

Positive Solutions for Problems in your Dance Community

Workshop led by Chris Weiler

Session Description:

What do you do when someone is assaulted at your dance? How do you respond when people complain about that "creepy" dancer? When someone is dancing in a manner that is putting their partners in danger? How do you do it and still maintain the goal of being a welcoming, tolerant community? It's best to be prepared before it happens to you. We'll discuss these issues through role play, sharing experiences and thoughtful discussion.

Topics of conversation:

Confrontation

- Victim confronting offender
- Victim confronting organizer
- Organizer confronting offender

Get both sides of the story

Be calm

Take each person seriously and be respectful

Avoid accusatory language – give them the facts. “There has been a complaint about your behavior.”

Keep accuser’s identity secret if they don’t want it shared.

Get everyone’s contact information if you don’t have it already.

If emotions are running hot, get everyone outside.

What are your goals?

- Protect your community
- Protect your dancers
- Be welcoming and tolerant of differences

What is the nature of the conflict?

Is it a miscommunication or misunderstanding?

Was it intentional?

Was it criminal?

Are you dealing with a person of intellectual disability? (learning disorder, social incompetence, autism spectrum disorder) Does this influence how you handle the situation?

Does the complaint come from a lack of tolerance or understanding?

Are the people on your committee easily identifiable if there is a problem?

Do the people who work at the gate know all the committee members?

Do you really want to have people bother the caller with a potentially explosive issue?

Do you know the local numbers for police, fire, ambulance?

Is someone on your committee certified in CPR? First Aid?

Does your facility have a AED device? Does someone on your committee know where it is and how to use it?

Do you know how to contact your insurance agency to report an incident?

Does your group have a policy for handling behavior?

Does it allow for the accused to provide an opportunity to change their behavior?

How patient are you willing to be?

How responsive is the individual to feedback?

Chris Weiler

Puttin' On The Dance Conference

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