



April 2018

The topic this month focused on the pros and cons of different meeting locations for support groups.

Us TOO groups meet in a very large variety of locations. Some examples include: churches, hospitals, cancer centers, meeting rooms at community centers, private rooms in local restaurants, VFW halls, and private residences.

The problem with some hospitals is that they may have restrictions of only allowing the group to invite doctors who are from their facility to speak at meetings. It might also depend on whether the hospital is a non-profit or for profit institution. This is against Us TOO policy as we are not allowed to promote any one doctor, treatment or institution at our meetings. Many hospitals are open to inviting others to come in and speak, but if they do not, it is best to find a new location that is un-biased.

Churches can be good locations as it could be part of the churches' mission outreach to hold support group meetings in the community. However, it can also be a distraction to those who may not be the same denomination of the church or they may feel uncomfortable in a church setting.

Another item that was brought up was the importance of having easy access to the venue and free parking.

Everyone on the call agreed that you have to find the right fit for you group and that the most important thing is to be sure that everyone feels welcome. It could take time to find the best venue.