Executive Summary

Criteria to Assist Plato Board in Reopening In-Person Activities

In mid-March, Plato suspended in-person classes and events to protect the membership from Covid 19, following Wisconsin State Guidelines. In May, 2020 a Work Group of five Plato members were convened by the Board to review pertinent data and documents related to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the effects of the virus on our population. Based upon the members expertise as well as the scientific information available, they were asked to develop draft criteria that the Plato Board could use to guide them in the decision-making process of reopening all of the Plato Learning Opportunities. That work group met for approximately five weeks and developed a Criteria document.

Every Covid 19 Guidance document, model, or chart that was reviewed has an asterisk that identifies high risk/vulnerable populations. That populations includes, by definition, the entire Plato membership. The Guidance document, Forward Dane, must also guide the boundaries in which the organization's decisions are made. The criteria document that the work group created for Plato also incorporates the importance of inclusivity, the use of virtual learning, and protection for the membership as the guiding principles.

In addition to offering virtual classes, virtual events, and virtual gatherings, and recognizing that the Forward Dane are minimal guidelines, the work group recommends that the availability of a protective vaccine in conjunction with effective treatment therapies are the only true guideposts for safely opening to all in-person activities again.

The Work Group has also agreed to provide the Plato Board with regular updates on the Covid 19 pandemic; the Work Group will continue to meet and will provide revised criteria as the outlook changes.