

## **2021 NIA 20 Summer Assembly Area Treatment Chair Report**

On June 11, 2021, the State of Illinois moved to Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois framework, marking the full reopening of all industries and activities. This milestone in the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was reached following continued progress in vaccine administration in communities statewide.

This is welcome news but for the treatment community, not everything has returned to a "normal" or a pre-covid state. Masks are still required for everyone in health care settings and in congregate facilities, such as correctional facilities and homeless shelters. Many health care systems and treatment facilities continue to work with a virtual meeting schedule, with plans to expand volunteer capacity and reopen for in-person meetings in the near future. Although everyone is receiving the same or similar CDC guidance, the roll out of new policy and guidelines is different across each system. It would appear that "sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly" is the approach to treatment facilities' reopening across Northern Illinois Area.

To that end, we have reached out to Treatment Committee Chairs across NIA 20 to ask where their respective treatment centers are on the reopening continuum and how can we be of service and assistance in that process. We have created an NIA 20 Treatment Center presentation and are prepared to offer area-wide workshops either virtually or in-person. We have continued to work with those treatment centers not associated or affiliated with a hospital healthcare system who have been utilizing in person volunteers since the state implemented Phase 4 without any mitigation measures at the end of January. Many of these residential inpatient treatment centers have continued allowing, encouraging, and actively seeking in person volunteers.

We continue to partner with local BTG Committee members in connecting patients with an available A.A. member through BTG opportunities. While treatment centers are working on updating COVID-19 health compliance protocols, those who are being discharged need to find A.A. It's still not realistic to expect they are going to find it on their own, especially during this transition phase. We look forward to working with you all as we work towards navigating a safe return to carrying the message into treatment centers across NIA 20.

In love of service,

Lisa S.  
NIA 20 Treatment Chair

Richard H.  
NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair