

# World Service Conference Report

## WSC Hospitals and Institutions Committee

Greetings from the WSC H&I leadership team. Our committee had quite an ambitious workplan for this conference year. The main focus of our team's assignments originated through conference action, items directly related to the World Services Public Relations Work Plan, and elements of H&I service which directly impact the local area and regional H&I committees we serve worldwide. Due to the short conference year and the number of our tasks, we anticipated having a world services meeting between WSC'96 and WSC'97. As you all know, this did not come about. Therefore, the WSC H&I Committee submitted and received approval for a funded meeting. This meeting was held 9-11 November 1996 at WSO-Chatsworth. This meeting allowed us time to complete and approve our work for inclusion in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and to complete our other assignments in a timely fashion as well. To conclude this report, I will outline our tasks and the work completed this conference year.

We worked with the World Service Board of Trustees External Affairs Committee on the revision of the *Institutional Group Guide*, which was formerly a part of the Outreach Handbook assigned to the trustees. We have completed reworking the IGG for accuracy and have approved it for submission to the full board of trustees. The IGG has been updated with the intention of being used as a separate piece on its own. We feel that most members-and even nonmembers-could use this piece of service material to start an NA meeting in a correctional institution.

Due to changes in the *Hospitals and Institutions Handbook* approved at WSC'96, the H&I Guide (a four-page excerpt from the handbook) had to be updated to reflect those changes. In conjunction with the EAC, we spent time identifying the languages into which the H&I Guide should be translated in the future. Translations have currently been completed in French, Spanish, Brazilian, and Portuguese. At this point, we feel the Italian translation needs to be focused on next.

The H&I resources distributed by the WSO-sample H&I area or regional guidelines, resource information for learning days, and referral letters from institutions where H&I meetings or presentations are being held-needed to be reviewed and cataloged. The protocols developed for evaluation of the referral letters and other resources distributed by the WSO staff, which we used to catalog this information, were also finalized. These provided some direction for distribution of this material.

WSC H&I has taken responsibility for approving stories appearing in *Reaching Out*. Since this has not previously been done by our committee, it was necessary to meet and discuss this process, come to a general understanding, and develop guidelines for the approval process.

We have reformatted and updated the DO's and DON'Ts for H&I work in the *H&I Handbook* and developed some DO's and DON'Ts for learning days. Motion 8 in the *Conference Agenda Report* addresses these issues. These changes came about from questions asked of WSC H&I at our learning days and from the questionnaires received from our learning days. This information was also used to create a first draft of the H&I "Train the Trainers" tools mentioned in the PR Work Plan, along with some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

During WSC'96, a motion was referred to WSC H&I, originating from the Region of the Virginians, regarding the lowering of the clean-time requirements for the forensic units section of the *Hospitals and Institutions Handbook*. This matter was given full committee attention, and we have decided to take no action on the motion at this time. There are really two concerns here: First of all, the addicts providing services to these types of facilities need to be screened carefully regarding clean time as well as other H&I experience. Secondly, the conference approved the clean-time requirements (Motion 9, *CAR'96*). Due to our belief in conference direction and based on our experiences in H&I service, we carefully considered these aspects to come to both a practical and spiritual decision.

In closing we, the WSC H&I leadership, would like to thank the conference for the opportunity to serve this fellowship in the area of H&I, and we hope that you all have an H&I kinda day.

*Mike Cunningham, Chairperson*  
*Craig Robertson, Vice Chairperson*