

Support Group Guest Speaker Guidelines

Why might a support group want to have a guest speaker?

- Bolster attendance.
- Increase community knowledge.
- Answer specific questions and requests from community members.

Who is a good choice for a guest speaker?

- MDF Staff members.
- Experts from MDF conferences and events.
- MDF Fellows.
- Personal Doctors/Clinicians:
 - If you have a doctor or clinician that you work with regularly and have had good experiences with, you can invite them to speak. We trust that you will only invite professionals who have given you an amazing level of care.
 - These can include:
 - Speech Language Pathologists.
 - Physical Therapists.
 - Cardiologists.
 - Occupational Therapists.
 - Pulmonologists.

Guidelines for hosting a Guest Speaker:

- Before your meeting:
 - Let MDF know at least 3 weeks in advance.
 - This is to ensure we can advertise
 - Let the speaker know how long they are to invited to speak for:
 - Usually we recommend 20-45 minutes with time for questions.
 - Find out exactly what the speaker will be speaking about!
- During your meeting:
 - Introduce and thank your speaker.
 - Take questions from group members.
 - After your speaker is done with their presentation and answering questions, ask your speaker to leave so you can continue with your support group:
 - Guests are not invited to stay during regular support programming, these are meant to be a safe place and confidential for community members to share their lived-experiences.