



NA WORLD SERVICES

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TO: Conference Participants
FROM: World Board
DATE: 31 May 2011
RE: Issue Discussion Topic Session Profiles

Greetings from NA World Services,

As most of you know, in past conference cycles we have selected issue discussion topics (IDTs) as a way to get members talking about particular issues and concerns, and a vehicle for us to gather ideas and input from members about those topics. We have used some of this gathered input to foster a dialogue and improve workshops over the course of the cycle, and also to help in the development of new tools, such as the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet and some of the service pamphlets.

The IDTs we have chosen for this cycle are a bit different from the IDTs of past cycles, which were often aimed at initiating discussion on issues. Our hope this cycle is to introduce members to and familiarize them with some of the newest resources approved at the 2010 World Service Conference. Among the new materials approved at WSC 2010 were: *A Vision for NA Service*; *In Times of Illness, Revised*; IP #24, *Money Matters: Self-Support in NA*; and IP #28, *Funding NA Services*. Our hope is that these IDT session materials will help conference participants and other trusted servants and members in your communities to generate useful discussion and awareness of these resources.

We have drafted four session profiles, including a profile for introducing *A Vision for NA Service*, one for the revised *In Times of Illness* booklet, and two sessions for discussing self-support. We have also created PowerPoint presentations to correspond with each of the session profiles. A more detailed description of each of these sessions follows.

We are sending these session profiles to conference participants and posting them online where they will be accessible to any members looking for workshop materials. We hope that you will find them helpful for workshops held within your regions. As always, we are open to any input from trusted servants and other members; comments and ideas can be directed to worldboard@na.org.

A Vision for NA Service

The creation of a vision statement for all NA service came about as part of the Service System Project. The project was created to begin developing more effective ways for our local services to function. After many conference cycles of discussing and analyzing “what’s working and what’s not working,” we determined the best way to really address our fundamental challenges could best be accomplished through a project devoted to the system as a whole. But before we could move closer to an ideal system, we needed to make sure we are all focused on the same set of ideals, that we share a common vision.

A Vision for NA Service was unanimously approved at WSC 2010 as a replacement for the NA World Services Vision Statement. The revised vision was expanded in order to be applicable for all NA services, beginning with the NA groups. This expanded vision statement was a first milestone for the Service System Project, and we hope that it will serve to inspire service bodies at all levels and encourage greater unity throughout NA.

The Vision IDT session gives members an opportunity to look closely at the various parts of the vision statement and discuss how each of the points of the vision applies to their own personal roles and the roles of their groups and service bodies in working to achieve the aims set out in the vision.

In Times of Illness, Revised

Also carried by unanimous consent at WSC 2010 was the motion to approve a revision to *In Times of Illness*. The revised booklet was drafted using the original as a framework. Nothing was removed; things were only shifted and updated. Like the original, the revised *ITOI* is divided into sections to assist the member who has a specific challenge. There is a bit of repetition throughout the booklet because we know some will want to focus on the sections relevant to issues they are currently facing. New sections in the booklet specifically address mental health issues, chronic illness, chronic pain, terminal illness, and supporting members with an illness. The booklet also has updated and expanded material in the sections devoted to members’ informing healthcare professionals of their addiction, medication in recovery, and emergency care.

The *ITOI* IDT session provides members with an opportunity to look at each of the different sections of the revised booklet and discuss scenarios related to some of those sections. The discussion questions encourage members to draw on the source material and their own personal experience to discuss ways to approach illness, injury, medication, and supporting other members through the same challenges.

Self-Support Sessions

IP #24, *Money Matters: Self-Support in NA*, and IP #28, *Funding NA Services* replace our previous IPs *Self-Support: Principle and Practice* and “*Hey, What’s the Basket For?*” Our hope is that this new material will continue to raise awareness throughout the fellowship about the importance of self-support. All of us working together can shift the culture of giving in NA, so that we can do a better job of paying for the services that help us reach still-suffering addicts.

We face challenges related to funding at every level of service. NAWs has been affected by the global economic crisis, and issues about lack of financial support and a lack of financial accountability were some of the most frequently reported challenges from regions this conference. We have a difficult time in NA talking about these issues in a way that engages our members and that is not met by the reaction that all we care about is money. We seem to have a culture in NA that, unlike many other twelve-step fellowships, does not inspire a sense of

responsibility to fund our services by contributions; instead we rely on events, literature, and fundraisers. We asked delegates for their ideas, and most of what we heard was the need for communication and education. We hope these profiles will help in that effort.

We are offering two separate sessions for self-support. One of the sessions is a simpler discussion of the principles of self-support, including how we each participate individually and why it is so important to our groups and services. The second session offers a more in-depth look at the contents of the self-support pamphlets approved at the conference, helping members become familiar with what the pamphlets have to offer regarding the principles of self-support. We offer both session outlines so that workshop organizers can choose the session that seems more appropriate for their members, given the level of complexity and the time for the session.