

# Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

## World Board Approved Minutes

7-10 March 2012

APPROVED

JUL 14 2012

BY: 

Wednesday 7 March

### Key Messages and IDT's for the 2012-2014 Cycle

Present: Antonia Nikolinakou, Paul Craig, Arne Hassel-Gren, Odilson Gomes Braz Junior, Franney Jardine, Mary Banner, Jim Buerer, Mark Hersh, Inigo Calonje Unceta, Piet de Boer, Tom McCall, Ron Blake, Sharon Harzenski-Deutsch, Ron Hofius and Ron Miller.

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez and various staff member joined for the Key Messages session.

#### Key Messages

Jim DeLizia began discussion with points about key messages; a key message is an important concept or a perspective that we want the audience to understand. A key message is clear, concise, can be adapted, it's powerful and compelling.

#### First Exercise

Each table is to take a large post-it and write down key messages from their assigned Issue Discussion Topic. We need to first decide what the need for understanding is, followed by concepts that put a shape around the information. When doing this, we need to think about what we need communicate, who do we need to talk to about this and what language/words will help with this? Issue discussion topics are:

- NA Vision
- Self-Support
- Principles before Personalities
- Group Conscience, Delegation, and Accountability
- Collaboration

After we complete the exercise, each table will read their post-it results

**Self-Support** supports NA as a whole. Altruism concept, spiritual experience of loving our fellowship, less about self and more about support, the inherent joy not obligation with support, the FD vision, the buck stops here, connecting the resources, all groups are self-supporting, receiving benefits, how much is my recovery worth, what opportunity does it give me. The idea that self-support is receiving support which is self-support meaning when we are in need we go to a meeting, spiritual independence. A sign of a mature membership is a membership that is less selfish and not about us, doing personal service, having a better attitude and better actions.

**NA Vision**; fulfilling our primary purpose was the focal point, we build an understanding of our primary purpose and our vision, understanding the link between filling our primary purpose and vision of NA service, the fruit and the seeds story, the power of collaboration, together we can, the vision statement is the report card and functions as our standard for prioritization and fulfillment of it. We are the living carriers of the vision which is directly related to our responsibility. Inspiration and empowerment keep coming up throughout.

**Collaboration;** is the service system. The action of one service unit does affect the others. Better decisions for NA are the result of collaboration. As a system what one unit does affects the other, unity and cooperation, cannot isolate change in the system. Understanding my (singular member) impact on the system is a ripple effect. Blending autonomy and collaboration, I in autonomy and we in collaboration = Team efforts and every member collaborating are essential. Collaboration and action is the power of connectivity.

**Principles before Personalities;** is about humility, unity, not uniformity, principles are endearing. It's about individual strength, service for the greater good. The principles are the framework that contains the personalities that are working together. Individual pieces are part of the bigger piece and individual is not lost – connected and individual piece increases and helps the whole. It's not a melting pot it's a mosaic.

**Group Conscience, Delegation, and Accountability;** there is no conflict between the three terms. Group conscience is not only coming from NA groups, it also comes from any service body that makes a decision. It's a process that informs the decision. The fellowship must have some accountability. There needs to be accountability with recording of the information, information needs to be disseminated, and it's a collective process. Trusting that we have the information we need, the recording of accountability, it's a pre-requisite for delegation. This comes back to the group conscience which brings us back to the heart of NA.

### **Key Messages that actually reflect what's being reported.**

**Collaboration;** concept of planning, key phrase; include, planning is a way to include me in NA vision, 7<sup>th</sup> concept; each member has great value in creating the collective conscience of NA, what I do not only affects me. Every action impacts others whether we are aware of it or not. Blending autonomy and collaboration' my vision becomes our vision. Being connected creates a different type of decision making, take out of the "I"; we are stronger because we are connected

**Principles before Personalities;** Different ideas create a greater whole.

**Group Conscience, Delegation, and Accountability;** we delegate to help others, group conscience decisions are recorded which serves as a base for accountability.

**Self-Support;** self in self-support does not refer to me; it refers to all of us. To be self-supporting we need to contribute our time money and experience, self-support is the spiritual means that we take care of our recovery. Self-support is the fulfillment of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. Recovery was freely given to us; self-support is the opportunity to give back.

**NA Vision;** we are the fruit of the primary purpose and the vision of those that came before it.

The day ended with the handout of the Key Message Development Worksheet which will be useful with various member audiences and delivering key messages.

## **Thursday 8 March**

### **Catch up with each other**

The WSC Cofacilitars joined the Board for their sharing session.

## **WSC 2012**

### **Update on CAR Workshops**

The board had a discussion about items that seemed to be unclear as well as areas of concern for WSC 2012.

**There are a number of issues that need a WB decision or recommendation and then plans for the presentation of the discussion at WSC. They include:**

**NAWS presence on Facebook**

The World Board recommendation to the conference will be to create a push only NAWS presence on Facebook. We will convey this in the March Conference report.

**WSC Seating moratorium ends at WSC 2012**

No objections to continue not seating any regions for the 2012-2014 conference cycles which means at a minimum no seating until 2016.

**Regional Proposals in old and new business**

EC and Cofacilitars talked over lunch to discuss the regional proposals. Recommending that regional proposals be accepted by the same deadline as past conferences and that all proposals be handled in the discussion session and not carried into the motion session. Issue raised was the future of regional proposal process continuing.

The 2 procedural items that will need to be handled are adapting the last minutes and ratifying this process. The regional proposal and the ideas for how to continue with the moratorium/or going forward with this change be handled by a straw poll. No objection.

As opposed to having a motion NAWS will straw poll the Proposed 2012-2014 Budget / Project Plans as opposed to motions. This also will be described in the March Conference Report. Wording will be worked on by EC and Cofacilitators. No objection.

**Election statistics and practices**

Reminder of the Boards commitment to better explain the elections process with the conference as well as using the Orientation

Orientation session will be used to walk through the entire conference week (agenda).

**WSC Week**

The challenge of the week will be covering a lot of material and not a lot of time to cover it in. IDT's sessions will be more than just collecting input. There will be several Q&A sessions and only one World Board session.

### Zonal Collaboration

The board started talking about collaboration between NAWS and zones and possible bringing it up for discussion at the conference. We should talk to the delegates about their thoughts on this. NAWS needs to contain and focus its resources, what is most valuable vehicle for NAWS participation. At the conference, ask the delegates and in our meeting at the WSC, we will start framing a discussion on what to do.

### Membership Survey

Review of the Membership survey. Pointed out in review – medical researcher's preliminary survey results reflected the same information as the Membership survey, a note was made. Total respondents for the NAWS Membership Survey were 17,492.

World Board like more information on:

- "Service positions held" how many respondents answered this question?
- Compare sponsorship vs. sponsoring
- Correlation between meeting attendance and years clean
- "Other fellowship attended" be sure that the data presented is from the yes that attend other fellowships – not clear
- Compare age and education and clean time

Nothing else noted on the surveys.

### 2012-2014 Issue Discussion Topics

Selected Issue Discussion topics are: 1) NA Vision, 2) Self-Support, 3) Principles before Personalities and Collaboration, 4) Group Conscience, Delegation and Accountability

Debbie H and Stephan Lantos joined the meeting.

### **Financial Overview and Update**

The Executive Director went over the financial statement through June 2012.

- Through January, we were about \$1M down in terms of income. If you go down to the bottom line, because of the convention, the year to date is positive. If we continue to maintain the use of cost, we have the capacity to weather extreme downturn in money.
- Basic Text Sales down
- With the World Service Conference coming soon, our accounts payable will be much higher than usual.
- Donations are down \$100K which is typical for the conference year.
- Outstanding literature accounts: the Regional Delegate is now also involved when dealing with service offices that have a large debt amount.
  - We are also getting many more delegates participating on the Webinar with the service offices.
- Translations cost continue to grow and we have less income.
- In the NAWS report at the conference, we will convey that we've received notice from all our book publishers that costs are going up significantly. Our projected amount for production in our budget is not enough. This means we then must change the paper we use to make our books and possibly how books look. With the increase in costs, we may possibly have to increase our cost of the Basic Text.
- Right now we have approximately 87 operating days and this number fluctuates.
- We are going to have to raise the price of the book in Iran because the publisher is raising her prices as well.
- Month to month we are carrying a bigger payable – and that is just the reality right now.

The board thanked staff for the monthly financials emails - very helpful. The Board will receive the updated financials at the conference.

Staff has done a remarkable job in controlling costs and the board acknowledged the great job staff has done with this.

### **Audit**

The World Board accepted the June 2011 Audit as presented.

### **Website/IT**

An email regarding some issues happening with IT forwarded to the World Board.

- Meeting locator has been revised and attached to Google maps.
- New NAWS webpage shown; we are using several people in the fellowship to help us make sure this is working properly and is user friendly. We are working subsections, and there are only two icons not functioning at this moment which are Literature and News.
- The meeting search will not look the same because it uses a different java for its function.
- We were accepted by Google for nonprofits.

*Items requiring a WB decision are indicated in blue. Items for discussion are in purple.*

- Mobi-application presented; to develop this app in full functionality in all 3 formats would cost \$25K and why we thought not to move forward with this just yet.
- Basic Text E-pub file reviewed. Currently we have to increase our proofing needs (punctuation). This means we are going to have to reproof every document we get back.

## Corporate

### **Draft 2012-2014 WB Schedule**

#### **2012**

July board meeting moved to July 11-14, 2012, with the EC being 10<sup>th</sup>  
October 24-27, 2012, with the EC being 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **2013**

April 3-6, 2012, with the EC being April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
July 10-13, 2012 with the EC being 9<sup>th</sup>

No objection to the above date changes to the draft World Board 2012-2014 Meeting schedule.

### **Adopt January 2012 Minutes**

A track change version of the minutes emailed to the board. The board will have a week to review and approve the record – Friday March 16, 2012.

### **Action Item List – recommendations for projects will be published in the Conference Report**

There are no new items on the action item list

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **E-blast**

If someone wants to receive NAWS updates e-blast they can sign up at  
[www.na.org/subscribe](http://www.na.org/subscribe)

#### **Canada Office**

We've recently been informed that the WSO Canada building is being sold. Therefore, we may need to relocate the Canadian branch office once building sold.

#### **Shipping Europe**

Soon we will recommend that the shipping and handling rates for WSO Europe be raised because shipping and handling rates in general are incredibly high for small orders.

#### **Just for Today commemorative edition**

We are working on developing a commemorative edition, the Board presented with samples.

#### **Living Clean**

When we have a firm design idea we will send that to the Board. If adopted by the conference the hope is to have in inventory by October 2012.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Step Thumb Drive**

Hope to have sample for the Board by the end of April.

Addendum A

2012– 2014 World Board Meeting Schedule First Draft Jan 2012

2012

**7-9 June**      **Executive Committee/BP/possible orientation** (depends on the number of new WB members elected)

**July board meeting moved to July 11-14, 2012, with the EC meeting July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**October 24-27, 2012, with the EC meeting October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

2013

**22 January**      **Executive Committee**

**23-26 January**      **World Board**

**April 3-6, 2012, with the EC meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**9 July**      **Executive Committee**

**10-13 July**      **World Board**

**1 August 2013**      **Regional Motion Deadline**

**29 August - 1 September**      **WCNA 35 Philadelphia, PA USA**

**22 October**      **Executive Committee**

**23-26 October**      **World Board**

**?? November 2012** **CAR**

2014

**7 January**      **Executive Committee**

**8-11 January** **World Board**

**?? January**      **CAT Material**

**18 March**      **Executive Committee**

**19-22 March** **World Board**

**TBD**      **World Service Conference**