

SOUTH JERSEY AREA SERVICE CONFERENCE
October 11, 2009

Opened with the Serenity Prayer at 1:00 p.m.

An addict read Tradition 1 from the Basic Text and the Purpose of SJASC.

A. ANNIVERSARIES

Sly 9months Wayne 90days Mel 9 months Kerrie 18months Nikki 1yr Todd
2yrs
Mike 6yrs Damian 8yrs Dave 13yrs

B. GROUP ATTENDANCE

See attached group attendance chart.

C. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

See attached flyers.

D. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elections: Bill M. was elected as Assistant Treasurer for one month

Elections: Jason was elected as Activities Chair for one month

***NOTE:** we will be doing **ELECTIONS** for the upcoming **2010 year**, please see the positions and their requirements attached.

GSRs: Please continue to convert all small bills and change to larger bills. We appreciate your continuing support with this procedure. Also, please be sure to completely fill out your Literature slips before handing them to the Treasurer and Co-Treasurer.

E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

AREA CHAIRPERSON – *present, no report*

H&I – *present, see report*

PUBLIC INFORMATION – *absent, see report*

POLICY CHAIR – *present, no report*

LITERATURE SUPPLY – *Absent, see report*

LITERATURE REVIEW – *absent, see report*

ACTIVITIES CHAIR – *absent, see report*

ACTIVITIES TREASURER – *present, see report*

RCM – *absent, no report*

TREASURER – *present, see report*

WEBMASTER CHAIR – *present, see report*

*** PLEASE NOTE: the motions are all typed as written on the motion form, they are NOT ALTERED:**

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion 08-09-01 for the H&I policy to be voted on. INTENT: Tradition 5, carrying the message. **OBSTAINED**

2. Motion 09-09-02 to removed activities treasurer from their position with no vote

Should they be absent at two consecutive activities subcommittee meetings without

Prior notification to the committee chair 2 absence at 3 regular activities subcommittee

Meetings with or without prior notification to the subcommittee chair per term. INTENT: single point of accountability as defined in the 5th concept and for the effectiveness of communications as defined in the 8th concept. **PASSED**

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion 10-09-01** to create an ad-hoc committee to research holding an area convention. INTENT: To carry the message and have fun in recovery!

PASSED

Election: Pete for heading Ad-hoc committee

Volunteers for committee: Reno, Kelly, Gene, Bruce, Donna, Gladys, Amanda, Lisa, Owen and Val.

2. **Motion 10-09-02** Reimbursement for lit supplies see attached Plastic bags, organizer, 2 copies of keys \$44.87 INTENT: to continue to provide supplies to carry the message **PASSED**

3. **Motion 10-09-03** to form an ADHOC committee to determine what was done with all

Funds from prior activities since April and whether or not these were a misappropriation off these funds INTENT: to provide accountability to area **PASSED**

Election: Bill for heading the Ad hoc committee

Volunteers for committee: Leann, Billy Dave and Josh

4. **Motion 10-09-04** to remove the activities treasurer for failure to follow sound judgment in handling the activities check book **INTENT:** to protect NA funds by adhering to the eleventh concept.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motions Voted at this month's ASC: 10-09-01, 10-09-02, 10-09-03, 10-09-04
2. Motions tabled at this month's ASC:
3. Motions sent to Group Conscience:
4. Regional Motions:

NOTE: That JAC meets every other month to discuss subcommittee and their person's new information especially addressing home groups to better communicate within subcommittees and chair person.

MOTION TO CLOSE APPROXIMATELY 3:35pm

Narcotics Anonymous Hospital & Institution Southern New Jersey Area Guidelines

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Introduction

The South Jersey Area H&I Subcommittee is responsible to carry the NA message of recovery into hospitals and institutions where an open meeting is not possible, due to their rules and regulations that conflict with our traditions. This committee may use other methods, such as distribution of literature and meeting list to make the message of recovery available.

The area H&I subcommittee plays a central role in the overall H&I service effort. It initiates, coordinates and conducts all local NA hospitals and institutions meetings and activities within the area. This subcommittee is the hub of H&I planning and organization.

The area H&I committee is a subcommittee of the area service committee (ASC.) It meets regularly on the third Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo, 176 Stagecoach Road, Sicklerville, NJ 08081. (*Except for holidays that fall on that specific Sunday, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day and Easter in which the meeting will be held on the fourth Sunday of that month), and its chair reports to and is accountable in all matters to the ASC. The subcommittee is composed of an H&I Chairperson, H&I Vice Chairperson, H&I Secretary, Literature Coordinator and other elected officers, as well as any other members of the fellowship who wish to be involved.

Purpose

The Purpose of an H&I subcommittee is to carry the NA message of recovery to addicts who do not have full access to regular Narcotics Anonymous meetings. H&I panels, except for those in longer-term facilities, are intended to simply introduce those attending to some of the basics of the NA Program.

1. Provides a monthly forum to pool experiences.
2. To effectively carry the NA message to the inmates, patients and residents, we must be aware of the regulations of the institutions in which we are serving.
3. Prepares H&I policies and guidelines for the H&I subcommittee's and the SJASC's approval.
4. Serves as a communications link between local H&I meetings/ presentations and H&I subcommittees at the regional and world levels.
5. Selects the members who are to conduct the H&I meetings.
6. Serves as a distribution point for literature for the meetings and reports these transactions to the ASC.
7. H&I makes all initial contact with facilities.
8. Conducts learning days, workshops, and orientations on relevant topics.
9. Is responsible for all H&I-oriented services within the area.

Committee Structure

Elected Committee Officers:

1. The H&I subcommittee will consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Literature Coordinator and Committee members.
2. All H&I Subcommittee officers, with the exception of the Chairperson, are to be elected by 51% of voting members in attendance. The South Jersey H & I Subcommittee will nominate a Chairperson from our committee during elections and our current Chairperson will bring the selected nominee name to SJASC. Our current Chairperson will then nominate that person selected at SJASC elections. The Chairperson will then be elected by the SJASC in regular session.

Voting Members:

1. The voting members of the SJASC H&I Subcommittee will be the Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Literature Distributor and committee members. (*The SJASC H&I Subcommittee Chairperson will vote only in the event of a tie vote and only to break the tie.)

Participation:

Only selected members who are to conduct H&I presentations may make or second a motion or speak to a pro or con to a motion during the H & I Subcommittee meeting. Any interested party, however, at the invitation of the SJASC H&I Subcommittee Chairperson, may address the committee.

Voting Procedures

1. Voting Members are described above (under Voting Members #1).
2. For the purposes of voting on motions made within this committee and for motions passed down from the SJASC, Region or World a simple majority of YES votes by voting members in attendance will pass the motion.
3. Abstentions carry no weight.
4. For the purpose of electing officers, 51% of voting members in attendance is needed.

Qualifications and Responsibilities of the (SJASC) South Jersey Area Service Committee H&I Subcommittee Officers

1. All elected officers have a responsibility to serve their commitment for 1 year, unless a situation arises that interferes with the serving of the commitment.
2. Loss of clean time requirements will cause automatic and immediate disqualification of the H&I activity.

Chairperson:

Qualifications:

1. Will be nominated by 51% The South Jersey Area H & I Subcommittee by our subcommittee during elections and our current Chairperson will bring the selected nominee name to SJASC. Our current Chairperson will then nominate that person selected at SJASC elections. The Chairperson will then be elected by the SJASC in regular session.
2. Minimum 3 years clean time required. (* Clean time is to be recognized as stated in NAWS Bulletin #29. - see Pages 14- 15 .)
3. Must have an NA sponsor and a NA home group.
4. Must have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
5. Must have the willingness to serve.
6. Must be off all drug replacement therapies.

Responsibilities:

1. Keeps meeting in order.
2. Keeps discussion on topic.
3. Prepares agenda for each subcommittee meeting.
4. Ensures that the traditions are upheld in all matters.
5. Maintains a link of communication between the H&I Subcommittee and the SJASC, including giving a monthly typed report presented at SJASC.
6. Attends each meeting of the Regional H&I Subcommittee and brings back a report of it's' activities to the H&I Subcommittee.
7. Carries out policy of the H&I Subcommittee.
8. Is the link between H&I subcommittee and contact persons for all facilities we serve.
9. Reallocates yearly H&I commitments. (See Page 9).
10. Holds annual H&I Workshop/Learning Day. (See Page 10.)
11. Makes sure all new members are taken into facilities by experienced members for proper training.
12. Prepares and teaches Vice-Chair the position and duties of H&I Chair.
(* If necessary, may be removed by a 51% vote by voting members in attendance.)

Vice Chairperson:

Qualifications:

1. Is elected by 51% of the voting members in attendance.
2. Minimum clean time 2 year required. (* Clean time is to be recognized as stated in NAWWS Bulletin #29. - see Pages 14- 15.)
3. Must have an NA sponsor and a NA home group.
4. Must have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
5. Must have the willingness to serve.
6. Must be off all drug replacement therapies.

Responsibilities:

1. Helps Chairperson keep proceedings orderly.
2. Assumes the role of Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson's absence.
3. If the office of Chairperson becomes vacant, serves as Chairperson until confirmed by the SJASC or a new Chairperson is elected.
4. If necessary, may be removed by a 51% vote by voting members in attendance.
5. Works with Chairperson to hold annual learning days/workshops.
6. Uses this time as a training period for Chairperson Position.

Secretary:

Qualifications:

1. Is elected by 51% of the voting members in attendance.
2. Minimum clean time 2 year required. (* Clean time is to be recognized as stated in NAWWS Bulletin #29. - see Pages 14- 15.)
3. Must have an NA sponsor and a NA home group.
4. Must have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
5. Must have the willingness to serve.
6. Must be off all drug replacement therapies.

Responsibilities:

1. Records accurate minutes of each month's subcommittee meeting.
2. Maintains an ongoing file of all correspondences and minutes.
3. Keeps a record of the attendance of all committee members and the fulfillment of their commitment.
4. Keeps an accurate and current phone list.
5. Makes copies and have H&I Subcommittee Policy readily available.
6. Responsible for having available Orientation Welcoming packets for new subcommittee members.
7. Distributes Orientation Welcoming packets to all new committee members. (* If necessary, may be removed by a 51% vote by voting members in attendance.)

Literature Distributor:

Qualifications:

1. Is elected by 51% of the voting members in attendance.
2. Minimum clean time 1 year required. (* Clean time is to be recognized as stated in NAWS Bulletin #29. - see Pages 14- 15.)
3. Must have an NA sponsor and a NA home group.
4. Must have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
5. Must have the willingness to serve.
6. Must be off all drug replacement therapies.

Responsibilities:

1. Maintains an ongoing log of facilities that are supplied with literature and what they require.
2. Attends ASC monthly and works with SJASC Literature Chair to obtain NA literature for distribution to H&I facilities at the level allocated in the SJASC budget for H&I. (*The current budget is \$550.)
3. Distributes NA conference-approved literature and any other items the subcommittee uses in carrying the message to H & I Subcommittee members to take into facilities to give out to their clients.
4. Keeps a complete record of all transactions to assure accountability and gives a report based on that at the regular subcommittee meetings. This person should always be aware of the amount of literature being distributed so the committee member's literature requests remain practical and the subcommittee can fairly distribute the literature without exceeding its budget.
(* If necessary, may be removed by a 51% vote by voting members in attendance.)

Committee Member:

Qualifications:

1. Minimum clean time 6 months required. (* Clean time is to be recognized as stated in NAWS Bulletin #29. - see Pages 14- 15.)
2. Must have an NA sponsor and a NA home group.
3. Must have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
4. Must have the willingness to serve.
5. Must be off all drug replacement therapies.

Responsibilities:

1. Selects members of the fellowship to share their experience, strength and hope of NA.
2. Brings meetings into Hospitals and Institution carrying the NA Message of Recovery “that an addict, any addict can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use and find a new way of life.”
3. Insure that the meeting starts and ends on time.
4. Report any problem with the facility to the Chairperson so it can be included in the regular report to the H&I subcommittee.
5. Must be brought into facility by an experienced member to be properly trained on giving an H&I presentation.
6. Must read all material given in the Orientation Welcoming Packet and be familiar with meeting format.
7. To be familiar with the H&I subcommittee policy as well as the regulations of the facilities in which they serve.
8. In the event that they are unable to fulfill their commitment, contact the SJASC H&I Subcommittee Chair far enough in advance to permit the Chair to make other arrangements to cover their commitment.
9. Attends the H&I Subcommittee each month and gives an oral report of the ongoing activity at the facility. (If 2 consecutive H&I Subcommittee meetings are missed, the commitment is forfeited.)
10. If unable to attend a subcommittee meeting, the committee member is responsible for calling the chair and giving the monthly report over the phone.
(* If necessary, may be removed by a 51% vote by voting members in attendance.)

Guest Speaker:**Qualifications:**

1. Minimum clean time 6 months required. (* Clean time is to be recognized as stated in NAWS Bulletin #29. - see Pages 14- 15.)
2. Must have an NA sponsor and a NA home group.
3. Must have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
4. Must have the willingness to serve.
5. Must be off all drug replacement therapies.

Responsibilities:

1. Share his or her experience, strength and hope at the H&I meeting to carry a clear NA message of recovery.
2. To communicate in the language of recovery. H&I meeting/presentation provide the first exposure to recovery in NA for many addicts, so it is imperative we carry a clear and consistent message of Narcotics Anonymous recovery and project a positive image of our fellowship.

General Information

1. All H&I presentation commitments will be held by a committee member for 1 calendar year, February to January.
2. H&I Subcommittee have committee members chair H&I presentation meetings in institution and hospitals.
3. H&I presentations in hospitals/institutions are closed to **ALL** outside attendance.
3. The H&I committee is responsible to assure that if a new institution/hospital commitment is started, there be support available to maintain the presentation.
5. H&I sub-committee will make available in the SJASC monthly minutes all open H&I commitments. The following information should be included: name/location of the facility, the day of the week, week of the commitment, time of the meeting, date it becomes available, and any requirements for the commitment.
6. Literature for H&I subcommittee presentations will be donated by the SJASC. (We currently have a monthly budget of \$550.00 allotted for NA approved literature to bring into facilities to further carry our primary purpose to the still sick and suffering addict.)
7. H&I Subcommittee is required to make use of all its allotted funds each month. We do not have the ability to carry funds forward to future months.
8. Literature for the H&I subcommittee presentations will be distributed at the monthly H&I subcommittee meeting.
9. The H&I Subcommittee may use the Greater Philadelphia Regional Service office to purchase their own monthly allowance of literature as stated above.
10. Specific holidays that fall on the third Sunday of the month, **Easter** (April), **Mother's Day** (May), and **Father's Day** (June), H&I will hold the subcommittee meeting the fourth Sunday of that month.
11. Excessive use of profanity or the use of vulgar stories in your sharing is strongly discouraged by the H&I subcommittee.

Commitment to the Language of Recovery

Commitment to the language of recovery in our meetings is also an important issue. In order to remain consistent with our traditions and to insure that the message we carry is clear, consistent message of recovery in NA; we refer to ourselves simply as "addicts", not "drug addicts", not addicts and alcoholics", not "junkies", not "dope fiends" just ADDICTS. We refer to our time in the program as "clean", "clean time", or "recovery"; not "sobriety", not "clean and sober"; just CLEAN, CLEAN TIME AND RECOVER. A mixed message is a confusing message. If this is something that you feel you can not do, then maybe you are not suited for H & I service in Narcotics Anonymous.

Yearly Reallocation of H & I Sub-Committee Commitments

1. All commitments are reallocated each January. This is done for two reasons
 - A. So those committee Members don't become too comfortable with facilities/staff in a negative way.
 - B. Open up commitments for new addicts willing to be in service.
2. Each commitment is a yearly commitment. The commitment will start in February and end in January.
3. The following is the order in which all commitments are reallocated:
 - A. Current subcommittee members who have had a commitment and successfully filled it through the years.
 - B. New member to H&I.
 - C. Returning members of H&I, who at one time had a commitment, but who are not currently serving the subcommittee.
4. Of all three groups listed above, addicts with the most clean time have first choice of commitments.
5. If a committee member has a commitment for 6 months or less, they are allowed to keep that current commitment. They must be present at yearly reallocation or contact H&I Chair in order to keep commitment.

South Jersey Agenda for H&I Subcommittee Meeting

1. Moment of silence for the still-suffering addict.
2. Opening prayer.
3. Read traditions / readings.
4. Take attendance / committee members give reports.
5. Read and approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
6. Report of budget expenditures, including literature disbursements.
7. Old business.
8. Elect officers. (if appropriate)
9. New business.
10. Closing prayer.

H&I Learning Day / Workshop

1. The purpose of an H&I learning day is to educate the members of the fellowship about Hospitals & Institutions work. Learning days are one way to prepare the NA member to carry the message to addicts who do not have full access to regular NA meetings. We have learning days so that we may benefit from the collective experience of other NA members.
2. Learning day are held to better educate NA members who will gain a better understanding of H&I procedures. It is also a forum to keep H&I members informed of updated H&I materials, projects, and to generate interest in H&I work other than panel presentations.
3. Learning days provide our new members the opportunity to understand H&I work as a vital and positive part of their recovery. H&I is where many members found hope and usefulness in the fellowship. At these types of events, we have the opportunity to pass that hope on to others.
4. It is the responsibility of the SJ Area H&I Subcommittee to conduct at least one learning day/workshop per year to educate members about H&I.
5. When scheduling a learning day/workshop be sure that the function is not scheduled at the same time as other local events, so that as many member of the local fellowship as possible can take part.
6. When conducting a workshop, a flyer should be created to inform the local fellowship and other H&I subcommittees outside of the area/region.
7. Choose qualified members to speak and/or to lead discussions and question and answer sessions.
8. Consult "Hospitals and Instutions: Handbook" pages 68-69 for list of discussion topics

H & I Annual Learning Day / Workshop Agenda

1. Start the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.
2. Read the Twelve Traditions.
3. Chairperson's opening remarks.
 - a. Topics to be discussed.
 - b. Local concerns of the H&I subcommittee.
 - c. Introduce speakers.
4. Question and answer session, or after each topic.
5. Close with the third step prayer.

Depending on the time allowed or the number of topics to be covered, you may wish to break the day into several sections.

H & I MEETING PRESENTATION FORMAT

The following is a general format for an H & I meeting presentation. It is presented here for those seeking some direction. **REMEMBER IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN AN ATMOSPHERE OF RECOVERY.**

- A. Introduce yourself and welcome everyone to the meeting.
- B. Have a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.
- C. Invite all attending to give their first names.
- D. Briefly explain that this is a hospitals and institutions presentation. Because resident's access to outside meeting is limited, the area service H & I subcommittee brings this special meeting here.
- E. At this time would someone read "Who Is An Addict", "What Is The Narcotics Anonymous Program", "How It Works", and "Why Are We Here".
- F. **READ:** "After the speakers have finished, there will be time for any questions. We ask that there is no cross-discussion while anyone is sharing and that you please hold your questions until the end of the meeting."

READ: "In a speaker meeting, one or more N.A. members share their experience, strength and hope. That tends to lay out some basic symptoms and characteristics of the disease and shows how N.A. has brought about recovery. A narrative of events accomplishes little, but sharing of feelings, self-image, turning points, new awarenesses, etc. carries a powerful message of recovery and the fact that our disease is progressive, incurable, and fatal."

- G. Introduce speaker.
- H. Make any N.A. announcements that are pertinent (i.e. there is literature available speakers are available to talk after the presentation).
- I. **SUGGESTIONS:**
 - 1. Avoid people places and things.
 - 2. Come early and stay late.
 - 3. Don't use and go to a meeting.
 - 4. Get and use a sponsor.
 - 5. Get a home group.
 - 6. Keep coming back it works.
 - 7. 90 meetings in 90 days.
 - 8. Use the phone.
- J. **CLOSE WITH THE SERENITY PRAYER.**

Information on Starting New Commitments in New Facilities or Existing Facilities.

1. The initial approach to start a new H & I meeting/presentation should be made through an H&I subcommittee. Don't ever act alone.
2. H&I meeting/presentations are held in facilities where addicts do not have full access to regular Narcotics Anonymous meetings.
3. When the local members of groups see the need for an H&I presentation at a facility, the local H&I subcommittee should be contacted. H&I panels are a function of the H&I subcommittee. Individuals should not take it upon themselves to do H&I work in facilities that South Jersey Area H&I Committee don't serve.
4. One important factor is the degree to which the residents are restricted from outside meetings. Addicts who have full access to regular NA meetings usually do not require H&I services. If they are completely restricted from outside meeting attendance they should be high on the priority list.
5. Another factor is the length of time that a facility has been waiting for the subcommittee to bring in an H&I meeting/presentation.
6. After considering these and other factors, the decision is up to the subcommittee.
7. The Subcommittee should not make a commitment to start an H&I meeting until it is capable of being responsible to that commitment.
8. If the subcommittee sees the need for H&I in a facility that isn't currently being served, the H&I Chairperson should send out letters to facilities introducing them to NA and offering to hold and an H&I meeting / presentation in their facility. It is advisable to have it printed on letterhead stationery and be a typewritten formal letter, with examples of NA literature enclosed. (Have Secretary keep copies on file of all letters sent.)
9. The next step is to find out who is the appropriate administrative person to contact. All calls or letters of inquiry should be addressed to that person.
10. If facility is interested in an H&I meeting/presentation, you should then schedule and interview before the first H&I presentation, to make arrangements and in person the proper procedures and expectations.
11. Once these steps have been taken, and the H&I meeting/presentation is being held regularly in the facility, it is important to keep an open channel of communication between the facilities and South Jersey Area H&I Subcommittee.
12. Make sure the group is ready for the responsibility. Don't be afraid to say "No, we're just not able to support a meeting in your facility at this time." Don't take on additional commitments until we are ready.

13. If you find that you have over-committed yourselves, go to the facility and let them know that you need to discontinue the meeting for a while. They will respect you more for letting them know face to face than if you just stop showing up.
14. When a facility approaches the H&I subcommittee and asks us to bring an H&I presentation into their facility, it needs to be brought before the H&I subcommittee, discussed, and then voted on. The group conscious of the subcommittee members will make the right decision.

Commitments South Jersey Area H & I Subcommittee Currently Serves

Lakeland Campus	- Sunday at	7:30 PM	-Weekly
Lakeland MICA Unit	- Sunday at	10:30 AM	- Weekly
	- Sunday at	7:30 PM	- Weekly
	- Tuesday at	8:00 PM	- Weekly
	- Saturday at	7:30 PM	- Weekly
JFK Detox	- Thursday at	6:30 PM	- Weekly
Maryville Men's Unit	- Monday at	8:00 PM	- Weekly
	- Wednesday at	8:00 PM	- Weekly
	- Friday at	8:00 PM	- Weekly
Maryville Woman's Unit	- Sunday at	8:00PM	-Weekly
	- Thursday at	6:00PM	-Weekly
Maryville Outpatient	- Thursday at	10:30 AM	- Bi-Weekly
Beacon Behavioral Health	- Thursday at	2:00 PM	- Bi-Weekly
Ancora	- Friday at	7:30 PM	- Weekly



WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BULLETIN #29

Regarding Methadone and Other Drug Replacement Programs

This bulletin was written by the World Service Board of Trustees in 1996. It represents the views of the board at the time of writing.

Not all of us come to our first NA meeting drug free. Some of us were uncertain about whether recovery was possible for us and initially came to meetings while still using.

Others came to their first meetings on drug replacement programs such as methadone and found it frightening to consider becoming abstinent.

One of the first things we heard was that NA is a program of complete abstinence and "The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using." Some of us, upon hearing these statements, may have felt that we were not welcome at NA meetings until we were clean. But NA members reassured us that this was not the case and we were encouraged to "keep coming back." We were told that through listening to the experience, strength, and hope of other recovering addicts that we too could find freedom from active addiction if we did what they did.

Many of our members, however, have expressed concern about individuals on drug replacement programs. Questions come up regarding such individuals' membership status, ability to share at meetings, lead meetings, or become trusted servants on any level. "Are these members clean?" they ask. "Can one really be a 'member' and still be using?"

Perhaps by answering the most important question first—the issue of membership—we can establish a context by which to approach this issue. Tradition Three says that the only requirement for NA membership is a desire to stop using. There are no exceptions to this. Desire itself establishes membership; nothing else matters, not even abstinence. It is up to the individual, no one else, to determine membership. Therefore, someone who is using and who has a desire to stop using, can be a member of NA.

Members on drug replacement programs such as methadone are encouraged to attend NA meetings. But, this raises the question: "Does NA have the right to limit member's participation in meetings?" We believe so. While some groups choose to allow such members to share, it is also a common practice for NA groups to encourage these members (or any other addict who is still using), to participate only by listening and by talking with members after the meeting or during the break. This is not meant to alienate or embarrass; this is meant only to preserve an atmosphere of recovery in our meetings.

Our Fifth Tradition defines our groups' purpose: to carry the message that any addict can stop using and find a new way to live. We carry that message at our recovery meetings, where those who have some experience with NA recovery can share about it, and those who need to hear about NA recovery can listen. When an individual under the influence of a drug attempts to speak on recovery in Narcotics Anonymous, it is our experience that a mixed, or confused message may be given to a newcomer (or any member, for that matter) for this reason, many groups believe it is inappropriate for these members to share at meetings of Narcotics Anonymous.

It may be argued that a group's autonomy, as described in our Fourth Tradition, allows them to decide who may share at their meetings. However, while this is true, we believe that group autonomy does not justify allowing someone who is using to lead a meeting, be a speaker, or serve as a trusted servant. Group autonomy stands only until it affects other groups or NA as a whole. We believe it affects other groups and NA as a whole when we allow members who are not clean to be a speaker, chair a meeting, or be a trusted servant for NA.

Many groups have developed guidelines to ensure that an atmosphere of recovery is maintained in their meetings. The following points are usually included:

- Suggesting that those who have used any drug within the last twenty-four hours refrain from sharing, but encouraging them to get together with members during the break or after the meeting.
- Abiding by our fellowships suggested clean time requirements for service positions.
- Seeking meeting leaders, chairpersons, or speakers who help further our primary purpose of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.

We make a distinction between drugs used by drug replacement programs and other prescribed drugs because such drugs are prescribed specifically as addiction treatment. Our program approaches recovery from addiction through abstinence, cautioning against the substitution of one drug for another. That's our program; it's what we offer the addict who still suffers. However, we have absolutely no opinion on methadone maintenance or any other program aimed at treating addiction. Our only purpose in addressing drug replacement and its use by our members is to define abstinence for ourselves.

Our fellowship must be mindful of what kind of message we are carrying if a still-using addict leads a meeting, or becomes a trusted servant. We believe that under these circumstances we would not be carrying the Narcotics Anonymous message of recovery. Permissiveness in this area is not consistent with our traditions. We believe our position on this issue reinforces our recovery, protects our meetings, and supports addicts in striving for total abstinence.

Note: This bulletin addresses the use of methadone maintenance as a drug replacement strategy. It is not addressing the medicinal use of methadone as a pain killer. We encourage those who have concerns about the use of methadone in pain management to refer to Narcotics Anonymous pamphlet, "In Times of Illness".

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