

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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TO: All conference participants and RSCs

FROM: WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service

DATE: June 23, 1992

RE: May 29-31, 1992 committee meeting

The WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service met during the weekend of May 29-31, 1992 in Van Nuys, CA. Present were Dave Tynes (Chairperson), Debbie Ott, Jon Thompson, Marjorie Kleiman, Dawn Foran, Floyd Best, Becky Meyer, Mary Chant, and Stu Tooredman of the committee, and Lee Manchester and Steve Lantos, WSO staff members.

The primary reason for this first meeting of the 1992-93 conference year was the revision of the local services chapters of *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*. The committee's agenda called for the revision of the group, area, and region chapters, and the review and revision of the recently drafted chapter on metro services. In its opening discussions, the committee also noted that certain items of a general nature such as committee leadership, meeting schedule, interaction with the WSC Policy Committee and the WSB Internal Affairs Committee, and nomenclature, among others, were scheduled for discussion after the revisions on the previously mentioned sections.

The committee, having been mailed all the input received on the group chapter, then proceeded to provide direction to the staff team for revisions to that chapter. We entered into a lengthy discussion about the use of the term "drug" in front of the word "addict" when referring to membership and the purpose for groups. As a result of the discussion, the committee reached consensus that the "d" word will need to be used in the six points describing a group, but will not be used outside of that context. The committee also expressed its desire to see a brief, explanatory paragraph about the use of the word following the six points. Other discussions about this section of the *Guide* focused on the home group concept, the responsibilities of group officers--especially those of a group treasurer--the fund-flow as it relates to NA groups, and other subjects. The

committee, having completed its work on this chapter, moved into the section dealing with area service.

The committee entered into considerable discussion of about various parts of the area section, primarily due to the newly written metro chapter. As the committee began to review the various portions of this chapter, it became apparent that the "dividing areas" section will need to become an entirely separate chapter, to be placed in between the area chapter and the one on metro services. The major reason for this appeared to be the amount of material this section contained, including discussion on subjects such as doing an inventory to find out whether division is necessary, how to ensure cooperation from all involved participants in completing such a division, whether to move into a metro situation or not, among others. After completing our work on the area chapter, we moved on to the new drafts on metro services.

Following our two workshops on metro services, held in New York and San Francisco earlier this year, we had given our staff team some direction to assist in their development of the section on metro services. At our May meeting, we had the opportunity to review the resulting drafts and make changes where appropriate. Probably our most involved discussion focused on the role of the representative from the area service committee to the metro services committee and the functions of an ASC in a metro setting. We next moved into the regional chapter.

The last time we had an opportunity to discuss this chapter was during the 1990-1991 conference year. At that time, we moved away from the idea of the regional service committee being strictly a resource body, describing a mix of options for regions delivering an array of services. After some preliminary discussion, we decided to provide some variations within this chapter, but to focus primarily on the RSC's role as a resource to the areas it serves. In order to provide alternatives or options, we decided to list some variations on the basic model at the end of the chapter. Another aspect of regional service we discussed at some length was regional activities and the reliance of service committees upon conventions and other activities as fundraisers for their income. The committee believes strongly that such reliance may lead the service committee in question to become less focused on the needs of the NA community it serves.

Having completed our work on the revision of these chapters, we then moved into some general discussions. The first item we discussed was ensuring that the two committees we had enlisted to work with us on the national and world chapters, the WSC Policy Committee and the WSB Internal Affairs Committee, had all the pertinent material needed for their review. We decided to mail to the WSB Internal Affairs Committee a draft of the charter we had worked on during the 1989-1990 conference year. Next was a brief discussion about our schedule, during which we confirmed our desire to hold four, possibly five,

meetings this year to complete our task. At our next meeting in July, we plan to complete our work on the group, area, area division, metro, and region chapters as well as the chapters on local service centers, developing NA communities, and any other material on local services. Following that meeting, our focus will switch to the national and world chapters for our September and November meetings. To facilitate our having all the input from the two other committees, we decided to mail a letter to them asking for them to mail their input to the WSO by September 1, 1992.

Next on our agenda was a brief discussion about the various bulletins mentioned with the *Guide*. While we believe that all of the bulletins need to be written as soon as possible, we do not believe that we will be able to accomplish that task this year. As a result, we will ask the conference to assign that responsibility to the appropriate body at next year's conference.

Next, we discussed the nomenclature, or titles, to be used for the various participants in the service structure. Representatives of groups to the area committee and the regional assembly would continue to be called group service representatives (GSRs). Delegates from the area committee to the metropolitan services committee would be called metro committee members (MCMs). Regional committee members (RCMs) would come from the areas to the region.

The final item on our agenda was a discussion about the leadership of our committee. Dave relayed the discussion that occurred at the conference and sought input from the committee about this issue. While there was some discussion about the value of having someone other than the WSC chairperson leading the committee, especially because he already has so many responsibilities, the committee decided that the short time-frame we had to complete our work and the need for continuity demanded that no changes be made in leadership at this point. We noted that the committee itself had undergone a major change in its composition by increasing the number of members attending each meeting to ten from the five members last year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 10-12 in Van Nuys. If you have any questions about this report, or any aspect of our work please contact us through the WSO. We thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the fellowship.

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