



## **Reopening Comments from Facilitators**

### **From Curt Kelly**

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I heard in my Zoom meetings that although [online meetings] filled a need, nothing is as good as a face-to-face meeting. I facilitate two weekly meetings, about twenty miles apart. I polled the attendees, and overwhelmingly they wanted to return to face-to-face meetings. I kept one meeting online and went back-to-face to face for the other.

We could not use the hospital venue where we usually meet, so I decided to hold the meeting at a park directly behind the hospital. The participants were familiar with the park because that is where we have our annual SMART picnic. It has a shelter so we can meet rain or shine and there are picnic tables we can use. If they want to control their social distancing, they bring their own chair and place it where they are comfortable

We averaged 12-15 people for the Zoom meeting and have had 12 people come to the face-to-face meeting. Before the shutdown, this meeting averaged 24 participants.

I am looking for a venue so my other meeting can return to face-to-face but, have not been able to find a permanent location yet. We will probably end up in a park too.