



Giving a Voice to People Living with Diabetes During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A collaboration between the Lions Clubs International and the
Wellness Initiative

Wellness Initiative (WIN)
a foundation for people living with diabetes

Webinar Housekeeping





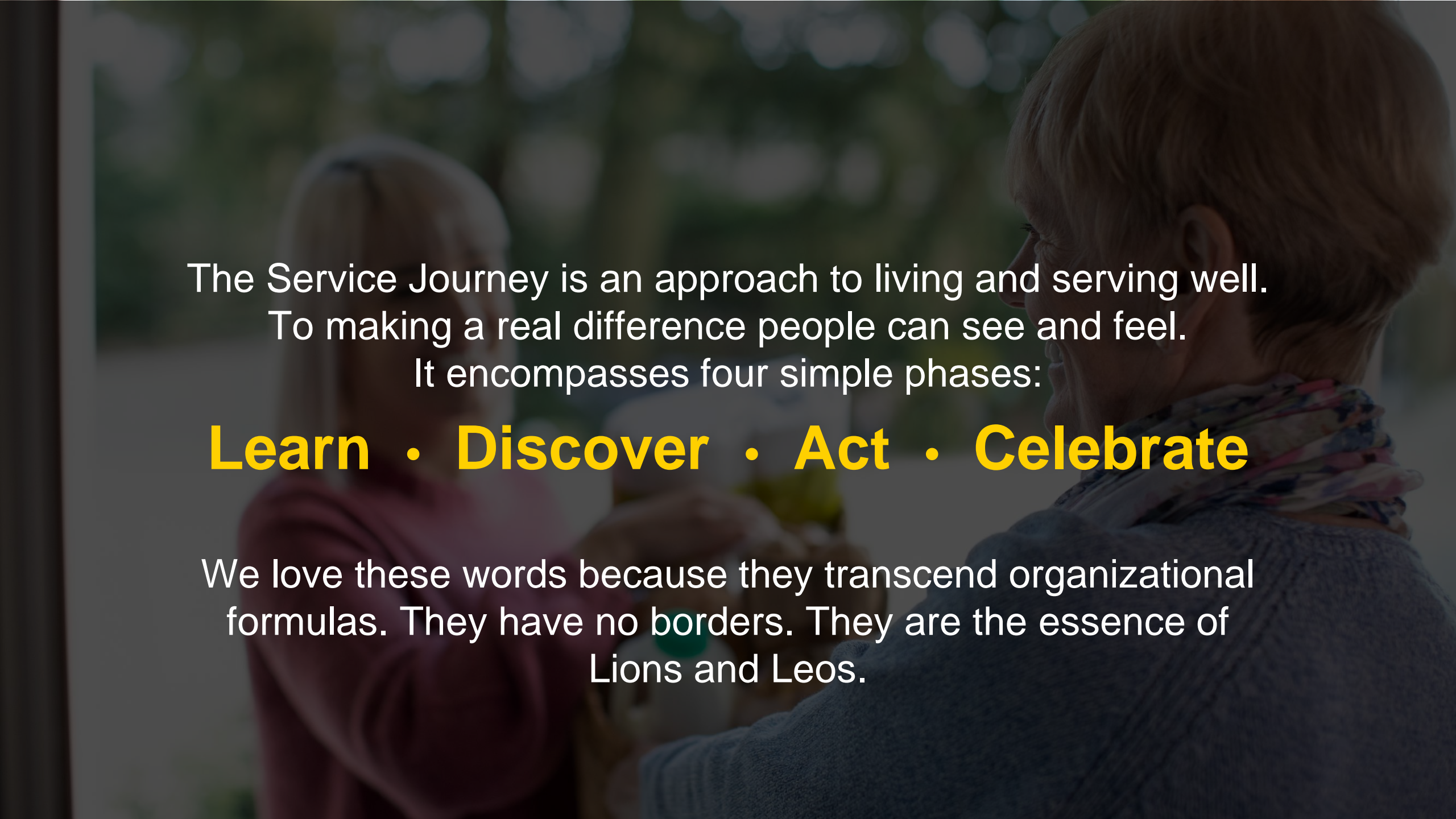
Webinar Agenda

-
- ▶ Lions Clubs International's Global Causes
 - ▶ Focus on Diabetes
 - ▶ Give a Voice to People Living with Diabetes
 - ▶ Diabetes and the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - ▶ Focus Group Discussions
 - ▶ Q&A

Global Causes

The Footprint of Our Second Century





The Service Journey is an approach to living and serving well.
To making a real difference people can see and feel.
It encompasses four simple phases:

Learn • Discover • Act • Celebrate

We love these words because they transcend organizational formulas. They have no borders. They are the essence of Lions and Leos.



Introductions

-
- ▶ Past International Director, Robert Rettby, LCI
 - ▶ Donald de Korte, WIN
 - ▶ Denis Caillaux, WIN

The LCI/WIN Partnership



Wellness Initiative (WIN)
a foundation for people living with diabetes

Diabetes and COVID19





Diabetes and COVID19

What do we know about COVID-19 and diabetes from a strictly medical perspective

- ▶ Diabetes does not increase the risk of getting infected with COVID-19 or passing on an infection to some else
- ▶ Diabetes patients have an increased risk of more severe COVID-19 symptoms and have a much higher risk of dying
 - ▶ Risk increases for people with other underlying conditions such as high blood pressure or obesity. Men, and people in higher age ranges also are at higher risk.
- ▶ In some cases COVID-19 infections may lead to diabetes
 - ▶ It is unknown if it causes type 1, type 2, or an entirely new form
- ▶ Preventative measures such as social distancing, lock-down measurements, and health system prioritization have potentially negative impacts on diabetic disease progression of individual patients
- ▶ Health care systems have less resources to provide treatment and care for people living with diabetes

Testimonials

How does COVID-19 affect living with diabetes?

- ▶ “I don’t want to go to school as I am too afraid to get infected and expose my mum who has severe diabetes” (17-year old female)



- ▶ “I can’t go anymore to church, all meetings of my bridge club has been cancelled, what kind of life do I have and when will this be over?” (84-year old with type 2 diabetes)

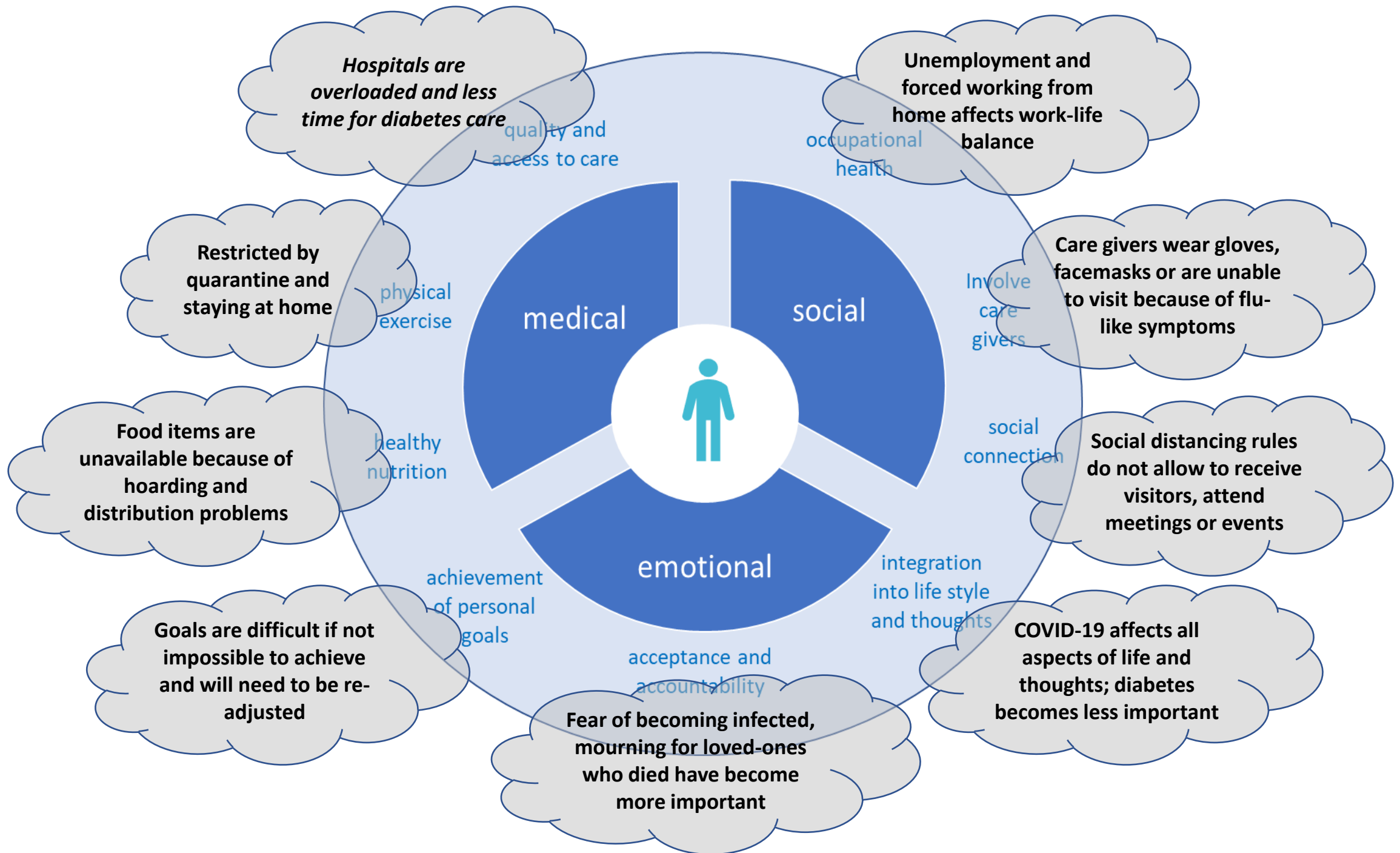
Testimonials

How does COVID-19 affect living with diabetes?

- ▶ “ I have not seen my doctor for several months. My hospital was overwhelmed during the lockdown and I could not go. I have been self-medicating. This is not good. I feel neglected “
(University student with type 1 diabetes)



- ▶ “I am very afraid to get ill and try not to meet anyone who can expose me. Simple things like going to the supermarket is very stressful. feel very lonely and demotivated” (60-year old female with type 2 diabetes)



A Call to Serve



Lions Clubs International



How can We Help?

-
- ▶ **Remember! Diabetes does not increase the risk of getting infected with COVID-19 or passing on an infection to some else**
 - ▶ Giving a voice to people living with diabetes is now more important than ever!
 - ▶ Focus Group discussions CAN take place via video-conference
 - ▶ LCI and WIN can help

How to Conduct a Focus Group





Action Not Words

-
- ▶ The group discussions will lead to practical projects
 - ▶ Projects not for club members only, but reach out to entire local communities
 - ▶ Community events will be more delicate because of COVID-19, but support group activities are essential
 - ▶ Keep in mind the specific needs of the countries of the Global South where financial aspects of managing diabetes are critical. Simple access to insulin is often a challenge.
 - ▶ Much can be done via internet
 - ▶ Here again, LCI and WIN can help
 - ▶ Register for the upcoming Webinar on Diabetes programs on Virtual Events Center

Best Practices





Best Practice Sharing

-
- ▶ How to cope?
 - ▶ How support other club members that live with diabetes?
 - ▶ How to support our communities?

Question and Answers





Thank You

To learn more about focus group discussions
please email programs@lionsclubs.org or visit
[WIN Website] for more information.