

LSC Basics

The Purpose of the LSC

Our current ASCs are tasked with both group support and local service delivery. The proposed group support unit (GSF) and local service unit (LSC) divide these functions.

The LSC is the “workhorse” of the service system and has the responsibility to deliver the bulk of local services. The LSC is intended to help groups “better fulfill their primary purpose” as discussed in the Ninth Tradition. Their role is to provide the types of services that would otherwise distract groups from organizing the recovery meetings that are our most effective way of carrying the NA message. The hope is that both group support and service delivery will improve when there is a body devoted exclusively to each function.

LSC Composition

The LSC is intended to conform to the geographic boundaries found within society, such as counties, towns, or boroughs. This makes it easier for addicts seeking recovery to find NA meetings, and helps the LSC work more effectively with the professional and government bodies that interact most frequently with addicts. [Note: For the purposes of the field test, we do not expect geographic boundaries will change as ASCs function as LSCs for the testing period.]

The LSC is comprised of two main parts: monthly local service board (LSB) and quarterly LSC meetings, one of which is an annual planning assembly. Members of the LSC include LSB members as well as group and/or GSF delegates attend each LSC meeting. In addition, all interested members are welcome and encouraged to attend particularly the annual planning assembly.

Members of the LSB include 1. administrative members such as the LSC chair, vice chair, treasurer, and secretary; 2. a delegate(s) to the next level of service; and 3. those who function as the point of accountability for each area of service—in most cases these members will be a combination of committee chairs and service or project coordinators. In addition, some LSCs may decide to elect other members to be part of the LSB if that makes sense to their community. The LSB’s role is the day-to-day administration of services. The LSB oversees workgroups and routine services; coordinates the planning assemblies; and develops a budget and a strategic plan for review, input, and approval at the LSC meetings.

How the LSC Functions

The LSC utilizes a strategic planning process, with services being delivered through a mix of committees or coordinators for ongoing or routine services, and workgroups for projects. As throughout the system, form should follow function: finite goals or tasks that have a beginning,

middle, and end may be best suited for projects, while tasks that do not change much from month to month may be better suited for committees or work pools with coordinators.

Wherever possible, decisions at the LSC use a consensus based process instead of motions, ideally making it a more inclusive and attractive service body.

The LSC will also serve as a communication and delegation link between the groups and the rest of the fellowship by sending a delegate to the state/national/provincewide service body.

What Happens at LSC Meetings

LSC meetings are quarterly. For the purposes of the field test, we are shortening the period between the first and second LSC meeting from three months to two so that there is more time to deliver services after project plans and a budget are approved. Nonetheless, for groups that are used to attending a monthly ASC, there may be some adjustment needed to purchase literature and make a financial contribution to the LSC. Fund flow and literature distribution are among the topics that need further definition in the Service System Proposals. Part of what we hope to accomplish through the field test is to get a better sense of how these types of processes might work in actual practice. If you are field testing the proposals, we can talk together with you to help determine what would work best for your community.

1st LSC Meeting: Annual Planning Assembly

- Review the results of the community survey and current service delivery efforts
- Identify and prioritize the most important issues that might affect service delivery
- Brainstorm and prioritize solutions to those issues

2nd LSC Meeting

- Review and vote on budget and project plans for the year ahead

3rd LSC Meeting

- Oversee progress on projects and ongoing services.
- Give any input about service delivery

4th LSC Meeting

- Oversee progress on projects and ongoing services
- Give any input about service delivery
- Hold elections for the year ahead
- Distribute community survey for the annual planning assembly

This draft was produced for the Service System Proposals field test. It is a work in progress. Please send any input on the draft to: worldboard@na.org.