

APB Town Hall June 22, 2019

Meeting Recording and Notes

A second APB Town Hall is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 2019, from 12:30 pm to 2 pm EDT. For meeting information, please follow this link: <https://acawso.org/2019/06/24/aca-wso-apb-safety-card-review-meeting-on-july-13-2019/>

Audio-Recording: https://www.dropbox.com/s/o509s3x3y744fzz/GMT20190622-160727_APB-WSO-Me.m4a?dl=0

The recording identifies all contributors to the discussion. Names of contributors have not been recorded in the summary notes below.

A. Comments made during open sharing (max. 2 mins. per person):

- P1 gender/ "some of us, both males and females";
- P2 "we monitor our motivation to connect with each other whether it be with a newcomer or other fellow traveler"
- P3 Should you feel uncomfortable..." should be "In case you feel uncomfortable..."
- P5 recommendation to contact local authorities doesn't flow properly
- Would like to see shame added to the card; based on problems with members of other fellowships coming into ACA and shaming ACA members about how to work the steps based on their experience in their other fellowship
- P2 connect with fellow traveler as well as newcomer.
- P3 Though the word *report* needed a softer interpretation; inform?
- Add verbal bullying.
- Would like to see what specific actions could be taken in the event of emotionally and verbally bullying behavior; avoid blaming the individual
- P1 Would like to see the word *dynamic* used for behavior (calling something a behavior can be experienced as shaming).
- P2 *connections* and/or dependencies
- P4 Make The group responsibility stronger emphasis on specific actions groups can take.
- Expand focus of predatory behavior to include bullying, stalking, any behavior singling out others in context of meetings.
- bullying and aggression have to be mentioned specifically; problematic in one-to-one sessions, especially when coming from people with some claim to authority.
- P2 too vague on aggression of singling out to bully
- "We learn to respect one another's boundaries in every aspect, physical, emotional, sexual, romantic. We learn to stop interfering, controlling, accusing, demeaning each other. We learn that "No" is a full sentence. we learn to approach each other with openness and fairness."
- This is a 'tent card' and we are discussing a much broader set of issues, beyond one page.
- Is there an organized set of information that such a card might mention? Then, the intent of this document might be more clear.
- Create trifold, to include issues of aggressive behavior and slander
- Doesn't like use of "gut" instincts

B. Comments made per paragraph of the safety card draft (max. 1 min. per person):

Paragraph 1:

- P1 Predator doesn't realize they are a predator. Refer to LLW reference Trait 3 of the OLL (see Laundry List workbook). Some mention that predator can change their behavior
- use of the word *dynamic*

Paragraph 2:

- by exposing or pointing out the behavior...
- secrecy => power and isolation, instead of love and community
- The word *manipulatively*: does it get through to the person?
- connection not only with the newcomer (as stated before); "we monitor our motivation to connect with each other, including the newcomer"
- suggested edit: "We learn to respect one another's boundaries in every aspect, physical, emotional, sexual, romantical. We learn to stop interfering, controlling, accusing, demeaning each other. We learn that "No" is a full sentence. we learn to approach each other with openness and fairness."
- agrees change wording *manipulatively*
- Likes, establishing unhealthy dependencies as in sponsors who solicit sponsees, sees aggression in control, does this also fall under predatory?
- include both dependencies and connections
- Not addressing leads to collusion (which is slander & gossip).
- Sponsoring as control, manipulative, enabling

Paragraph 3:

- setting an expectation for IG, region, WSO to swoop in and take care of the problem.
- Suggested edit: "Meeting safety is a group and personal responsibility." To make it less accusatory; "Should you feel uncomfortable about the *comment* from another member..."
- Switch from we to you pronouns (need to be consistent throughout document).
- Include actions prior to taking it to IG, Region, WSO

Paragraph 4:

- Redundant with first paragraph – can it be combined with it?
- Something positive so a perpetrator can see healing; encourage change of behavior, rather than being accusatory
- (Add) change starts with awareness
- dynamic; awareness of dynamics; discovery through ACA unity
- Verbiage of Tradition 2 Meditation referred to on reverse of card – being willing to have difficult conversations

Paragraph 5:

- Speak to appropriateness of breaking anonymity; nuances available before it becomes appropriate to call the authorities

- 1-(change) surfacing => addressing misconduct 2- (change) "it does not" is not assertive, nor an affirmation
(revised)If someone may have broken the law or endangered the safety of another, contacting the proper authorities is recommended, and does not violate ACA Traditions.
- other suggestions for a verbally abusive person? What actions can be taken before calling the law?
- shared scenario validating effectiveness of steps suggested in this document; Allow change for predator's behavior
- Paragraph lacks clarity, additions?
- Prior to contacting authority what are intermediate steps?
- personal story of feeling empowered after reporting to an authority.