Service System Project Update

November 2012
Project Background

- Workshop feedback for many years reports common challenges
  - apathy, duplication of efforts, poor communication...
- Project passed in 2008 & 2010
- Vision for NA Service passed in 2010
A Vision for NA Service

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;
- Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;
- NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts, all of which rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.
2012-2014 Conference Cycle

• Resolutions passed in 2012
• Transition plan will be presented in 2014
• Two main focuses to get there
  – Ongoing discussion topics—areas that the board plans to talk about this cycle
  – Field Testing—putting the proposals into practice
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• Large and small (NA population) SNPs
• Seating Criteria (WSC)
• Consensus-Based Decision Making
• Lit Distribution & Fund Flow
• RSOs & Service Offices
• Border Communities
• Ethnic/Language/Culture Considerations
• Role of Zones
• Incorporated Bodies/Conventions
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• Large (NA population) SNPs
  a single body seems unrealistic for SNPs such as California or Brazil where the size of the NA community is so large. We need to elaborate on these sorts of exceptions to the SNP model and offer an alternative for these states/nations.
• Small SNPs (NA population)

On a related note, states such as Vermont or New Hampshire do not currently have their own region, and that isn’t the intention of the proposals. We need to offer an option or options for states/nations/provinces with smaller NA populations.
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• Seating Criteria (WSC)

Primary seating criterion will be s/n/p boundaries. Still many questions: What are the other seating criteria? Large and small s/n/p’s? A country’s position relative to other communities? Age of a community, amount of literature translated, services being delivered, etc.?
Ongoing Discussion Topics

- CBDM

There are many different ways to define “consensus” and “consensus-based decision making.” Members want more tools about how to use CBDM locally. We will be releasing a first draft of a tool for this in November.
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• Lit Distribution & Fund Flow
  We need to develop a more concrete recommendation or set of recommendations for lit distribution and fund flow.
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• **RSOs & Service Offices**
  How do RSOs and other service offices fit in the new system?

• **Border Communities**
  Some ASCs span two states or belong to a region in a neighboring state. We need to offer ideas about how to practically accommodate border communities.
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• Ethnic/Language/Culture Considerations

Some service bodies form because members felt their ethnic or language or cultural needs were not being well met by their existing area or region. We need to include strategies to help meet those needs.
Ongoing Discussion Topics

• **Role of Zones**
  What role do zones play in the new system? We are encouraging zones to give their thoughts on the issue.

• **Incorporated Bodies/ Conventions**
  We need to provide some guidance on how regions and conventions and other incorporated bodies can handle the transition as easily as possible.
Field Testing

• November 2012- July 2013
• Testing GSUs and LSUs—all interested communities are welcome to help
• A small group of “core” communities plus a broad range of general field testers
• Core communities are adhering to rigid criteria. All field testers are important.
Field Testing

• Tools and information are posted regularly on www.na.org/servicesystem

• We have tools for GSUs and are planning tools for LSUs. Please send us input!

• Want to provide as much support as possible to regions within SNPs that are reunifying or providing joint services

• Results will help us shape a transition plan & strengthen the proposals
Service System Webpage

More information is available at www.na.org/servicesystem

Or email us at servicesystem@na.org