

Issue Discussion Topic Session Profile: Supporting Our Vision

Session materials: A Vision for NA Service, IP #28 *Funding NA Services*, handout with Jimmy K quote, Ground Rules, Brainstorming Guidelines, Facilitator's Instructions, note sheets with discussion questions.

Purpose of Session

Introduce A Vision for NA Service and discuss our part in providing the resources necessary to make it a reality.

Session Outline

Introduction — Our Vision and Our Principles	15 minutes
Large Group Discussion — Our Vision's Gifts	10 minutes
Large Group Discussion — Supporting Our Vision	15 minutes
Small Group Discussion — Ideas to Move Us Forward	25 minutes
Small Group Feedback	20 minutes
Session Wrap-up	5 minutes

Introduction – Our Vision and Our Principles

15 minutes

Introduce facilitators if necessary and explain basic purpose of session. Open with Jimmy K vision quote from 20th anniversary dinner in 1973. **Use audio if possible, but if not, have a volunteer read it. Back this up with printed handout and/or PowerPoint slide.**

You know, I said many times a long time ago that a man without a dream is only half a man, and a fellowship without a vision is a farce. I still believe that. I know damn well that we can find our fulfillment living a day at a time here. And, a day at a time, our vision and our fellowship can become a greater reality.

This is part of a dream come true. And a dream envisions great changes, but progress demands many small actions. A dream doesn't come true because of one group of people or one man or two men or three men, it comes true because a lot of people work at it, because a lot of people put an effort into it, because a lot of people buy the idea and carry it forward.

Show A Vision for NA Service, either as a slide or a handout, and ask a volunteer to read it aloud.

Our Vision represents an ideal: the fulfillment of our primary purpose on a global scale. This would mean that every addict in the world would have access to our message and could find a new way to live.

Review each segment of the Vision and briefly discuss with the large group how it connects with some of the guiding principles from the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Some examples include:

- ◇ *All the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous...* relates to our common primary purpose as described in the Fifth Tradition, and the purpose of NA service bodies as described in the First Concept.
- ◇ *Every addict in the world...* also relates to our common primary purpose and our Twelfth Step.
- ◇ *Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery...* relates to the personal growth and change described in the Seventh Tradition and the spiritual awakening of the Twelfth Step.
- ◇ *NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation...* relates to anonymity as discussed in the Twelfth Tradition, and the unity of our First Tradition.
- ◇ *Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect...* relates to “attraction rather than promotion” as discussed in the Eleventh Tradition, and the freedom NA has as a result of the Sixth and Tenth Traditions.
- ◇ *...the guidance of a loving Higher Power* relates to the group conscience process described in the Second Tradition and the Sixth Concept, as well as the personal process we use in our Eleventh Step.

Briefly explain where A Vision for NA Service came from, covering the following points:

- ◆ The NA World Services Vision Statement was approved at WSC 1996 and guided much of the work of NAWS.
- ◆ The need to create a common vision for **all** NA service was detailed in the 2008-2010 NAWS Strategic Plan.
- ◆ The project plan for the Service System Project was approved at the 2008 WSC and included the task of developing a vision for all NA service efforts as one of its approaches.
- ◆ A Vision for NA Service was unanimously approved at WSC 2010.

Large Group Discussion – Our Vision’s Gifts

10 minutes

Nearly 40 years ago Jimmy talked about our dream and our vision becoming a greater reality. Those of us here today have found NA and received the gift of recovery. Ask attendees the question below and record their answers at the front of the room.

1. Which aspects of service described in A Vision for NA Service helped us to find NA?

Examples that may help include:

- ◆ Literature in our own language,
- ◆ Inspired members giving their time to provide services such as helplines and H&I,
- ◆ Members working together to do what we cannot do alone,
- ◆ Professionals recognizing that NA is a viable program of recovery and both referring addicts to NA and allowing us access to their facilities.

Offer some ideas of our service successes; for example, fellowship development in new communities, growth in NA as a whole, increased recognition of NA as a resource for addicts. Include local examples if available.

If possible, support these with some form of audio/visual presentation like fellowship development videos, meeting growth video, etc.

Large Group Discussion – Supporting Our Vision

15 minutes

Remind everyone that not every addict knows about NA, even right here in our own neighborhood, and many continue to die. Ask attendees the question below and record their answers at the front of the room:

2. How can we help A Vision for NA Service become a greater reality and help others find NA?

The usual answers are by contributing our time, money, talent, and our personal recovery principles; but how much do we need to give? Introduce the concept that there is a difference between contributing and donating and lead a brief brainstorm on the differences. Example One: Sometimes we can give our money and sometimes we can give our time, and sometimes both, and there is value in whatever we can give back and however we do it. Example Two: Donating is something given from/by someone outside the organization while contributing is something that members of the organization give.

Facilitators should encourage participants to avoid clichéd or vague responses by asking questions like these:

- ◆ How much time is “enough” time to give?
- ◆ How much money is “enough” money to give?
- ◆ What does “enough” look like for each of us?

Small Group Discussion—Ideas to Move Us Forward

25 minutes

The small group exercise is intended to help us discuss some specific ideas to move us forward. Some of the responses from the previous large group discussion may form the basis for the small groups' discussions. Remind everyone of the resources we already have, including IP #28, part of which is the suggested Tradition Seven reading to be used as the basket is passed. Ask a volunteer to read it:

Our Seventh Tradition states: "Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." In Narcotics Anonymous, we pay our own way to maintain our freedom. By giving freely, we ensure that we have meetings to attend, and we support the services that keep NA alive and growing all around the world. We encourage members to keep in mind that our financial contributions to NA are one of the fundamental ways we can demonstrate our gratitude for the program that showed us a new way to live.

Divide the room in half and give each side one of the questions below. Allow 20 minutes for discussion, reviewing the small group discussion guidelines first if necessary.

3. **How do we do a better job of reporting our service successes to our home groups?**
4. **How can we talk about self-support, which involves more than putting money in the basket to cover rent?**

Facilitator's Note: One option here is to adjust these questions according to the audience. For example, if the workshop consists mostly of regional delegates (such as a zonal meeting), we might want to rephrase the first question to, "How do we do a better job of reporting our service successes to the trusted servants at our regional meetings?" Question 2 could read, "How can we talk about self-support, which involves more than just providing resources for services in our own regions?"

Small Group Feedback

20 minutes

Hear back from as many small groups as possible, recording their ideas at the front of the room. Again, try to get specific responses. What can we do when we leave here to inspire others to become involved in service and to provide the other resources needed to fulfill our Vision?

Session Wrap-Up

5 minutes

Our hope is that the session today has encouraged us all to think about our connections with NA services, what we have received as a result of the service of others, and also about our responsibility to help support services that in turn benefit others. The greater the support we are able to provide, the more effective we are in fulfilling our Vision and helping addicts find freedom.

Note to facilitator: Please send any input on these Issue Discussion Topic questions to worldboard@na.org. Session profiles and resources are available at www.na.org/?IDT-IDT.