

Sacramento Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous  
 Area Service Committee Meeting Minutes  
 George Sim Community Center  
 6207 Logan Street, Sacramento, CA  
 Wednesday, April 4, 2007

- I. Call to Order at 7pm by Pam T.
- II. Prayers & Principles
  - A. Serenity Prayer
  - B. 12 Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous
  - C. 12 Concepts for NA Service
  - D. NA Service Prayer
- III. General Session
  - A. Welcome New GSRs
    - i. New GSRs: Kelly, Todd, Jennifer and Christina
  - B. Roll Call/GSR Reports/Share Home Group Ideals
    - i. 25 of 30 groups in attendance
    - ii. 2 new groups joined
  - C. Review/Approve Minutes from 3/21/07
  - D. Admin Reports
    - i. Archivist will maintain copies of all group update forms, reports, and any relevant documents.
    - ii. RCM reports the upcoming NCCRNA
    - iii. Jr. RCM will carry H&I donations to ARANA H&I. Asking for input re: what kind of information GSRs would like to have in RCM reports.
    - iv. Parliamentarian report: Great job last month discussing consensus decision making. Looking forward to what will come from that. Four new groups participated in the new GSR orientations.
- IV. Deliberation Session
  - A. Poster Session (See "Poster Session Notes" at end of minutes)

Top Three Topics for Discussion Tonight

- Promote activities, xxxx (4)
- Phone lines, xxxxxxx (7)
- Schedules, xxxxx (5)
- Open communications, xxxxx (5)
- Shared Services with ARANA, xxxxx (5)
- Educating our fellowship,
- Embracing the recovery houses, x (1)

Member confused about what the problem is. Why are we concerned about shared services? Aren't we all in the same Fellowship? Serving the newcomer?

Where do we stand on shared services? Where does ARANA stand on shared services? What is best for the addict who still suffers?

We're concerned about financial responsibility. Are we expecting ARANA to cover the cost for shared services? We are currently covered on phone line, schedule, etc. Let's consider maybe expanding the schedule. Need to dialogue with ARANA re: these issues.

We need to stand on our own at some point. We can't wait for ARANA to accept us, we need to be proactive and start communicating, go to their ASC and liaison with them, build consensus. We contribute to ARANA financially and in human resources in past and currently.

Need to make a proposal to ask ARANA to keep us on schedule and phonenumber and offer to pay our share of costs. Ask to add our name to the front of their schedule as well. This will begin a cooperative movement. Most ARANA GSRs want this new area to be a success.

How are we going to do H&I? How about the H&I can money? What about PI? How long before we stand on our own two feet?

Newcomer is the most important person in the meeting. Would it be a good idea to form a subcommittee to investigate/resolve this specific issue? Especially as it involves how to communicate with ARANA.

Vision for the phone line is a live body on the other end of the line.

#### V. Decision Session to Consider Proposals

Proposal I. Propose to have a representative of SacFNA go to the ARANA ASC on 4/13/07 and ask if they are willing to keep our meetings in their area schedule and on their Phonenumber and that we offer to pay our pro-rated share of these services. We would also ask that these schedules have both names on the schedule.

Discuss:

- We should pay our portion of cost, not make demands. We need to establish dialogue first.
- ARANA is establishing a work group to address communication issues.

**Proposal I accepted.**

#### VI. Update from the Treasurer

\$ 320.74	7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition from Groups
31.25	ASC 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition
-31.00	paid to print ASC packets
1258.91	Literature sales tonight

#### VII. Close with Serenity Prayer

## Poster Session Notes

### 1. How can we attract the still suffering addict to our meetings?

#### What is our vision for carrying our message to addicts in institutions?

- ARANA H&I has a well established vehicle for this – we can contribute bodies & finances to help them meet their goals.
- Make sure we bring the NA message to our youth.
- Institutions should get mail from us or meeting and services.
- Sharing services with ARANA.
- Let's have our own H&I but coordinate with ARANA so we don't overlap and we can reach more addicts in institutions.

#### What is our vision for Phonelines?

- Create a conference line connecting addicts from other cities.
- Have our own phone line in the future – but for now have it roll over to ARANA.
- If they are not willing to share, then instead of a live addict have the phonenumber roll to a recording.
- This should be a Help Hotline.
- Don't ever roll to a recording. More humans!!!
- Support ARANA with people & money for this service.
- Phonenumber volunteers should have meeting schedules from all areas service meetings to be given out when asked about meeting days.

#### What is our vision for the Schedule?

Schedule Possibility A:  
Just groups served by our ASC.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Easy	Incomplete
Cost	Confusing
Manageable in size.	All meetings in a general area may not be listed – incomplete.
Putting our dances in the schedules.	Having a shop to pick up NA service.
We have all the information here.	Not having a complete meeting schedule.
Have schedule for this area with ARANA attached.	
We can get ARANA schedules at their area service meeting.	
Promotes unity and support to groups in SacFNA.	

Schedule Possibility B:  
Joint schedule with ARANA.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Will have all meeting times available at all meetings.	ARANA may not want to do this.
Simple and keeps all addicts in mind.	ARANA may not want to do this.
Makes it easier for newcomers to find the meeting.	
Keeps it simple.	
Easier for the newcomer to find all meetings in their area.	
Complete/Unity.	

Schedule Possibility C:  
“Greater Sacramento” schedule including meetings in the Foothills and surrounding areas.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Promotes Unity	Cost
Useful for the addict	Coordination could be difficult.
Could do this quarterly	Start up costs.
Could be done by Region and no cost to us.	Who will maintain it?
Could be done by Region and no cost to us.	
Make a more solid stapled booklet that is more durable with a “Few” surrounding areas.	
Roadtrip!!	
Could we make & sell to other areas? (free to newcomers, \$1 if you have it)	
Bigger addict exchange.	
Easiest for the newcomer & the phonenumber.	

**2. What needs or challenges do our members and groups face? What services could our ASC develop to address them?**

Need/Challenge	Service
Keeping “old-timers” active in meetings	
Disconnection with worldwide fellowship	Improved communication with regional and world services
Keep areas connected by common bond – I’ve hear a lot of neg. talk from ARANA that they want us to be totally separate with no shared services and it makes me feel like an unwanted step child.	
“Home Group” mentality to feed services	Stress the importance of the home groups.
Members who claim a meeting as their home	Workshop to motivate willingness to be of

group but rarely show up or are unwilling to take service positions	service
Groups in need of support	Area invasion group – like outreach to support meeting
	Groups committed to educating their trusted servants
Need more Spanish speaking meetings to meet growth	Get connected with people that know how to go about starting a meeting
To keep addict coming back	Setting up the group meeting
Court card/recovery house folks flooding downtown meetings!	Work w/probation/parole/rec houses to make newcomer meeting a mandatory 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting
Activities, dances, unity days, NY event, workshops	Activities committee

### **3. Should our services be funded solely through donations or should we conduct fundraisers?**

- Fundraisers – get people involved
- Fundraisers
- Fundraisers can promote unity
  - Penny a day pins
  - Banquet speaker meetings
- Fundraisers -- helps promote unity
- Let's keep it simple!

#### **Part A: What sorts of social activities promote recovery, unity, and a sense of belonging without draining valuable human and financial resources?**

- Campouts
- Woman's campout
- Unity day
- Men's campout
- Monthly activity: boating, movie, music, miniature golf
- Monthly hiking meeting
- Dances: once a month w/different themes – 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, etc
- Spag Feed
- Pancake Breakfast
- H & I fundraiser – educational & produces commitment
- Daytrips to Leesville

#### **Part B: Are these activities in line with our primary purpose or are they more about entertaining addicts in recovery? Does it matter?**

- Both, yes it matters
- Both, it brings unity
- Too big/elaborate can distract us -- \$, property, prestige
- Fundraising builds unity – service understanding and help seed events! All good
- More to recovery than meetings, these activities promote fellowship and fun in NA

### **4. How can we make NA's message more widely known in the larger community?**

Making literature available

- Aggressive PR committee
- Use recycled paper, \$ less (more paper)

- Increase awareness in groups, H & I, community that pamphlets are available online
- Dare to put an ad out in the streets like bus stop or billboards. That's where the drugs + users are
- Put NA meeting schedules or stickers w/ phone # @ light rail & bus stops & Walmarts

#### Relations with recovery houses, parole/probation, drug court

- More meetings w/ a variety of times
- Get people who want to be involved! Sponsor to open doors for those still suffering
- More Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Aggressive interaction with community services
- Committee formed specifically to visit recovery houses for q&a and NA orientation
- Bring meetings into the residential treatment facilities or book studies to help newcomers understand sponsorship & steps (newcomers often confused about the process of getting sponsor)
- Tell law enforcement agencies about NA & how it changes lives
- Speak in high schools to those yet potentials or already in active addiction

#### **Legitimate fears/paranoid fantasies**

- Don't stifle by time constraints
- SacFNA is out to ruin ARANA
- ARANA is out to ruin SacFNA
- By attraction, we may grow too large – back up plan for limitation number and new split off
- SacFNA will be too small to provide dances, speaker meetings, fundraisers, etc.
- Change is uncomfortable
- Oh No!!! What will others say about me or my home group

