

## Issue Discussion Topic Session Profile: Collaboration

**Session materials:** Ground Rules, Brainstorming Guidelines, Facilitators Instructions, note sheet with discussion questions, Traditions and Concepts Sheets, *Living Clean* quotes handout, A Vision for NA Service

### Purpose of Session

Discuss and understand collaboration as an action principle and an integral part of our service system.

### Session Outline

Introduction — Collaboration and Our Principles	10 minutes
Small Group Discussion — Collaborating and Improving Our Collaboration	20 minutes
Small Group Feedback	25 minutes
Large Group Discussion/Brainstorm — Improvements and Solutions	30 minutes
Session Wrap-up	5 minutes

### Introduction – Collaboration and Our Principles 10 minutes

- ◇ Introduce topic as an action principle of the service system
- ◇ **Collaboration is working together to achieve a common goal.** A familiar common goal for us is our primary purpose.
- ◇ Working toward our common goal together with our primary purpose helps us to achieve A Vision for NA Service.
- ◇ Collaboration is like a link in a chain – interconnectedness; as we are joined together, there is a combined effect. We are stronger and more effective together than we are individually.

### Small Group Discussion – Collaborating and Improving Our Collaboration 25 minutes

Provide this quote from *Living Clean: The Journey Continues* as a PowerPoint slide or handout:

**If we are acting in goodwill—doing the right thing for the right reasons—we are sure to benefit. Each of us has something to give...**

*Living Clean: The Journey Continues, Chapter Seven, “The Journey Continues”*

### Facilitator 1 sets up small group discussion 5 minutes

- ◇ Provide examples of instances where collaboration is the next right action, such as working together on an annual area picnic, joining with other regions in a PR shared-services effort, and working with NA World Services in planning for workshops.
- ◇ Inform participants that we are moving to small groups. Ask them to pick up their worksheets with the questions and review the questions with the group. Let members know they can choose their small group question—each small group should choose only one option. Some tables may want to respond as areas, others as regions or zones; **choice may depend on service experience of members at table.** Facilitator’s Note: If this session is done in an area setting, all small groups may function as an area service committees.
- ◇ Depending on the level of service experience of participants, facilitator may choose to give brief description of NA service structure to help clarify for newer members.
- ◇ Ask recorders to write clearly. Collect their responses. We want to hear about their collaboration experiences.

## Small Group Questions

20 minutes  
(10 minutes/question)

- Please choose one of the following based on the service experience of members at your table:**  
**In an ASC:** How do you work together within the area? With your member groups, neighboring areas, and the region?  
**In a RSC:** How do you collaborate within your region? With neighboring regions and members within your region? How does the region collaborate with NA World Services?  
**In a zonal forum:** How do you collaborate within your zone? With your member regions and other zones? How does the zone collaborate with NA World Services?
- How could you improve collaboration?**

## **Small Group Feedback**

**20 minutes**

Call on as many tables as possible. Build upon what the tables report and ask other members in the room to assist (which actively shows collaboration). Collect notes sheets, as we would like to have your feedback.

## **Large Group Discussion/Brainstorm — Improvements and Solutions**

**30 minutes**

Provide this quotation from *Living Clean: The Journey Continues* as a PowerPoint slide or handout:

**Participating without seeking the illusion of control sets the model for the rest of our lives. In whatever capacity we find ourselves, we serve NA with dedication and love when we serve with humility.**

*Living Clean: The Journey Continues*, Chapter Seven, “The Journey Continues”

Facilitator 2 introduces large group brainstorm:

15 minutes

Let members know that we are moving to a large group brainstorm. Refer participants to their worksheet and read the general question. Write responses on a post-it sheet. Large group can build upon each other’s responses.

- How can you improve your area/region/zone’s collaboration?**

Facilitator 1 leads the group in discussion of a second question:

15 minutes

- What gets in the way of effective collaboration?**

Offer examples, if needed, such as strong personalities, the way we have always done things, etc. Write the group’s responses on a post-it sheet and ask for solutions and/or point them back to ways to improve which may contain the solution.

## **Session Wrap-Up**

**5 minutes**

- ◊ When working with others in service, we often learn about ourselves and have opportunities to grow in our recovery and service. Our Basic Text states, “We have to understand that our way of thinking is not the only way; other people can give us direction. When someone points out a shortcoming, our first reaction may be defensive. We must realize that we are not perfect. There will always be room for growth.” (Basic Text, Seventh Step) Facilitator may want to provide a personal experience of growth.
- ◊ Thank participants and let them know that their input today will help inform future service efforts and offer this thought again: Collaboration is working together to achieve a common goal.

**Note to facilitator:** Please send any input on these Issue Discussion Topic questions to [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org). Session profiles and resources are available at [www.na.org/?ID=IDT-IDT](http://www.na.org/?ID=IDT-IDT).