distinction between predatory behavior and general meeting safety; update existing literature (see more details below)

Creating Safe Spaces for Open Discussion

The working group established multiple channels for two-way communication with members. An e-mail address was set up and publicized via The Traveler (monthly) and the ComLine (quarterly) publications of ACA WSO. Members were invited to share their experience, strength and hope on the topic for a special edition of the ComLine. Another important platform for a two-way exchange with members has turned out to be the forum channel #addr_predbehav_forum on Slack.

Resources about Addressing Predatory Behavior may be found here:

- **APB repository page:** <https://acawso.org/category/apb/>
- **Special Edition ComLine on Addressing Predatory Behavior:** https://adulthood.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Predatory_Behavior_ComLine_Final.pdf
- **guidelines for addressing inappropriate behaviors, originally developed by the NCA ACA Intergroup:** <https://acawso.org/2018/07/27/addressing-inappropriate-behaviors/>
- **examples of group safety statements adopted by various meetings across the fellowship:** <https://acawso.org/2018/11/12/examples-of-group-safety-statements/>
- **ACA Group Safety Folio adopted by Costa Mesa meeting:** <https://acawso.org/2019/02/24/group-safety-folio-from-costa-mesa-group-ca-837/>

Special Edition ComLine on Addressing Predatory Behavior

The Special Edition ComLine on Addressing Predatory was published in March 2019. It is available online at : https://adultchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Predatory_Behavior_ComLine_Final.pdf. Based primarily on member shares, this issue of the ComLine provides a comprehensive overview of the topic as we currently understand it – how predatory behavior occurs at and around ACA meetings and how it affects targeted members, the different forms it may take, how meetings struggle to deal with it, and some tools and resources that members and meetings have found helpful. The shares published in this ComLine demonstrate that predatory behavior is a concern beyond the narrow definition of “13th stepping” already covered in the Big Red Book.

Looking Ahead

Goals for the next year include:

- submitting an *ACA Commitment to Meeting Safety* tent card to WSO for review and approval. This draft is expected to be completed by the end of March 2019 and will be posted on the APB repository page once completed.
- Further exploring the role of the Traditions in preventing predatory behavior and ensuring meeting safety. Developing and articulating the distinction between predatory behavior as a specific concern and general meeting safety as a responsibility for all ACA meetings.
- Continuing to work toward our long term goal of updating existing literature on the topic of predatory behavior.

For comments and questions, please e-mail Karin S. at apb@acawso.org.