

BDA Business Planning Conference

Hosted by BDA Help for Debtors (BDA group # 7720)

Participant survey report for Fall 2021 conference cycle

Seventeen of us began the most recent cycle of the BDA Business Planning Conference, 10 of us finished the cycle, and four completed surveys. We're considering that a 40% response rate.

During this conference cycle we:

Reviewed and shared on all twelve BDA Tools, with a recurring emphasis on BDA Tool Two

Participated in three focused drop-in sessions, one each on:

Goal setting, especially turning visions into goals

Income generation, especially time commitments and action plans

Work-personal-recovery life balance

Reviewed and participated in Q&A with TWO BDA members who presented their second-year annual business plans, then had an opportunity to provide feedback in the form of support and encouragement.

Reviewed and participated in Q&A with FOUR BDA members who presented their first-ever annual business plans, then had an opportunity to provide feedback in the form of support and encouragement.

... and much more!

Based on attendance, solvency, and meeting the other eligibility criteria at <https://www.helpfordebtors.org/bda-business-planning-conference>, we could easily double the number of plans being presented.

We also have more available plan leaders. As each BDAer completes their annual business plan, they're offered the opportunity to lead someone else through planning in the next and future conference cycles. Giving it away to keep it!

And, based on the survey responses you'll see here, we're considering starting a weekly or monthly scheduled event to support one another in staying on plan and collectively adding business successes to our solvency and to our growing and thriving recovery community.

We believe that BDA and the BDA Tools, including annual business planning and much more, are for any solvent DA member who is responsible for generating an income in the modern world. That's all of us. Please plan to join us for an upcoming BDA Business Planning Conference cycle.

WHEN ASKED FOR RATINGS: 1 — Poor; 2 — Okay; 3 — Good; 4 — Great; 5 — Excellent

Do you have any advice to offer about improving the conference cycle?

No excellent the way it is.

Possibly shorter each day and maybe fewer weeks. **[NOTE:** We take this as a preference rather than as a potential improvement, since there's no explanation of how this change would make the experience better for participants. One of our recovery event priorities is time for maximum participation for everyone present. This two-hour format allows for that.]

It would have been nice to have some more support / guidance on how to engage with the business plan and business plan partners over the coming year / what to do if there is a change / making decisions etc. **[NOTE:** This is excellent feedback. We can definitely do a better job of building next steps into the format of the workshops.]

No. I thought it was great.

About improving the workshops or drop-ins (goal setting, income generation, and life balance) in general?

No.

As above — how to implement in the long term.

Nope.

How were the spending plan templates — business and personal — and helpful guidance for planning pdfs?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Excellent very helpful. I liked using them to evaluate/review/support all the different business plans.

5

5

5 — I thought these were great and they seem to keep getting better and better.

How were the workshops and drop-ins?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Good

5

5

5

In the interest of maximum participation, especially during the drop-ins, we sometimes went overtime by 30-45 minutes, while anyone who wasn't able to stay was welcome to go. What are your thoughts about this practice?

1-5 rating plus comments: 4, 80%, C+

5 — I'm ok with it.

2 — I'd prefer to end on time. I don't want to leave early and miss anything, but I had things to get to afterward.

5 — I thought this was helpful.

4 — I did get a lot of value and saw some great things happen in this extra time. My Sundays are just busy during the workshops and that creates some stress for me, but that's my issue.

Through registrations for this event, we raised [\\$2,340](#) for outreach to debtors and provision of free conference-approved literature to anyone who asks. How did it feel to contribute to these DA and BDA service efforts?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Great.

5

5 — Amazing, this fellowship is everything to me.

5 — Love the chance to contribute to those efforts and help carry the message.

Were there any sessions that stood out as your “favorites” or most productive for you?

All seemed productive.

The life balance [drop in] felt relaxed, soft — I liked that.

I got a huge amount [in return] when I was able to give help to others.

I like the business plans.

Were there any sessions that stood out as your “least favorites” or least productive for you?

No.

Not wild about the rapid tension that sometimes pops up.

Good question — I did struggle to focus in some sessions, I am not entirely sure why. The numbers, even other people’s, still scare me a little at times.

Not that I recall.

Survey Questions — Page 2 — Connections and Experiences

WHEN ASKED FOR RATINGS: 1 — Poor; 2 — Okay; 3 — Good; 4 — Great; 5 — Excellent

How was the availability of and connection with your BDA planning leader if you had one?

1-5 rating plus comments: 4.33, 86.6%, B

3 — Yes [**NOTE:** This member did not have a planning leader during this conference cycle. We’re not sure what the rating or comment refer to.]

5

5 — It was good.

How was the availability and connection with fellow workshop participants?

1-5 rating plus comments: 4.33, 86.6%, B

5 — Good.

Just did drop ins.

3 — I need to reach out more, I didn't.

5

How was the experience, if applicable, of preparing and presenting your business plan to the group?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Did not present this time. Excellent last time.

During the first cycle, it was nerve-racking but good for me in many ways, being vulnerable, public speaking, knowing my plan well enough to talk about it — which was better than I would have had I NOT had to speak about it in public — following through, feeling proud.

5 — Challenging but extremely rewarding, and I am super excited about next year.

5 — It is always fun and good to hear ideas and other peoples experience and support.

How was the experience, if applicable, of receiving real-time direct encouragement and support?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Good.

5 — So valuable — not available anywhere else except maybe _____ [outside small business service agency, redacted due to Traditions 6, 10, and others], but they don't understand the addict-side.

5 — Fantastic.

5 — Aside from the discomfort I feel around hearing good things about me.

How was the experience of giving real-time direct encouragement and support to fellow BDAers?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Excellent.

5 — Loved being a support and encouragement and sharing ESH.

5 — Even better.

5 — Awesome, love cheering them on and seeing what they can and want to do.

How was the experience of reviewing and sharing on all 12 BDA Tools over the course of three months?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Excellent. Good addition.

I honestly just did the drop ins so not applicable to me.

5 — Very helpful.

5 — I thought this was great and powerful learning and sharing.

How was the experience, if applicable, of receiving real-time direct coaching during the drop-ins (goal setting, income generation, and work-personal-recovery life balance)?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Good.

5

5 — Very helpful.

5 — It was good, but I did not attend all the drop ins.

WHEN ASKED FOR RATINGS: 1 — Poor; 2 — Okay; 3 — Good; 4 — Great; 5 — Excellent

Did you make progress on your business plan during this conference cycle?

1-5 rating plus comments: 4, 80%, C+

2 — Yes, expanded thinking. [**NOTE:** This member completed an annual business plan in the previous conference cycle and had no need to create a new one now. We're not sure what the rating refers to.]

4 — Even though I made my business plan in a prior workshop, the drop ins and one regular meeting helped me with my current one — fine-tuning, balance, comments from others on others' plans.

5 — Yes.

5 — Yes, I did, having the deadline and the group was helpful.

Did you complete your business plan during this conference cycle?

1-5 rating plus comments: 4, 80%, C+

2 — No. [**NOTE:** This member completed an annual business plan in the previous conference cycle and had no need to create a new one now. We're not sure what the rating refers to.]

No. Already done.

5 — Yes.

5 — Yes.

Did this conference cycle help prepare you to be a business owner or a more confident business owner?

1-5 rating plus comments: 5, 100%, A+

5 — Yes.

5 — More skills, reminders of HP, etc.

5 — Yes.

5 — No question.

Did this workshop cycle help prepare you to be able to help fellow BDA members create their own plans?

1-5 rating plus comments: 4.75, 95%, A

5 — Yes.

5

4 — Yes.

5 — Yes it did.

If you could wave a magic wand and make three changes to the conference cycle, what would they be?

Not sure.

Shorter somehow? Not sure how shorter by about half an hour each day and fewer weeks? Maybe less feedback time? [**NOTE:** We take this as a preference rather than as a potential improvement, since there's no explanation of how this change would make the experience better for participants. One of our recovery event priorities is time for maximum participation for everyone present. This two-hour format allows for that.]

1. Have a weekly Business Plan check in
2. Have a Quarterly Business Plan Check in
3. Continue the conference all year

I don't have any ideas at this time.

Can you name three things about the conference cycle that you would not want to see changed?

It's good.

Chances for some feedback at least. [NOTE: This is a follow up on the suggestion to cut some time out of the scheduled workshops and drop ins.]

1. The partnership aspect
2. The templates
3. The structure of the sessions

None at this time.

Did we focus enough on spiritual recovery in DA and BDA for your needs and wants?

Yes.

Yes.

Yes, but I think again we could have a Business Plan on going meeting where we continue to let God into our businesses. [NOTE: We LOVE this idea and have begun discussions about how we can provide this service, probably specifically to DA and BDA members who have already attended at least one BDA Business Planning Conference.]

Yes, it was great integration.