

1 THE FACILITATOR: If you have any questions  
2 when this stuff comes up, just raise your hand.  
3 We'll deal with that as it comes up.

4 The first item is on the background. And the  
5 purpose of the desired outcome of this workshop is  
6 we hope that everyone is going to understand the  
7 proposals regarding the GSU and LSU. GSU is a  
8 group support unit and LSU is local services unit.

9 The second is to provide input and feedback to  
10 help -- This is a work in process. This is not a  
11 completed package. So, just know that, you know,  
12 there's input that's being gathered on these  
13 proposals and what the eventual thing is it's going  
14 to be is still up in the air at this point.

15 The third is to hear how these ideas are going  
16 to work in our local communities in this region.  
17 We are going to try to figure out on these  
18 proposals how will it work here.

19 Can we implement these things here?

20 Then the last item is to give April something

1 to do.

2 Where this project comes from is based on --  
3 It has been determined that the challenges in the  
4 service system now are ineffective communications.  
5 We don't get -- necessarily get information from  
6 World to the groups very well. Most of us involved  
7 can vouch for that.

8 Insufficient resources. The money is not  
9 there to fill all of the projects we really want to  
10 do. Frustrated trusted servants and an atmosphere  
11 of recovery in service meetings. I know from my  
12 area in South Broward, we just completed our  
13 inventory process. And those were the first two  
14 items that were raised in our inventory that the  
15 groups as a whole and the members in our area  
16 identified those issues as problems in South  
17 Broward. And so, I'm sure, you know, we are --  
18 Things aren't different really anywhere, that these  
19 are the same problems that we all face in service.  
20 People just get frustrated with the system. And

1 then when they're in the service meeting, their  
2 attitude sucks. People screaming, yelling, the  
3 agendas and all this stuff. Untrained trusted  
4 servants.

5 The first question I want to raise is, Do we  
6 agree that these are our current challenges? Do we  
7 feel that there's any additional items that are  
8 issues with our current -- which would be our --  
9 basically our areas service structure?

10 PARTICIPANT: Is this going to address  
11 training of new group service members, because  
12 that's a major issue. If we get new people in and  
13 there is no -- something for them to look at to  
14 find out what's to do in it?

15 THE FACILITATOR: Part of the proposal in the  
16 group support unit is for that. The whole purpose  
17 of that is to provide group support. If groups are  
18 having issues and this is one of the issues that we  
19 don't have trained secretaries in our home groups.  
20 All right. This would be an issue that can get

1 addressed in that unit. All right. And, you know,  
2 that's how we would address the issue. There are  
3 people that feel that there's a problem with our  
4 current system. We go to area of service and we  
5 don't address concerns. We address motions. It's  
6 hard.

7 I have a motion to help my secretary be a good  
8 secretary at the home group. There is no motion  
9 that you can make for that. Therefore, those  
10 problems -- Those types of problems don't get  
11 addressed very well in our current system. And  
12 you'll see that if you're on any, you know -- hear  
13 any of the discussions on the discussion board and  
14 stuff like that, they have addressed those issues  
15 and you'll see it actually in the project  
16 information. The current system works for some,  
17 but not for many others.

18 It was originally started in the World Service  
19 Conference. It was a four-year project. From what  
20 I understand, Frank or Tom maybe can address -- If

1 this is the results of whatever we are doing, it's  
2 meant to be implemented or addressed in the 2012  
3 CAR.

4 So, whatever we are doing now, we are going to  
5 be -- Whatever comes out of this, the intent is in  
6 2012, the next World Service Conference, we're  
7 going to get something to vote on. We are just  
8 talking like a year and a half away at this point.  
9 And the project was then re-affirmed at this last  
10 World Service Conference.

11 RD: What we'll probably see is a motion to  
12 revise the Guide to Local Services. There will be  
13 a draft that will come out as a result of these  
14 workshops, okay. That will probably be what we are  
15 going to vote on as a -- at your group, in your  
16 home group. You'll see there will be other motions  
17 from the board like in a regular CAR about other  
18 things. But as far as what this is, okay, there  
19 will be a document that will -- Because all of  
20 these things that they're proposing here in these

1 diagrams that we look at in these outlines, right,  
2 these are different diagrams and outlines than the  
3 ones that you see in the Guide to Local Services.

4 So, what will happen is there will be new  
5 drafts. There will be like an approval draft.  
6 Like they may come out with a rough draft, right,  
7 and look for input, okay, from the delegates to  
8 workshop. In other words, what they're going to do  
9 is do this and then the cutoff is in December,  
10 right. And then they'll probably be like a 90-day  
11 review and input period on a draft for the Guide to  
12 Local Services. And then the approval draft will  
13 come out, like, with the CAR, you know. Something  
14 like that is probably what we are going to see  
15 happen.

16 THE FACILITATOR: Just so everyone knows, the  
17 Guide to Local Service is what currently identifies  
18 like what area service does and regional service.

19 PARTICIPANT: Kind of what I hear that might  
20 have been different than what I thought was we will

1 probably not be asked to change the service  
2 structure, but to change the document that we  
3 utilized -- some areas and regions utilize as their  
4 service template. That's interesting. I guess I  
5 haven't even thought about it that way.

6 THE FACILITATOR: Just so at this point, it's  
7 not been addressed by World. They have not  
8 answered the question, how is this -- What's going  
9 to happen with the old system. They have not Gone  
10 out and stated that definitively, at this point,  
11 that this is going to replace what we currently  
12 have. They could say this is going to be more  
13 options of what we currently have. It's possible,  
14 not likely, okay. But it is possible still at this  
15 point because they have not come out and said one  
16 way or the other what's going to happen.

17 All right. Again, the reason for this project  
18 is our current system was created in the '70s.  
19 Came out with the NA Tree in '76 that gave us the  
20 current structure of group, area, region, World.

1 And today, NA is totally different. We have 58,000  
2 meetings in 130 countries and it's just a different  
3 NA than what it was back then. And some feel that  
4 we need a structure that matches the new reality of  
5 what we have.

6 PARTICIPANT: From what I understand, our  
7 system was basically modeled off of the AA model to  
8 a certain extent.

9 THE FACILITATOR: I don't -- I don't think it  
10 was. It was a little bit -- We have a different  
11 system than AA did.

12 PARTICIPANT: They basically have a similar  
13 structure as far as service bodies are concerned.  
14 Their service bodies are in a similar line of  
15 structure. Their numbers equaled what ours do now  
16 when we took it from them. Their numbers are now  
17 double ours. They continue to use the same  
18 structure. I'm not sure that saying that the  
19 structure is no longer available for this amount of  
20 size is appropriate. The difference in some of

1 their structure is that they have more group  
2 representation at the regional, or call it regional  
3 level, rather than trying to describe theirs, at  
4 that level. That's one of the major differences,  
5 is that it isn't just a delegated processes. They  
6 expect a very large room full of people making a  
7 decision. If we're saying that our system is now  
8 outdated because we grabbed something back then for  
9 the size that we are, it doesn't make any sense.

10 THE FACILITATOR: All right. Just so everyone  
11 does know, the system that we have today is already  
12 different than the system we had in the '70s. The  
13 '70s systems had -- at World Service totally  
14 changed. That was changed in the '90s, where we  
15 changed the World Service system, used to have a  
16 board of trustees, a WSO and a World Service  
17 Conference as separate entities.

18 Let's talk about NAWS restructured. It was  
19 late '80s, '90s, whatever it was. The current  
20 structure was designed before the 12 concepts were

1 adopted in 1992 and the hope for this project is  
2 that the system is going to be more closely  
3 embodying the principles of the 12 concepts.

4 PARTICIPANT: Some of those would also have to  
5 change.

6 THE FACILITATOR: The concepts will not  
7 change.

8 PARTICIPANT: The proposals here will make  
9 changes.

10 THE FACILITATOR: I don't think they're  
11 changing the 12 concepts. No. That's just how the  
12 concepts play to the system.

13 All right. There are four elements that  
14 they're coming out with the service system, the  
15 structure, process, people and resources. What we  
16 have now is only one part of that system. There's  
17 going to be three additional parts that are added  
18 to this. All right. So, what we're dealing with  
19 now is still only a portion of whatever the final  
20 project is going to look like. Let me give you an

1 example of it.

2 This question was raised on the service system  
3 discussion board: How in this process literature  
4 get distributed, okay, to the groups? We'll deal  
5 with that. I will leave that for right now. We'll  
6 discuss that with the two different options for the  
7 group and the local service unit. But just know  
8 that this -- What we have now is one of the four  
9 elements of the system. And we're going to quit  
10 the rest of this.

11 What the time line is as of right now. It's  
12 right now, the summer and fall, we have the first  
13 discussions and the workshops, like we're having  
14 now. The world workshops were coming up from now  
15 until the end of October, including the one in  
16 Orlando. After that, right now, they're supposed  
17 to be receiving input. There's a deadline of  
18 December 31st of this year for the input on this  
19 section. Then they'll come out in early 2011,  
20 revise and release the proposals. The end of 2011,

1 they'll prepare for the WSC. That's as it stands  
2 right now. I would imagine might be subject to  
3 revision also. But this is their plan for right  
4 now.

5 Now, we are going to go into the overview of  
6 the group support and local services unit. And  
7 we're going to try to go through this quickly  
8 because it's all going to be contained in the  
9 handouts that will give more detail. This, again,  
10 talks about the challenges that they addressed in  
11 our local service now. The outcomes that they are  
12 looking for. They want to increase the amount of  
13 services that we can provide, make service a more  
14 rewarding process, increase unity throughout NA and  
15 improve the reputation of NA as a viable program of  
16 recovery.

17 All right. We are going to focus local units.  
18 Right now, our current ASCs are tasked with group  
19 support and local service delivery. What we do now  
20 is every service does it all. The new system is

1 going to break those two apart. One is going to be  
2 totally devoted to -- the GSU is totally devoted to  
3 group support. No literature gets distributed, no  
4 nothing. All it is is the groups get-together in a  
5 geographic -- in a defined geographic area. And  
6 they discuss issues with their groups and any  
7 problems. It's also where training will take  
8 place. That's the whole purpose of the group  
9 support unit. There will then be the local service  
10 unit, which is, again, a geographic entity, defined  
11 geographic boundary by either town and county, or  
12 some other defined geographic body. And that's  
13 where all the subcommittees, where we will be  
14 working from.

15 PARTICIPANT: Who is going to define them?  
16 How are they going to be defined?

17 THE FACILITATOR: It's not defined.

18 Again, best guess is Broward County, okay.  
19 Looking basically at southeast Broward, northeast  
20 Broward, northwest Broward, southwest Broward.

1 Four group support units with Broward County being  
2 the local service unit, where all subcommittees are  
3 located. One H&I committee for all Broward County.  
4 One PR committee for Broward County. One  
5 activities committee for Broward County.

6 PARTICIPANT: One convention committee for  
7 Broward County.

8 THE FACILITATOR: That's what it talks about  
9 with the group support unit is devoted entirely to  
10 provide support to local groups. Local service  
11 unit devoted entirely to providing local services.

12 Linda, Matt, David.

13 PARTICIPANT: I understand what you're saying.  
14 GSU is just supporting the groups. Why do we need  
15 so many? Why do we need four separate ones? Why  
16 can't you just have two in Broward County? Why  
17 would you need northeast, southwest?

18 THE FACILITATOR: They're meant to be very  
19 localized. Hollywood have one, Plantation have  
20 one, whatever, or Fort Lauderdale have one, North

1     Lauderdale have one. I think that's the intention.  
2     I mean, again, we'll deal with it specifically when  
3     we redo the sections. Just for now, it's just a  
4     general overview. We'll go into the specifics as  
5     we have it when we go into the reading of the  
6     material.

7           PARTICIPANT: I want clarification because I  
8     may have it completely wrong. In the proposals,  
9     the World Service talks about the standing  
10    committees, one in Broward County. Some of these  
11    discussed eliminating standing committees and being  
12    activity based as the need arises.

13          THE FACILITATOR: You're correct. And when I  
14    say that's in the next couple of slides, stuff like  
15    that, you're just trying -- sort of H&I will be  
16    done in a different way, but still H&I.

17          PARTICIPANT: I live on the region boarder.  
18    If I go one way, it's South Florida; if I go the  
19    other way, it's the Florida region. Now, like how  
20    would this affect, like, PR and public information,

1 like the local service unit just in Palm Beach  
2 County?

3 THE FACILITATOR: The intention of the  
4 proposal is going to be that Palm Beach County  
5 would be one LSU. You would be a GSU in Boca or  
6 Delray or whatever, but you would be part of the  
7 local service unit that you would be part of would  
8 be the Palm Beach County local service unit. And  
9 all local service units would be a part of the  
10 Florida region. I'm going to address that as our  
11 last workshop to be -- that regions would be  
12 state-wide.

13 PARTICIPANT: So, we just have the Florida  
14 region?

15 THE FACILITATOR: Just the Florida region with  
16 all these local service units as part of that.

17 PARTICIPANT: Could be the South Florida  
18 region.

19 THE FACILITATOR: The name is unimportant, but  
20 it would cover the State of Florida.

1           PARTICIPANT: And those who are given one  
2           county, being one LSU or if you go over to the West  
3           Coast now, an LSU would cover Lee, Collier and  
4           Hendry Counties. Three counties would be one LSU.  
5           Here, there's bigger counties, they have more --  
6           Over there, geographically, we're ten times bigger  
7           than you are over here. But people-wise and  
8           commitment to something smaller, they would break  
9           it down that way.

10          PARTICIPANT: You're saying it's going to be  
11          based by geographic size rather than population?

12          PARTICIPANT: No. Population rather than  
13          geographic. Geographically, we're much bigger than  
14          over here.

15          PARTICIPANT: Isn't that one of the real  
16          Florida issues floating around that said, but not  
17          being said is how would the delineations be?

18          THE FACILITATOR: Right, that is one of the  
19          issues.

20          PARTICIPANT: That is a real floating around,

1 kind of out there, but is it county, is it  
2 geographical, is it merging?

3 THE FACILITATOR: This question here is part  
4 of the section that hasn't been drafted yet, that's  
5 part of the process. That hasn't come out from  
6 world yet, the process of doing all this stuff.  
7 So, again, we don't know when it's going to be yet  
8 because they have not come out with it yet.

9 PARTICIPANT: On the GSU level, when you are  
10 talking about how that's going to be a support unit  
11 and it's going to support the groups. Let's say  
12 the groups come up with a problem such as two  
13 members on Suboxone, are they allowed to go ahead  
14 and chair meetings? That might be a group issue  
15 that we would bring up. They go to the group  
16 support unit. Basically, it's a bunch of these  
17 inexperienced GSRs that are now answering that  
18 question because they don't have the experienced  
19 service members at their disposal.

20 THE FACILITATOR: That's not the intent of

1     what the proposal is. The proposal is that group  
2     support unit will include people with experience in  
3     it.

4             PARTICIPANT: How?

5             THE FACILITATOR: That's not been determined  
6     yet. That's part of the process. That's not there  
7     yet.

8             But again, the intent of what's in there is --

9             PARTICIPANT: It's not stated.

10            THE FACILITATOR: It's in there.

11            PARTICIPANT: We have the other part, we're  
12     basically five to seven groups, it stated, per GSU  
13     electing a delegate to go to the LSU, correct?

14            THE FACILITATOR: Again, this is where I  
15     don't want to go. Let's go through the basic --  
16     For no other purposes, right now, I just want to  
17     give you the background on it. When we get into  
18     the actual proposal, that's going to deal with all  
19     the specifics and probably a more appropriate time  
20     to deal with the specific issue when we read about

1 what the specific proposal is.

2 PARTICIPANT: We are going to deal with the  
3 cart and the horse is coming later?

4 THE FACILITATOR: Something like that.

5 PARTICIPANT: I think it's important for  
6 people to understand that this is a conceptual  
7 proposal. This is being proposed to all the  
8 regions in the entire world. This region and our  
9 state is not typical of what NA looks like in most  
10 of the rest of the world. Most of the rest of the  
11 world has very rural areas with groups that are  
12 maybe 50 or a 100 miles apart. They don't have 50  
13 meetings in a 5-square-mile area.

14 So, this is a conceptual idea of how to  
15 support those kind of groups maybe when our groups  
16 don't need that kind of support. So, that's one  
17 thing to keep in mind. This is World Services  
18 talking here, not the South Florida region or the  
19 Gold Coast area or Florida and South Florida. This  
20 is big, this is much bigger than our local backyard

1 and it's coming from World Services. They're  
2 dealing with every region around the world, not  
3 just our region. And we have to bear that in mind  
4 when we consider these things. It's important.  
5 Just food for thought.

6 PARTICIPANT: If we don't get through this  
7 initial part, we'll never get done.

8 THE FACILITATOR: The next one shows the  
9 existing structure. We have groups, area, the  
10 region. The proposed structure would then have --  
11 I got the two options. There are actually two  
12 options. There are two options that are going to  
13 be here, okay? We got a linear option and a  
14 two-track option.

15 And I'm just going to go through it right now,  
16 deal with the specifics right now, we read the  
17 whole material. Groups get together in the linear  
18 option, basically is how we do it now, a straight  
19 line. We have groups, they elect a representative;  
20 it goes to the GSU, which elects a representative;

1 goes to the LSU, which elects a representative that  
2 goes to the state, national level, although they're  
3 not going to be called representatives probably.  
4 They're probably going to try to call them  
5 delegates.

6 PARTICIPANT: Are you talking about group  
7 conscience now?

8 THE FACILITATOR: No. I'm just talking about  
9 the options right here. The second option is a  
10 two-track option. What's going happen is a  
11 group -- okay -- they're going to elect someone to  
12 go to the GSU and they're going to elect someone to  
13 go to the LSU, where the group now has to go to  
14 both of the units. For the most part, the  
15 two-track option is meant for rural. Okay?

16 If you're located in Texas where you have an  
17 LSU, which covers a 300 or 500 square mile area,  
18 it's probably best for them to let -- One month  
19 they'll go to the GSU, then one month they'll go to  
20 the LSU.

1       PARTICIPANT: This is in addition to the GSR  
2 position?

3       THE FACILITATOR: Under the two-track option,  
4 there would be two people, maybe the GSU person and  
5 LSU person or it could be the same person.

6       PARTICIPANT: It's hard enough to --

7       PARTICIPANT: As of right now, they might  
8 propose both of these, one for bigger areas, one  
9 for smaller areas.

10      THE FACILITATOR: Right now, both of these  
11 options are most likely going to be included in the  
12 final to give people choices. You have choices.  
13 You could do it this way or do it this way based on  
14 your circumstances in your local communities.

15      PARTICIPANT: If that is the case, why are  
16 they asking us any input of which one to choose?

17      THE FACILITATOR: They're asking us for which  
18 one to choose. Again, I can't answer as to why  
19 they do what they do.

20      PARTICIPANT: Sounds like they're asking us to

1 go a certain direction.

2 THE FACILITATOR: Very possibly. It could be.

3 Again, we talked about the group focusing of  
4 the GSU. And these we are going to address in the  
5 other proposal.

6 PARTICIPANT: Who made this Power Point?

7 THE FACILITATOR: This is what comes out from  
8 World. The one I'm doing now is a little bit  
9 different. I have taken out some of the slides and  
10 moved some things around. We're done with the  
11 slide show.

12 PARTICIPANT: Are you going to explain --

13 THE FACILITATOR: Just briefly -- more of an  
14 intent what to do, it is the purposes of all the  
15 units is to be, especially the LSU, is to be  
16 project-based and also consensus-based decision  
17 making.

18 PARTICIPANT: What does that mean? What does  
19 project-based --

20 THE FACILITATOR: Can you explain the

1 consensus-based and project-based how it's working  
2 at World, how it works, how they do it anyway.

3 PARTICIPANT: We asked them to provide that to  
4 us, they didn't give us anything.

5 THE FACILITATOR: I just mean the overview of  
6 the theory on how project-based systems work.

7 PARTICIPANT: Well, the Florida region has a  
8 project-based system, okay, which basically means  
9 they don't have any standing subcommittees at  
10 region anymore. Does everybody understand that?  
11 If they have an idea that they want to do a certain  
12 thing, then they will elect somebody from the pool.  
13 They have a resume pool, same way World Services  
14 does. You know, they have people that are -- have  
15 expressed willingness in a certain area of service.  
16 Like, say, everybody in here that is interested in  
17 public relations. They all filled out resumes and  
18 submitted it into a database.

19 And now, let's say, that the RCM decided  
20 tomorrow that they wanted to do something with the

1 buses, okay? Then what they would do is they would  
2 look at the resumes that the people in the region  
3 have turned in that have that area of expertise,  
4 let's say. Then they would contact those people  
5 and ask them if they had the willingness to  
6 undertake this project, to put up X amount of bus  
7 signs in the Florida region. And then that project  
8 would have a budget that would be decided by the  
9 RCMs. And once that project was finished, then it  
10 would no longer be necessary for that committee to  
11 meet anymore. Because once the project was  
12 finished, it would be done.

13 So, those people that volunteer like the  
14 service system proposals are put together by a  
15 service system work group that is basically the  
16 same thing that I just described. These are people  
17 that have turned in resumes into the world pool and  
18 expressed an interest in whatever interest they  
19 expressed an interest in. And people on that work  
20 group were selected by the world board to help them

1 with this project.

2       Once this project is over and the budget is  
3 finished, then there's no longer a reason for them  
4 to meet, okay. That's different than the way that  
5 we conduct business, okay. We conduct business in  
6 a committee where our committee meets. It's a  
7 standing committee. It meets every month or every  
8 other month. And at the beginning of a cycle that  
9 committee chair submits a budget, a proposed  
10 budget, and that budget is approved and that  
11 committee meets on a regular basis at an understood  
12 time. And whether there's items in a line item  
13 that get fulfilled or not, some things carry over  
14 to the next cycle or stay in place always. Then  
15 there's motions that they make to make decisions.

16       Now, in a project-based system, okay, there is  
17 no motions. The people that are part of a work  
18 group, they discuss everything. They don't ask for  
19 outside people to decide what they have come up  
20 with. In other words, these -- The service system

1 work group, whoever they are, put together these  
2 Power Points, and now, they have come up with this  
3 proposal. It's not a motion. This is what they're  
4 proposing to us. This is up on the table for us to  
5 discuss.

6 Now, a discussion is something where we invite  
7 everybody's input into the discussion. And  
8 usually, what will happen after you have a  
9 discussion and you've heard all of the ideas, most  
10 of us that are paying attention to the discussion  
11 will get an idea of which direction the people in  
12 the room are leaning. You know, when you have an  
13 idea of what direction the people are leaning, when  
14 it seems to be a little bit biased in one direction  
15 or the other, then the person facilitating the  
16 meeting will usually ask for a straw poll to give  
17 an idea of the direction that the body is leaning.  
18 and usually, what will happen is, is you'll have a  
19 real good idea of what and -- for lack of a better  
20 word, what the consensus of the people in the room

1 is. And usually, the consensus of the room will  
2 usually be whatever the straw poll was. Now, the  
3 idea behind consensus-based decision-making is like  
4 see at the conference. What we do is we discuss  
5 all of the motions way before we formally bring  
6 them to the floor to vote on them. And you can  
7 usually tell by the discussion and the straw polls  
8 whether or not it makes any sense at all to bring  
9 it to the floor, because through the discussion  
10 portion of the motions being discussed, you can see  
11 that your motion doesn't have any support, then  
12 it's a waste of everybody's time to want to bring  
13 it to the floor and formally vote pro and hear the  
14 pros and cons of it.

15 If in the discussion portion we see that  
16 really something didn't have any support, then  
17 what's the use of bringing it up and making  
18 everybody formally vote on it anyway? They  
19 wouldn't let you, okay. You can force them to, but  
20 the idea is that unless you're bringing a regional

1 motion where you were directed by your region to do  
2 this --

3 THE FACILITATOR: Now, really what we are  
4 talking about at this point is consent, using this  
5 process. We are talking about it being used at the  
6 state, and national level and then also at the  
7 local service unit level. So, basically, meaning  
8 to use that same sort of process at area service.

9 PARTICIPANT: You're talking consensus.  
10 Everybody in the room eventually has to agree,  
11 which is a little --

12 THE FACILITATOR: 80 percent.

13 PARTICIPANT: The whole room has to agree,  
14 that's the consensus.

15 THE FACILITATOR: I know they use 80 percent.

16 PARTICIPANT: So, what happens to the other  
17 20 percent of the people? Did they get frustrated?

18 THE FACILITATOR: Again, I can't answer.

19 PARTICIPANT: Seems to go against the  
20 concepts.

1       PARTICIPANT: Consensus-based decision-making  
2 means you take what that 80 percent is in favor of  
3 and cut a little off one and add a little off the  
4 other until everyone in the room can live with the  
5 decision that you are making. It doesn't mean  
6 anybody is getting everything that they want, but  
7 the attempt is to bring everybody into that bubble.  
8 You got to cut off a little here and add a little  
9 there so that everybody can live with it. And  
10 ideally, it's 100 percent consensus.

11       PARTICIPANT: When you're discussing  
12 consensus-based decision-making at an area level,  
13 the consensus is, by all of the members in this  
14 case, going to be the elected members from the  
15 GSUs. There's going to be a handful of people from  
16 the GSUs, assuming a linear track, of people who  
17 are going to come to a consensus among themselves.  
18 So, that decision-making process, where we are  
19 going to cut a little bit off the end and come to  
20 an agreement in the middle is probably, let's say,

1 at the most 20 people that are going to represent  
2 an entire county.

3 So, we're going to take every home group's --  
4 possibly every home group member's possible piece  
5 of information, and that will never reach there  
6 because it's going to be actually the one member  
7 who actually goes to the LSU that comes to a  
8 consensus. It never goes back to the groups in any  
9 form, does it? It always stays right at the  
10 actual --

11 PARTICIPANT: A consensus-based proposal can  
12 go back to groups to be approved either up or down.

13 THE FACILITATOR: I don't want to get too much  
14 into detail. Again, one of the other questions  
15 that I raised on the service system discussion  
16 board as far as are they going to give options for  
17 consensus-based decision-making? Because I know  
18 that people use -- Arkansas region uses a hundred  
19 percent. They need a hundred percent approval from  
20 everyone there before they agree to it. I know

1 others use -- the Florida region uses 80 percent.

2 They need 80 percent to agree, that's considered  
3 approval.

4 All right. But no one knows what is going to  
5 be in the proposal as far as what that consensus  
6 based. Just for now, understand that the intent of  
7 what's in the proposal is that this type process  
8 gets used at the group support unit and at your  
9 local service unit to be project-driven and without  
10 subcommittees and then also to be consensus-based  
11 instead of motion-based.

12 PARTICIPANT: And making your geographical  
13 area larger.

14 THE FACILITATOR: Amongst all the others, but  
15 just on those two specific issues.

16 PARTICIPANT: I have a question. The question  
17 is, if we're just saying, Okay, you can take these  
18 two prototypes, put them in a guide to local  
19 services and give us an option to use A, B or what  
20 we are still using, but when we vote on it, does

1 that change the structure at world? The world is  
2 still going do it one way or another, correct?

3 THE FACILITATOR: I can't answer that  
4 because -- That's what I assume. I will assume  
5 that what we're working on now to replace the  
6 structure that we have now, and not as another  
7 option to what we currently have. But I can't  
8 answer that because they haven't said so. But I  
9 would assume that that's the intent, but what  
10 you're talking about is more on the state and  
11 national and on the zonal and at the conference  
12 seating portion, which is what we are going to do  
13 at our next workshop, so I don't want to go there  
14 right now.

15 So, what we are going to do is I want to take  
16 before -- The next thing we are going to be doing  
17 is going through the actual proposal itself with  
18 the GSU and LSU and then two-track options. That's  
19 what we are going to do next, but first, let's take  
20 a five-minute break.

1 (A brief recess was taken.)

2 THE FACILITATOR: And what we are going to do  
3 now is go to the actual proposals themselves.

4 That's the seven-page document. And what we are  
5 going to do is we are going to go around the room  
6 and read this. And we'll take probably like a  
7 paragraph at a time. After the item gets read, if  
8 anyone has any questions, go ahead and raise them  
9 at that time. If anyone has any comments about  
10 what's been read, go ahead and feel free to comment  
11 at that time. Everyone needs to pay attention also  
12 to the two-page document that was also handed out.  
13 That's the actual input.

14 Now, we are submitting input. It doesn't --  
15 They might want it to be like this and answer these  
16 questions, but I will submit whatever input comes  
17 from this workshop. So, the intent is to answer  
18 these questions, but we can also answer and give  
19 any other input as you guys feel necessary to  
20 give to have our voice heard by the work group on

1 the proposals.

2 PARTICIPANT: Since the early days of  
3 narcotics anonymous our service materials have  
4 described the ASC as responsible both to support  
5 groups and to provide services. The reality of  
6 that dual purpose has often been that both of those  
7 focuses get shorted. The complexity of some of the  
8 services provided by the ASC often prevents groups  
9 from receiving the time they need during an area  
10 meeting to raise issues that are affecting their  
11 ability to carry the message. This can lead to  
12 groups feeling that their needs are underserved.

13 THE FACILITATOR: Any questions on that or any  
14 comments?

15 PARTICIPANT: The word shorted is a little  
16 strange to me. It's like I'm copping drugs and I  
17 got shorted. Come on. I think that that was a bad  
18 choice of words.

19 THE FACILITATOR: That's fine.

20 PARTICIPANT: I don't know if anybody else

1 felt that way when that was read.

2 PARTICIPANT: What exactly are groups being  
3 denied now? Just a couple of examples.

4 THE FACILITATOR: We had an issue in our area  
5 where we had a chairperson of a meeting was on  
6 Suboxone. They wanted it addressed. There was  
7 no -- They couldn't get it answered because no one  
8 wants to talk -- either you want to talk about it,  
9 there's no format in area service to address it.

10 PARTICIPANT: Can't they forward by e-mail to  
11 World Services the question and get an answer?

12 THE FACILITATOR: They went to area -- I'm  
13 just giving an example of an actual. This is what  
14 actually happened. Okay.

15 PARTICIPANT: But there are answers available.

16 THE FACILITATOR: Another example, we have  
17 groups in South Broward that have a personality  
18 conflict with our new chair. They couldn't get it  
19 addressed at area, so they joined South Atlantic.  
20 They felt as if they weren't getting their voices

1 heard. So, they went somewhere else. These are  
2 the type -- They felt that area service was not  
3 serving them because it might have been structural  
4 that because of the way area service is -- and I'm  
5 giving you some examples of what happened.

6 PARTICIPANT: There's not a group getting  
7 literature and there's not a group getting -- I  
8 don't know.

9 PARTICIPANT: Another example that we may not  
10 see so much in this area, but is seen in more rural  
11 areas is when you have outlying groups that live  
12 many miles from where an area service meets on a  
13 regular basis and they may have limited ability to  
14 make those trips and don't have an outreach  
15 committee. Those groups -- and I have heard it  
16 said before in another area -- that their needs  
17 were not getting met. They couldn't get people out  
18 there with time, they couldn't get their questions  
19 answered, they couldn't get literature and whatnot.  
20 We might want to think beyond the box of our

1 immediate experience and remember that this is  
2 being written for areas that don't look anything  
3 like us. And there are many areas like that.

4 THE FACILITATOR: Alfonso.

5 PARTICIPANT: One of the questions I have is,  
6 If the change is made, will it change us? You  
7 know, sometimes the way my area works seems to be  
8 sufficient. What I'm trying to say is that we  
9 don't -- I don't see where much in terms of people  
10 getting shorted. And then if a group doesn't like  
11 a decision, let's say, South Broward makes, as an  
12 area, it goes to South Atlantic, then they're just  
13 shopping for a favorable decision.

14 The point I am trying to make is that -- is  
15 change or proposed change, is it to be pushed on  
16 all of us or is this change going to be something  
17 that we as area groups and local groups decide this  
18 is how we choose to operate? That's one of my  
19 basic questions before we get -- go for this.

20 THE FACILITATOR: No one can answer that at

1 this point.

2 Again, no one can force you to do it anyway.

3 I mean, they could come up and propose or -- We  
4 could propose something, all right. It doesn't  
5 mean that the group has to follow it. There are  
6 plenty of groups that don't even belong to an area,  
7 okay? They have their choice; they don't have to  
8 join an area. And even though structure says the  
9 groups to elect a representative that goes to area  
10 service, there are plenty of groups that don't do  
11 that.

12 We have a structure now where we have area H&I  
13 committees. There are plenty of groups that do H&I  
14 work, okay; that they adopt a facility and they're  
15 the ones that do the H&I. So, just because we have  
16 a structure doesn't mean necessarily that it will.

17 But if something is adopted, what usually will  
18 happen is in ten years from now with a group, this  
19 is going to be the -- whatever gets adopted -- If  
20 this is what gets adopted, when a group gets

1 information as far as here's your guide to local  
2 service, it's going to state this new proposal,  
3 that they're going to think that's the way it  
4 should get done because it's going to be generally  
5 accepted as that's the way. That's what it says in  
6 our handbook that we buy, that this our service  
7 structure.

8 PARTICIPANT: My observation from the area  
9 that my home group is a part of, the area provides  
10 a lot of services. And, you know, I don't think  
11 there's too much interruption with, you know, the  
12 providing of the services. Like we have H&I that  
13 goes out to all different sections of our county.  
14 We have literature. We have all that.

15 But as far as support to groups, I think that  
16 the home group in my area doesn't even know that  
17 that's something the area service committee should  
18 be doing because there's no section or agenda in  
19 group reports or anything like that. Because of  
20 the sheer size of our area service committee and

1 the number of GSRs that attend, there's not even  
2 time to do that.

3 And the size issue is another issue, but you  
4 have gotten where it can be changed. There would  
5 be interruption in the services that were provided.  
6 Although it would provide more support to the  
7 groups, there would be an interruption in the  
8 services. So, in the area that my home group is a  
9 part of, it has a big challenge doing both those  
10 things. So, I agree with that statement in the  
11 area that my home group is a part of.

12 PARTICIPANT: When you guys were mentioning  
13 right off the bat, I just have to come back to  
14 co-ops. People don't realize in the rural regions,  
15 they utilize something called co-ops. It's  
16 actually in our guide to local services now. It is  
17 a selection of groups that get together to handle  
18 very specific services; might be P.I., might be  
19 helpline, might be some specialized services that  
20 that rural region needs help with. And co-ops are

1 one of the major components of actually utilizing  
2 this.

3 Getting back to what we are talking about,  
4 what the needs of the group are on the group  
5 sharing and the components that are going to be  
6 handled by this group support unit, those are the  
7 concerns. Those are the pieces I am really  
8 wondering about. The question was, Are they being  
9 under-served?

10 I would say yes. In most areas, we have gone  
11 into a business mode where we ignore the topic of  
12 Suboxone. In reality, it wasn't not handled  
13 because it wasn't in a GSU. If it was in a GSU and  
14 you said, Guys, what should we do about people who  
15 are chairing on Suboxone, you would have a  
16 multitude of opinions back and forth, all around no  
17 one would be able to say with definitive -- I'm  
18 sure some would say with definitive, but there is  
19 no ruling out there saying this is the way you  
20 handle things.

1        If you had a situation where your group  
2        support unit, you didn't like the guy who  
3        facilitated that and you didn't like him, you had a  
4        personality conflict with it, guess what would  
5        happen. Same damn thing. You would say, I want to  
6        be part of a different GSU. It's personalities  
7        that are happening here. I don't see where this  
8        specific situation is going to fix addicts.

9        I see where it's going to create an alphabet  
10       soup. I see where it's going to look shiny and  
11       glossy and new. I see a lot of energy put into it.  
12       But I don't see where it's going to fix the actual  
13       problems there. When we have someone come in and  
14       say, Our home group is passing around a second  
15       basket for the picnic, is this allowed? And they  
16       are looking for an answer.

17       In reality, they have to be autonomous. They  
18       have to look within themselves. They can look for  
19       support and feedback, but they can't expect a  
20       clarified answer. If they don't like the guy up in

1 the front, they don't like the guy in the front.

2 It just happens to be the reality of it. We are

3 filled with personalities. Pick this room. We

4 have personalities galore.

5 I think it's important that we look at the

6 system that it isn't so much the system as it is,

7 we actually have a culture inside NA. And that's

8 part of the service culture we built saying fast is

9 better. We need to get out of this meeting in

10 time. I have a baseball game to watch. We got a

11 culture that says efficiency is the most important

12 aspect of a business meeting, when it isn't.

13 Coming to some sort of consensus, coming to

14 some sort of agreement, coming to some sort of a

15 long-term decision. We are so built on short-term

16 goals, we picked another one. We pick another one

17 we'll build in two years.

18 PARTICIPANT: I'm an addict. Name is Troy.

19 I was in the Pennyrile area before I came

20 here, in Kentucky. We didn't even belong to a

1 region. And the closest meeting to me was 45 miles  
2 away. I drove 90 miles to a meeting. We never had  
3 a problem getting literature. We ordered from  
4 World Services. We never had a problem with any  
5 functions we had. We never had any problems at all  
6 with anything that we did. And I'm talking about  
7 so far out in the boonies that they had to pump  
8 sunshine in.

9 I mean, if I was that far out, I am sure  
10 people in, you know, other areas, rural areas, that  
11 there's -- I mean, there's always the snail mail or  
12 UPS or FedEx or somebody that can get them the  
13 information that they need. And there's always  
14 telephones, I don't care where you go. So, I mean,  
15 you can always make a phone call.

16 PARTICIPANT: You know, ultimately, it comes  
17 down to, Are we carrying the message or not? And  
18 looking at how the structure is, good or bad, I  
19 think it's probably a pretty healthy thing.

20 I come from an area where -- We are in the

1 south county. We are part of this region and the  
2 northern part of the county is part of Florida.  
3 And the reality is we're duplicating services. We  
4 are duplicating H&I, all those things that may be  
5 more efficiently handled than the way we're doing  
6 it.

7 Unfortunately, it is the personalities  
8 involved that are keeping us apart. They continue  
9 to come up, when we try to do H&I commitments and  
10 other things, that people forget what our primary  
11 purpose is. I think taking a look, is this a  
12 better way or not a better way, there's got to be a  
13 way for us to do it to see what comes out of it.  
14 Maybe something is going to shake out that will  
15 make us better and more efficient in carrying the  
16 message because that's really what it's all about.

17 THE FACILITATOR: First, Manuel. After  
18 Manuel, we are going to move on. But just know --  
19 Let's go through actually what we're talking about,  
20 the section we're dealing with, instead of going

1 five sections ahead because we will deal with it  
2 then at that point too. Let's try to -- Because we  
3 are going to --

4 Manuel.

5 PARTICIPANT: First paragraph is saying right  
6 here, you know, how it's so difficult for a group I  
7 understand that this does not only have to do with  
8 just South Florida, you know, alone. You know what  
9 I mean?

10 But at the same time, I mean, like, the  
11 group -- I mean the South Dade area, as I'm reading  
12 on the April -- You know, the same one from the one  
13 that I got from the learning weekend, you know, it  
14 shows me what a GSU is right here, you know, what  
15 the different things that they are going to provide  
16 for Narcotics Anonymous as a unit. You know what I  
17 mean? It looks like this.

18 Same thing that South Dade area does. You  
19 know what I mean? It does, like, most of these  
20 things. Then, like, for -- As far as for like a

1 support group, you know, where the groups come over  
2 and talk about there problems and the issues and  
3 stuff, we only have -- we have one of those little  
4 sections, you know. It's only like two or three  
5 groups that just raise their hand and it's like,  
6 okay, next thing, you know.

7 So, I don't know how it is in any other area  
8 service, you know, committee where you actually  
9 have people that come, you know, and have these big  
10 issues that you cannot handle. At the South Dade  
11 area, we handle it, all this, all in here. Provide  
12 training, you know, welcome new groups, we do all  
13 this. So, I mean, I don't know if this is a good  
14 thing. It's not -- You know, that's why I am here.  
15 And it just -- Like you're just adding more stuff,  
16 you know.

17 THE FACILITATOR: The one thing I will raise  
18 with this, it talks about what problem areas, how  
19 many -- We have a bunch of RCMs here -- how many  
20 groups in your area go to pick up literature? If

1 they were given the option to just go to area to  
2 pick up literature and go home, how many do you  
3 think would do that? That's what this is trying to  
4 address.

5 PARTICIPANT: They don't care either way.

6 PARTICIPANT: Then why do they go to a group  
7 support unit?

8 THE FACILITATOR: That's part of the problem.  
9 That's part of the issue.

10 PARTICIPANT: That's not going to make them do  
11 anything different.

12 THE FACILITATOR: David.

13 PARTICIPANT: I understand that's how it might  
14 work in South Dade. But up in Mid Coast, within  
15 the last year, we have lost two meetings. We don't  
16 even have -- We just voted on getting group reports  
17 back in because everyone just wants to leave area.  
18 They just want to get their literature and leave.

19 We have groups that are suffering, like  
20 there's nobody helping them. And like we have that

1 problem where someone wanted to know what she  
2 should do with the party basket. No one helped  
3 her. And like we need support for certain groups  
4 and certain places, and like nobody even cares.  
5 That's the problem.

6 PARTICIPANT: No one cares?

7 PARTICIPANT: He is too new to know what's  
8 going on.

9 PARTICIPANT: No, he's not.

10 THE FACILITATOR: How many in your areas,  
11 RCMs, do group reports?

12 (Seven hands raised.)

13 THE FACILITATOR: South Broward does not.  
14 Anyone else do not do group reports?

15 PARTICIPANT: Gold Coast doesn't.

16 PARTICIPANT: Gulf Coast just hands them in.  
17 Gulf Coast hands them in.

18 THE FACILITATOR: I'm talking about doing  
19 verbal group reports.

20 PARTICIPANT: There's a difference between

1 every group giving a report and -- Like, I believe,  
2 South Dade is every group that wants to give a  
3 report. Not every group gives a report. They got,  
4 what, 53 groups or something. They would be there  
5 all day if every group gave a report.

6 THE FACILITATOR: I am getting an idea.

7 We're going to move on.

8 PARTICIPANT: We already did all that.

9 THE FACILITATOR: Quick skipping ahead. Let's  
10 now go to the actual devil is in the details.

11 PARTICIPANT: At times, some ASCs also  
12 encounter difficulties when discussing the nuts and  
13 bolts of providing complex services such as  
14 negotiating a hotel contract for conventions and  
15 providing PR services to professional bodies within  
16 a service meeting consisting of many members new to  
17 service. This can make decision-making difficult  
18 and cause the areas trusted servants to feel  
19 frustrated and unrewarded and GSRs to feel  
20 confused, and therefore disconnected from the

1 process. We all want the same thing, to carry the  
2 message to the addict who still suffers. But our  
3 current structure seems to make this difficult at  
4 times.

5 The aim of the service system project is to  
6 bring us closer to the ideals expressed in a vision  
7 for NA service, revitalizing and evolving local  
8 services are a key part of achieving this goal. We  
9 hope to increase the amount services that we can  
10 provide, make service a more rewarding process,  
11 increase unity throughout NA, improve our  
12 reputation as a viable program of recovery. The  
13 proposed group support unit, GSU, and the local  
14 service unit, the LSU, divide their  
15 responsibilities that are current ASCs. Each unit  
16 has one main focus: The GSUs devoted to group  
17 support and the LSU to providing local services.  
18 These clearly defined roles embody the foundation  
19 and principles of purpose-driven service bodies and  
20 increase their chance of each successfully

1 fulfilling its responsibilities.

2 THE FACILITATOR: Now, I want to go from there  
3 to page 7. Whose got their hand up?

4 PARTICIPANT: Hi, Family Addict named Kevin.  
5 Many members new to service, that's probably  
6 what -- that's what they're saying here our service  
7 bodies are consisting of. They can make  
8 decision-making difficult to the area's trusted  
9 servants. They feel frustrated.

10 PARTICIPANT: Frustrated --

11 THE FACILITATOR: Kevin is commenting on page  
12 5.

13 PARTICIPANT: I know you want to jump on  
14 without discussing this. I know we should actually  
15 discuss the piece that we read. And the part of is  
16 that they're saying our service bodies are filled  
17 with members new to service. This can make  
18 decision-making difficult and cause the area's  
19 trusted servants to feel frustrated.

20 So, basically, we have a bunch of new -- What

1 do we call them? Barely have their -- Deer in the  
2 headlights, they barely got a blue key tag. We  
3 have all of these little statements that we make  
4 about the GSRs, that they're basically not really  
5 worth being able to come into our service bodies  
6 and help us decide what to do. Doesn't that seem a  
7 little odd? Doesn't it seem like those should be  
8 exactly the people that should be helping us to  
9 decide what to do. They're the -- We're service  
10 bodies created by the groups that we serve by those  
11 deer in the headlights GSRs, by those barely blue  
12 key tags. We have all these demeaning names we  
13 call them. And those are the people that were are  
14 supposed to be serving. And here, we want to  
15 segregate them out because they're frustrating us  
16 as the service members.

17 Do you know who actually did these surveys?  
18 They were the people from regions. Not the home  
19 group members. We're the ones who said service is  
20 frustrating. Isn't that odd? We're the ones that

1 said there was problems, so I find this one  
2 statement right here exactly the key point in  
3 segregating the deer in the headlights from us big  
4 boys who know what to do.

5 And now, we are going to turn around and say  
6 that's their support unit. Well, that's a good  
7 thing. They're all going to get together and  
8 decide whether or not they should use Suboxone.  
9 They are going to get together and decide whether  
10 they should sign court slips. They should pull  
11 them separate and apart. I think we're causing one  
12 of the biggest divisions in NA. What we are mainly  
13 doing is separating service from home groups.

14 THE FACILITATOR: We're going to work our way  
15 around.

16 PARTICIPANT: I have a question for April. In  
17 our area we have a person that helps the GSRs. I  
18 just want to ask her how many people have come to  
19 you.

20 PARTICIPANT: Lots of them. Every time a new

1 GSR comes in they come over and sit with me.

2 PARTICIPANT: In our area we do have support  
3 for GSRs.

4 PARTICIPANT: Our area is supposed to do it  
5 and doesn't do it. We could have that problem and  
6 then we could not have that problem if we are doing  
7 what we're supposed to be doing. What I wanted to  
8 say is at the risk of moving ahead a little, one of  
9 the purposes of a GSU is to train our trusted  
10 servants not just at the group level, but at the  
11 area level because I have been to lots of different  
12 ASC meetings and lots of different areas and some  
13 of them run real well. Some of them are like  
14 walking into a USC fight. And generally, the  
15 difference is whether or not the chairperson knows  
16 how to facilitate a business meeting, because ASC  
17 is a business meeting. It's not a free for all,  
18 it's not a recovery meeting, it's a business  
19 meeting. And when it's run like one, it's run  
20 smoothly. And GSRs do know what's going on. When

1 it's run like a free for all, then nobody knows  
2 what's going on and nothing gets done. We don't  
3 have time for group reports or committee reports or  
4 orientation for GSRs or any of that stuff.

5 So, one of the biggest advantages of having a  
6 GSU would be to have standardized training for our  
7 area trusted servants so that we can facilitate  
8 these meetings better.

9 THE FACILITATOR: Matt then Oma and then  
10 Evelyn.

11 PARTICIPANT: I'm Matt. I'm an addict.

12 At the risk of putting myself out there as a  
13 less-than-blue currently, I can say definitively  
14 that someone with very little clean time that's  
15 formed an interest in service and come in and  
16 really sought the leadership that's there that it's  
17 there. But it is kind of our responsibility to  
18 find it. And if I want to learn about service, I  
19 have to find people that know about it and ask  
20 them. There's been no people that come forward and

1 say this is what you're supposed to do. It's  
2 really our responsibility as the newcomer to find  
3 the people and pick their brains. And it's  
4 something that I really sought out to do. But his  
5 point about the less-than-blues, people looking  
6 down on them, I haven't really found that, because  
7 if I go around and ask questions, I get answers.  
8 May not always be the answer that I like and I may  
9 have to ask 12 people before I get a real idea of  
10 what's going on because there's a lot of opinions.  
11 But if you seek it, you'll find it. You just have  
12 to seek it.

13 PARTICIPANT: One of the things here is this  
14 whole GSU thing -- I mean, there are a lot of  
15 groups that come to area with issues, problems,  
16 complaints, concerns and area service has  
17 traditionally become a -- motions. We have got  
18 motions and policy and all of this. And groups do  
19 get the glossy thing, and they're there trying to  
20 support their group. They're trying to get enough

1 information to bring back to their groups to be  
2 able to give them the good information. And I do  
3 believe that there are groups that do get bogged  
4 down with the motions and the -- I think they did  
5 give a couple of examples of hotel contracts and  
6 all, you know -- so to have a place where groups  
7 can go and discuss group issues and that be the  
8 primary purpose of that get together.

9       There is a lot of group issues that aren't  
10 being addressed in Narcotics Anonymous because we  
11 are not sharing the experience, strength and hope  
12 of each other, that helps groups. So, I mean, it's  
13 definitely a double-edged sword. I am just trying  
14 to look at it from a positive perspective how  
15 could -- You know, how could groups benefit from a  
16 GSU? And I do see that as a positive thing.

17       THE FACILITATOR: Evelyn.

18       PARTICIPANT: Two rhetorical questions and a  
19 statement. The first one is, it talks about their  
20 hopes of what they intend to achieve. And it's

1 those bullet point things. I won't reread them.  
2 However, my rhetorical question is, what is it  
3 about our current service structure that is lacking  
4 that would allow us to address these concerns  
5 within our current service structure?

6 The second rhetorical thing is, when I came  
7 into recovery and I wanted to get into service, my  
8 sponsor walked me through the process, took me to  
9 area service, explained to me what needed to be  
10 done. The next step was once I became a GSR, then  
11 as time, I might step up to the next level of  
12 service. And my rhetorical question is, is that  
13 not a practice anymore or sponsors not  
14 participating in the educating of their own  
15 sponsees.

16 PARTICIPANT: You know, our area where I am  
17 from, the services are there. We provide the  
18 service. Okay. And we have a policy chair and we  
19 have a policy committee and, you know, I was on the  
20 policy committee last year and I was nominated to

1 do all of orientation for the new GSRs. That's  
2 what we did. If I went to area last Sunday, it was  
3 pretty sad because the new policy chair wasn't even  
4 there and not much of the member that I looked over  
5 was on policy. The services are there. They're  
6 provided, but it's -- you know, people that are  
7 actually there, you know, doing and stepping up to  
8 their commitment. You know, I am just curious to  
9 know in our area the new GSRs that were there last  
10 Sunday. Was there anybody even there to orientate  
11 them? Where does that stem from as opposed to get  
12 nine new members on your policy committee? You  
13 know, the services are there. They are provided.  
14 It's just whoever is nominated for that position is  
15 apparently not stepping up to do the job.

16 THE FACILITATOR: Before we go on -- because  
17 we have about an hour left to go over through the  
18 rest of this material. And it's okay. We don't  
19 have -- We do as much as we do and that's fine.  
20 But I want to know from you all or you want to

1 continue with this process that we are currently  
2 using? Where do you want to go with this?

3 PARTICIPANT: Let's finish reading it.

4 THE FACILITATOR: Then let's finish. We'll  
5 finish reading the whole -- at least all the group  
6 support unit, the GSU. Let's finish reading all of  
7 page 7 and then we'll take it from there as far as  
8 where we want to go. Pete, you want to read the  
9 top of page 7? Go to the first -- beginning of  
10 page 7.

11 PARTICIPANT: Bottom of page 5.

12 THE FACILITATOR: No. Forget about the bottom  
13 of page 5. Let's move to start on page 7. None of  
14 this on page 5 has really anything to do with it.  
15 It's really an overview of, actually, the nuts and  
16 bolts of the GSU. Page 7 starts the actual GSU.

17 PARTICIPANT: The group support unit, carrying  
18 the message. Group focus, the group support unit,  
19 GSU, in each model focuses on aiding the groups in  
20 our efforts to carry our message. The NA group

1 remains the single most effective way we have as a  
2 fellowship of carrying the message. Many more  
3 fellowship discussion topics over the last few  
4 conference cycles have centered on strengthening  
5 groups. All too often in our current service  
6 structure, however, groups feel unsupported like  
7 they have nowhere to go to talk about the issues  
8 most immediately affecting them. The GSU is  
9 intended to help groups better carry the message  
10 within their meetings by separating out the group  
11 support function from the business, unquote, of NA.

12 The GSU gives groups the opportunity to share  
13 problems they may be encountering and to seek  
14 solutions from each other while avoiding the  
15 distraction of discussions about complex services  
16 provided outside of the group. By focusing as a  
17 discussion-based gathering of the local NA  
18 community, the GSU will offer an attractive  
19 alternative that compliments the other more  
20 business-oriented service meetings.

1       PARTICIPANT: The GSU may or may not send a  
2       delegate to the LSU depending on what structure of  
3       options works best for groups in the local NA  
4       community. The section below entitled linear and  
5       two-track offers more ideas on those options.  
6       Whatever option is chosen, the GSU is not intended  
7       to be another level of service, although it may  
8       have some involvement in service delivery typically  
9       in a support role to the ongoing services and  
10      projects coordinated by the LSU.

11      Examples of these include picnics, poster  
12      drives and H&I sign-up sheets. Size and  
13      attendance. The GSU is intended to be smaller and  
14      more locally-based than some existing ASCs. And  
15      so, attendants may need less traveling for group  
16      delegates. Typically, a number of GSUs will be  
17      found in the geographic area of the LSU. The exact  
18      relationship between the GSU and LSU will vary  
19      according to local conditions.  
20

1       PARTICIPANT: The size of each body will be  
2       determined by its intended function. The GSU is  
3       intended to be a neighborhood-sized body firmly  
4       rooted in the local recovery community. LSU on the  
5       other hand has a focus on the services and  
6       therefore is, where possible and practical, sized  
7       to conform with recognized boundaries such as  
8       counties, townships and so on. Attendance at the  
9       GSU will be open to members from each group as well  
10      as anyone wishing to attend, creating a less formal  
11      atmosphere that's found in many current service  
12      meetings.

13      Structure and procedure should also be  
14      informal as possible. A GSU unit will not only  
15      assist groups but also serve to introduce new  
16      members to the basic principles of service. Our  
17      hope is that an improved atmosphere will encourage  
18      more members to attend, both experienced and those  
19      new to service and prepare them to serve at other  
20      service bodies.

1 THE FACILITATOR: That's the end of page 7.  
2 What we are going to do then do is go, we're going  
3 to skip actually page 8 because we are going to do  
4 that at the end once we figure out what the LSU is  
5 and then we'll go into the options between the  
6 linear option and two-track option. So, start at  
7 page 10.

8 PARTICIPANT: Local service unit affected  
9 service delivery. Purpose driven, each proposed  
10 service system unit is designed to answer a  
11 specific need or group of needs and  
12 responsibilities of each unit should be clearly  
13 defined and understood. First concept.

14 THE FACILITATOR: Forget about any of the  
15 concepts. Let's skip to concepts.

16 PARTICIPANT: The LSU is the workhorse of the  
17 service system with responsibility of carrying the  
18 message outside of NA meetings. The greatest  
19 number of NA members is involved in service at this  
20 level. The LSU will have the responsibility to

1 deliver the bulk of local services. Whenever  
2 possible, decisions at the LSU will be made using a  
3 consensus-based process instead of motions, making  
4 it a more accessible and attractive service body.

5 Another way that the LSU would differ from our  
6 current ASC is that the LSU would utilize a  
7 strategic timing process and services would be  
8 delivered through a mix of project-based workshops  
9 and service coordinator positions. There would no  
10 longer be a need for a range of standing  
11 subcommittees although ongoing services would be  
12 organized by a service coordinator. Both project  
13 and service coordinators would report directly to  
14 the LSU, which will have the responsibility to  
15 oversee the local service committee.

16 Resource pools of experienced, qualified and  
17 available members would be organized to provide the  
18 necessary human services, the project's ongoing  
19 services. In this way, we can attain the skills  
20 our members acquire through their service

1 experience and continue to make them available for  
2 NA service.

3 PARTICIPANT: It is hoped that service as part  
4 of a project may be for attractive members who are  
5 currently unable or unwilling to commit to  
6 attending a subcommittee meeting every month for a  
7 year or more, but may still have vital, useful  
8 experience to offer. Examples of ongoing service  
9 at the LSU include H&I panels, phone lines,  
10 literature supply, meetings lists.

11 Project-based services will be formed as far  
12 as a strategic planning process. Examples of them  
13 are PR work such as having a booth at a  
14 professional event, a fellowship activities and  
15 community-based conventions. Groups will remain  
16 responsible for funding services through  
17 contributions to the LSU.

18 Connected the groups and the service system.

19 One of the aspects of these proposals that we  
20 will be talking about in greater depth is how

1 groups can maintain and improve the connection with  
2 the service structure, whether they choose the  
3 linear option or two-track option. Two of the  
4 potential problems we have identified are the  
5 linear option may create the impression of an  
6 increased distance between the group and the LSU  
7 decision making processes because of the presence  
8 of the GSU between them.

9 The two-track option could mean that group  
10 needs to find an extra trusted servant, which may  
11 be a problem if resources are already stretched.  
12 Either of these possibilities can make it hard for  
13 groups to feel connected to the service system. We  
14 have discussed a number ways to alleviate the sense  
15 of disconnection.

16 We could use information technology more  
17 effectively to distribute information and discuss  
18 ideas. LSUs could hold quarterly or twice-yearly  
19 meetings with the specific focus of presenting  
20 updates on any progress or to evaluate the success

1 of projects. Groups could have the option to  
2 attend only these LSU meetings. An annual planning  
3 assembly could allow groups to oversee the approval  
4 of projects and some sort of evaluation of service  
5 delivery. That may, however, not be feasible to  
6 expect groups to make effective decisions where a  
7 planning assembly would only be held once a year.

8 PARTICIPANT: The LSU will also serve as a  
9 communication and delegation link between the  
10 groups and the rest of the fellowship by sending a  
11 delegate to the state/national/province service  
12 body defined by geographic boundaries or following  
13 established geographic boundaries for our service  
14 bodies where practical would allow us to better  
15 interface with professional and legislative bodies  
16 making it easier for professional and the general  
17 public to find and communicate with us.

18 Size and attendance.

19 Wherever possible and practical, the LSU will  
20 conform to a recognized geographic boundary such as

1 a county, town or borough. In this way, the LSU  
2 will be best equipped to provide services within  
3 its community by connecting easily with  
4 professionals and government bodies that interact  
5 most frequently with addicts. These sort of  
6 established bodies will, crucially, make it easier  
7 for addicts to find our meetings.

8 Ideally, the LSU would consist of members more  
9 experienced in service who are more capable of  
10 dealing with the sometimes complex issues  
11 encountered at this level. Attendance will be open  
12 to all, but the LSU is intended to be more of a  
13 leaner, more effective service body with the sole  
14 focus of service provisions. Services will be  
15 delivered by a mixture of ongoing work and  
16 projects, each of which will have a coordinator  
17 that is a member of the LSU and he reports to. The  
18 LSU will also consist of delegates within group or  
19 GSU and an administrative board with responsibility  
20 to organize and facilitate the LSU meeting. The

1 LSU meeting may be attended by any interested  
2 member with the level of participation being  
3 determined by LSU itself using the seven concept  
4 essay as guidance.

5 THE FACILITATOR: What we are going to do now  
6 is go -- Stephanie, start -- Go back now to page 8.  
7 Let's do the linear and two-track options. Then  
8 we'll do that, take a break and then now discuss,  
9 you know, actually how everything fits together and  
10 how you feel and start to answer these questions  
11 and how we feel about these proposals in relation  
12 to the GSU, LSU and the various options.

13 Stephanie.

14 PARTICIPANT: These two options allow groups  
15 to choose either to send a delegate from the GSU to  
16 the LSU meeting or to send a delegate to both the  
17 GSU meeting and the LSU meeting. Linear option  
18 gives the GSU responsibility of selecting a  
19 delegate to attend the LSU and makes the GSU a part  
20 of the delegation stream between the group and the

1 rest of NA. The delegation stream is what connects  
2 the group to the LSU, the LSU to the  
3 state/nation/province service body that the  
4 state/nation/province body to the global level of  
5 NA. Resource information flow back and forth  
6 across the delegation stream and it allows for  
7 service to be accountable to groups.

8 Care must be taken to limit the GSUs business  
9 to choosing the delegate and discussing whether  
10 information and ideas that are -- that they bring  
11 back from LSU meetings. This to ensure that the  
12 GSU retains its primary purpose of group support.

13 The two-track option means the GSU would only  
14 have the purpose of discussing group issues and  
15 would not need to send a formal GSU delegate to the  
16 LSU. This would preserve the simplicity of the GSU  
17 meeting, but would also mean that groups would have  
18 to find a delegate to attend the LSU meeting or ask  
19 the same person to attend both the GSU and LSU.  
20 Other options that may work in small NA communities

1 are to have alternate GSUs and LSU meeting or to  
2 devote the first half of service meetings to the  
3 GSU and the second half to the LSU.

4 THE FACILITATOR: Now, before we go on and  
5 take a break -- All right. The main purpose of  
6 this workshop is to have everyone understand what  
7 is in the proposal so that you can then take this  
8 thing back or explain to someone else, okay,  
9 someone who has questions on what this is.

10 PARTICIPANT: If anybody actually can convey  
11 this in a way that would be easy for me to convey  
12 to somebody else and that be kind of really  
13 bulleted so that I could convey this information in  
14 a --

15 THE FACILITATOR: It might be easier if you  
16 look at the chart on page 9. That gives the lines  
17 how it works.

18 Does anyone have a question on the linear  
19 option? That one is easy. Basically, how the  
20 two-track option is going to work. There are

1 options for the two track option that will give the  
2 groups a choice. With the linear option, you have  
3 the groups, GSU LSU. The groups elect a delegate  
4 to go GSU, elects a delegate to go to the LSU.

5 Under the two-track option, the first choice  
6 is the group elects two people, the GSU person and  
7 the LSU person. The GSU person goes from the group  
8 to the GSU. The LSU person goes from the group to  
9 the LSU. So, instead of having group sends one  
10 person to the GSU that sends one person to the LSU,  
11 you're going to have a group that sends two people,  
12 one of which is going to be here and one of which  
13 is going to be down there.

14 PARTICIPANT: No. Try that one more time.

15 PARTICIPANT: It could be the same person.

16 THE FACILITATOR: Could be the same person.

17 First, the linear option is basically how we  
18 do it now if you look at group area region. The  
19 group selects the GSR, the GSR goes to area  
20 service, selects an RCM that goes to region.

1 Under, say, the two-track option, the groups can  
2 elect a GSUR, the GSU representative because  
3 they're going to represent the group at the GSU.  
4 Then they're going to have an LSUR, okay? That's  
5 the person from the group that goes to the LSU.

6 Okay. So, the group's going to have to have  
7 two people going to both levels instead of just to  
8 one level that then elect someone to go to the next  
9 level. Now, it says that all the other stuff in  
10 there is the fact that they could be the same  
11 person, okay? So, you don't have to elect two  
12 people. You'll say, Jeff, you're going to go to  
13 GSU and also to the LSU. That's fine.

14 The other alternative is to have the structure  
15 change where they alternate months instead of  
16 having one person go to a meeting -- two separate  
17 meetings a month go to two separate meetings a  
18 month, the GSU and the LSU, the system is set up  
19 for whereby the first meeting is the GSU meeting.  
20 The second month, they do an LSU meeting. You can

1 elect one person. Now, that makes it easier.  
2 Jeff, you're going to go to the GSU in January, the  
3 LSU in February, the GSU in March, the LSU in  
4 April, and it's just what you're doing. The first  
5 month, you're going to GSU, just dealing with group  
6 support. The second month, you're going to the LSU  
7 and dealing with the business issues, the H&I work  
8 group, the PR bus ad work group, the picnic for  
9 September work group. And those are the projects  
10 that are being worked on by the LSU, that you're  
11 there now to represent our group to some consensus  
12 or whatever the LSU projects are going to be,  
13 whatever the proposals are.

14 PARTICIPANT: What's an LSU H&I work group?

15 THE FACILITATOR: Like the Florida region has  
16 an H&I coordinator, okay, that has a work group  
17 that they have gotten together so they sent out  
18 letters to all the federal prisons and all the  
19 prisons that currently don't have NA meetings in  
20 them. I'll give you the actual example of what's

1 going on there now under your project-based system,  
2 okay? They went ahead and did it and identified  
3 certain areas in the Florida region where they  
4 actually had people that were willing to actually  
5 go do those H&I commitments if they could get the  
6 facility to agree to do it, all the H&I meeting.

7 So, that's what their work group did and they  
8 now have like three meetings that they're going to  
9 end up doing in their H&I. That's how their H&I  
10 project, how the coordinator project goes.

11 PARTICIPANT: Don't they have a standing H&I  
12 committee?

13 THE FACILITATOR: No. They do not have a  
14 standing H&I committee. They have an H&I project.  
15 I want to make sure that everyone is on the same  
16 page that we know what we're talking about first  
17 before we go into the particulars on stuff like  
18 that.

19 PARTICIPANT: Are you expecting one  
20 representative to give your report to a group?

1 THE FACILITATOR: That's actually incorrect.

2 If that's going to be -- wait. If you look at the  
3 input form, if you say the deficiencies of the  
4 system, save that comment because that is a  
5 deficiency in the proposal right there. So, keep  
6 that. But first, I want to make sure here that  
7 everyone in here understands the proposal first,  
8 okay.

9 So, now, are there any other questions on the  
10 linear-track option and two-track option?

11 PARTICIPANT: Using either one, just in terms  
12 of propositions, which one of those is,  
13 quote/unquote, the ASC and which one of those is  
14 the RSC?

15 THE FACILITATOR: It's not really the same  
16 anymore.

17 PARTICIPANT: So, which one is almost like the  
18 others?

19 THE FACILITATOR: The GSU is the portion of  
20 your current ASC meeting that just deals with your

1 group reports. The LSU is a part of your current  
2 ASC meeting that does all the business, all your  
3 subcommittee reports, all your motions and most of  
4 your other stuff.

5 PARTICIPANT: Which one is the RSC?

6 THE FACILITATOR: The RSC is what we've talked  
7 about in the last workshop that we haven't dealt  
8 with this in here today. We dealt with it at the  
9 last RSC where we talked about the state at the  
10 time was called the GPU, the geopolitical unit.  
11 But in this new proposal, it's been changed to the  
12 state/national/province level.

13 PARTICIPANT: Basically, I'm trying to know,  
14 like you want to like eliminate the subcommittees;  
15 correct?

16 THE FACILITATOR: Correct.

17 PARTICIPANT: Okay. So, like say for  
18 instance, H&I, just in two areas alone, like Gold  
19 Coast has 41 meeting that they bring in and I think  
20 Mid Coast has 30. That stops you right there.

1 That's not including all of the other, you know,  
2 areas. One person is supposed to be --

3 THE FACILITATOR: No. The LSU is going to be  
4 Broward County. So, it's not Mid Coast now or  
5 maybe a few groups at Mid Coast has Broward County,  
6 but we figure that Gold Coast H&I, South Broward  
7 H&I has 25 meetings in 15 facilities and then the  
8 South Atlantic H&I, there were portions of that's  
9 in Broward County. That's going to be the LSU at  
10 that point where the H&I coordinator has been to  
11 Broward County dealing with the project of  
12 coordinating the meetings in Broward County. That  
13 is the proposal.

14 PARTICIPANT: Right.

15 THE FACILITATOR: And yes, it's a big  
16 responsibility. That is the downside to it. The  
17 upside to it is -- The upside to it is if Joe Blow  
18 Treatment Center on State Road 7 and 595 wants to  
19 do it, get a meeting there and they're looking,  
20 we'll, I got this fucking thing that says Gold

1 Coast, South Broward, South Atlantic, who am I  
2 supposed to call? I want NA. Who do I call?  
3 Under the local service unit, there's one thing.  
4 There's a Broward County NA. And that's who  
5 they're going to call to get a --

6 PARTICIPANT: But there is no H&I meeting, so  
7 they're still not going to get anything.

8 PARTICIPANT: I don't think what he's saying  
9 is there's going to be one person that does it.  
10 There's going to be a work group rather than a  
11 standing committee. So, what usually happens with  
12 work groups is that work groups meet when work  
13 needs to be done. They don't just meet to meet  
14 because there's a scheduled meeting. They meet  
15 when work needs to be done and that is a lot of how  
16 the World Service work group does their stuff, but  
17 that's what they're suggesting to us. So, it's not  
18 only going to be one person. It's that they're  
19 going to meet probably less often and only really  
20 when work needs to be done. So, it's not just

1 going to be on one person. That's my understanding  
2 of what it is saying.

3 THE FACILITATOR: And again, I just wanted to  
4 speak questions so that we all understand it and  
5 then we'll go in in our next session to go into the  
6 actual pros and cons input.

7 PARTICIPANT: As an RCM, I'm going to need to  
8 convey this to -- okay. So, what I'm hearing this  
9 say is on the linear and two-track options. On the  
10 linear, we have a delegate from the GSU handling  
11 group issues. Okay. So, that's responsibility for  
12 group issues. Then the LSU handles the  
13 responsibility of special projects, conventions,  
14 H&I, PR, different projects that they would handle.  
15 And there's somebody from the GSU who would go to  
16 the LSU.

17 THE FACILITATOR: Under the linear option.

18 PARTICIPANT: Under the linear option.

19 THE FACILITATOR: Only under the linear option  
20 that someone from the GSU goes to the LSU.

1       PARTICIPANT: Right. Okay. So, that's  
2 basically the two -- the linear track?

3       THE FACILITATOR: Correct.

4       PARTICIPANT: And then the two-track options,  
5 somebody from the GSU, we would have a delegate go  
6 to the LSU.

7       THE FACILITATOR: Someone from the group. The  
8 two-track option, as the group sends the people to  
9 both. It's not -- The GSU doesn't send anything.  
10 Has no -- doesn't send any delegate. There is no  
11 delegate from the GSU to the LSU. It's coming from  
12 the group to the LSU. It comes from the group to  
13 the GSU.

14       PARTICIPANT: The two-track option, they say,  
15 the first sentence means that the GSU would only be  
16 discussing group issues and they would not need to  
17 send a formal delegate to the LSU.

18       THE FACILITATOR: Correct.

19       PARTICIPANT: Okay. This would preserve the  
20 simplicity. But at the LSU meeting, you would ask

1 the same person to attend both the GSU and LSU?

2 THE FACILITATOR: Under the two-track option,  
3 there are choices. And one of the choices for the  
4 group could be to send one person to both or they  
5 could send two people. One person, two separate  
6 people. One person, GSU, and a different person to  
7 the LSU.

8 PARTICIPANT: I wanted to make sure. My  
9 understanding when you were talking about the  
10 coordinators and the work groups versus the  
11 standing committees was -- my understanding of the  
12 way that it's done at World Service is you do have  
13 like say an H&I coordinator, but there's no  
14 existing committee. When a commitment comes open,  
15 they have a pool of resumes essentially where if  
16 you're interested in an H&I commitment, you would  
17 send -- these are my qualifications for it. The  
18 coordinator and the people from the LSU would then  
19 go over those and say, well, this guy's been taking  
20 a meeting for ten years. He doesn't have one right

1 now. He obviously has the qualifications and the  
2 willingness. Let's give him a call and see if he  
3 wants to fill that commitment.

4 THE FACILITATOR: Yes. That's how a group  
5 gets manpower for a project.

6 PARTICIPANT: Yeah. So, in order for a group  
7 to elect a group support and the LSU, they would  
8 still have to elect -- I still call it a GSR -- in  
9 order to have an election to have a GSU --

10 THE FACILITATOR: You're talking about the  
11 linear option or the two-track?

12 PARTICIPANT: No. In any of them. They're  
13 both the same as a group. We are still going to  
14 have a GSR so we have to elect a GSR, a GSU and --

15 THE FACILITATOR: No GSR anymore. No area  
16 service.

17 PARTICIPANT: How would a group elect -- How  
18 would a group elect a GSU or LSU without -- like  
19 they just going to go, okay, you --

20 THE FACILITATOR: The process of the group is

1 going to be up to the group. So, the group will  
2 have a choice on how they elect. But they will  
3 elect someone to the GSU. The purpose of the GSU  
4 to provide group support, and so we need a person  
5 with qualifications, three months clean time, boom,  
6 you go to the group and that's how the group says,  
7 we'll have our GSU person two-track option say,  
8 okay. And we'll also need an LSU person,  
9 qualifications, nine months clean time. You know,  
10 this is what happens at the LSU and report back on  
11 this is going back from the LSU. But that's up to  
12 the group on how they were going to do it.

13 PARTICIPANT: But who is going to be  
14 facilitating that group in keeping in it --

15 PARTICIPANT: I hear what he's saying.

16 THE FACILITATOR: The GSU will have a  
17 facilitator, basically what's known as the  
18 chairperson. A chairperson under consensus based  
19 decision making, they're called facilitators.

20 PARTICIPANT: No. Not in the group support.

1 I'm talking about in our group level. How do we  
2 come up --

3 THE FACILITATOR: Same way that you do with  
4 the GSR.

5 PARTICIPANT: The secretary in the GSU will  
6 run the meetings.

7 PARTICIPANT: Who's going to facilitate?

8 THE FACILITATOR: Nothing that's in this  
9 proposal addresses that. So, whatever you're doing  
10 now, it would be the exact same way, to be the  
11 exact same.

12 PARTICIPANT: That will be the next proposal.

13 PARTICIPANT: Could we implement the service  
14 system change without implementing the committee to  
15 work group and Robert rules to consensus-based  
16 decision making?

17 THE FACILITATOR: Yes.

18 PARTICIPANT: Could we keep that portion of  
19 what we like and implement the other changing of  
20 just the levels? Theoretically, could we do that?

1 THE FACILITATOR: Yes.

2 PARTICIPANT: Okay.

3 (Thereupon, a brief recess was taken after  
4 which the following proceedings were had.)

5 THE FACILITATOR: I am going to take 15  
6 minutes to go through input, okay, specific input  
7 on this stuff. I know Linda has some that she was  
8 dying to raise. I want to make sure we give her  
9 that opportunity.

10 PARTICIPANT: Okay. I don't see in the  
11 two-track option -- The revised option is kind of  
12 what we do now. I don't see how if a group elects  
13 a representative to the group service unit to get  
14 their help that's a great idea. Then they send  
15 someone to the LSU to do the business of NA where  
16 the unity comes in where the groups get together  
17 and do things together like we kind of do now.  
18 There is no unity in this NA structure. There's  
19 also two people now coming back to a little group  
20 of maybe 15 or 5 or 6 people saying this is what

1 they said at the LSU and this is what they said at  
2 the GSU. You're going to have a hour and a half  
3 long business meeting when you only have an hour  
4 long meeting. It is just not implementable at the  
5 group level.

6 THE FACILITATOR: While we do that, move on.

7 One of the questions on the input form was,  
8 which is more preferable, the linear option or the  
9 two-track option?

10 How many think the linear option is  
11 preferable? Raise your hands. 16 were in favor of  
12 the linear option.

13 Raise your hands for the two-track option. No  
14 one.

15 And neither, raise your hands for neither. 18  
16 are in favor of neither.

17 That answers the question.

18 PARTICIPANT: When we're reading about the  
19 LSU, I was thinking about the single point of  
20 accountability. And for the LSU, like, although

1 Dade, Broward has a good point about, like, the  
2 size of, like, what H&I would be, for example, if  
3 it was Broward County. But I don't know how it  
4 would be implemented. But what I was thinking was  
5 that there would be a single point of  
6 accountability because there's like three different  
7 bodies trying to serve the hospitals and  
8 institutions in Broward, for example. And it's  
9 possible that places are falling through the cracks  
10 because of no single point of accountability.

11 And the other thing is the difference between  
12 the two tracks was, like -- I don't think -- Like I  
13 really don't know personally which one would work  
14 better until it happens, you know. Like there is  
15 no real way to know how to operate this stuff until  
16 it actually happens.

17 And then, on page 10, I would love the  
18 strategic planning, like, in making, you know,  
19 committees more purpose driven rather than  
20 arbitrarily. But, you know, I always disagreed

1 with the consensus-based decision making. I think  
2 Robert's rules work. And so that's -- But I love  
3 you. I think in my area, like, we thought a little  
4 bit more ahead of what we were going to do. Then a  
5 lot of -- You spend a lot less money for stuff like  
6 that.

7 As far as efficiency with service, I know some  
8 people brought it up a lot. When it comes to,  
9 like, being efficient with money, being efficient  
10 with hours, like, that's important. I know for me,  
11 like, when I am doing service, I can get stretched  
12 thin really easily. I don't want to sit through a  
13 five-hour area service committee meeting. I want  
14 to sit through a two-hour area service committee  
15 meeting. Realistically, I'm doing 20 hours of  
16 service that month. I don't want to sit there for  
17 five hours while people just ramble on. It's kind  
18 of a good reason to be efficient with money. Every  
19 dollar spent is like a dollar in the basket. Like  
20 a \$5 ticket with someone's box. If we are not

1 efficient with the money, we can't buy an extra  
2 book to bring to the hospital or institution.

3 And so, I do think it's important to be smart  
4 with what we do and to really take a step back and  
5 talk about it and holistically see, like are we  
6 providing services efficiently. Because there's  
7 not a never-ending money tree anymore. I'm not  
8 going to talk. I'll go back up in a while.

9 THE FACILITATOR: Any other specific input on  
10 any of the proposals?

11 PARTICIPANT: Well, I think to reiterate what  
12 she said as positives and negatives.

13 THE FACILITATOR: What are the positives?

14 PARTICIPANT: The positives is to have a  
15 central, like, number that someone could call for  
16 H&I and PR for a county.

17 Negatives are like things -- like with a  
18 project-based, are things going to get done. Like  
19 service committees, we meet once a month. It's not  
20 that bad.

1       PARTICIPANT: I have a question, how would  
2       somebody with, like, three months clean go to my  
3       home group, get involved in an LSU project-based,  
4       thing if they don't know anybody or -- And, I mean,  
5       just seems like they're not going to be able to  
6       find it if they want to do it.

7       THE FACILITATOR: I'm not the best person to  
8       answer that question because I never been formally  
9       involved in a project-based system. I don't know  
10      if someone else could answer that. I don't have an  
11      answer for you today.

12      PARTICIPANT: I think that's an issue.

13      THE FACILITATOR: I will try to find out.  
14      If you can, I would suggest you -- Have you  
15      registered for the services discussion board?

16      You can go ahead and post your questions on  
17      the service discussion board.

18      PARTICIPANT: Mine is basically along the same  
19      lines as hers. I mean, it seems to me that the  
20      newcomer, even though they gain clean time and they

1 may become functional in the GSU, they're never  
2 going to get to the point where they have got a  
3 resume' that's going to be good enough for them to  
4 send it into the LSU and be selected to be on a  
5 committee or a project, because they've got no  
6 experience because they got nowhere to get it.  
7 That's crazy. What that means is all us people  
8 with time are going to be doing all of the stuff.  
9 You know, we're not stepping back to train anybody  
10 from the LSU because training is going on in the  
11 GSU.

12 PARTICIPANT: I think like there's good and  
13 bad to this. Bad is I don't see how you can  
14 coordinate H&I functioning on a project-based  
15 basis. How do you handle the 500 H&I meetings a  
16 month that we are bringing into 150 facilities on,  
17 like, an ad hoc project-based format? It's not  
18 going to work. You need accountability at a  
19 committee on a monthly meeting level. And it has  
20 to be an ongoing standing committee. Eliminating

1 that standing committee is like driving coffin  
2 nails into the lives of the addicts whose lives  
3 would be affected by bringing H&I meetings in. It  
4 will stop happening.

5 THE FACILITATOR: I also suggest to you to  
6 post the same question and see if there are other  
7 large areas now that are operating under a  
8 project-based system that deal with that. Maybe  
9 there are. I can't answer you.

10 PARTICIPANT: I would like to say one more  
11 thing positive about the idea of an LSU. In  
12 dealing with this newcomer stuff about where do  
13 people learn if we are not allowing them to  
14 participate; and that is we could set up training  
15 committees that train our newcomers on how to do  
16 this stuff. This is something that's not being  
17 done in this region or probably in very many places  
18 in this country right now. And I think it's  
19 something we need to look at, you know, I think  
20 before we start forming project-based committees.

1 We ought to look at training our trusted servants  
2 on what we do and how it should be done. That will  
3 nip a lot of stuff in the bud.

4 THE FACILITATOR: Tom, then Oma, then Mat,  
5 Alfonso. And just, you know, we have seven minutes  
6 to finish this. We just do because we have to move  
7 on to the Orlando workshop and a budget.

8 PARTICIPANT: You know, there's a lot of parts  
9 to this that we can implement. A lot of it is, you  
10 know. No, we can't -- I don't think we can have  
11 project-based committees. But we can have -- We  
12 can downsize. We don't need four chairpeople. We  
13 can have somebody at South Broward. On the west  
14 coast, we can have one person that covers all --  
15 you know, which covers all of the H&I commitments  
16 up there in four different areas. We can do that.  
17 But when we get to the LSU, where they talk about  
18 getting people like the LSU voting in people on  
19 these pools and takes all of our -- takes all of  
20 our group conscience out of it. We don't even know

1 who is doing what and there is none.

2 And training is great, but training is  
3 bullshit. Because let me tell you something. Can  
4 you train somebody -- You send them to school, but  
5 when they go out to that job they don't know what  
6 the fuck they're doing. We need to still have  
7 these things open that people can walk right in  
8 here, grab somebody, a new guy, and said, Here, you  
9 come to this with me and you'll be part of.

10 Because we can talk and tell somebody about how to  
11 do H&I, how to do PR and how to do all this until  
12 we are blue in the face and we send them to that  
13 room and when we come back an hour later, they  
14 don't have shit done, because we need to follow and  
15 show them. But we need to do it a lot more  
16 responsibly.

17 We do need to do that, regardless of what some  
18 of us say or I always say, I learned because of the  
19 fellowship in it. I didn't learn because of the  
20 fellowship in it. I learned because somebody

1     taught me and brought me here. Maybe we do  
2     overspend. Maybe we don't need to be in here.  
3     Maybe we don't need SFRCNA to be at these big  
4     hotels. Maybe we need to be at colleges. Maybe we  
5     have got to really sit down instead of talking  
6     about how we're spending the money, we need to  
7     start really implementing that and we need to start  
8     carpooling and we need to start sharing rooms and  
9     doing all this stuff that we talk about on the  
10    side. But when we come here, we're still already,  
11    how many miles did I get, and making sure we are  
12    getting money back for every fucking penny we spend  
13    here, so we can spend it at the convention or  
14    wherever we are doing, you know.

15         We need to really start -- We need to start  
16    doing housekeeping within ourselves and then we can  
17    show other people how to do it.

18         THE FACILITATOR: Oma.

19         PARTICIPANT: I'm Oma.

20         There is on-the-job training on the service

1 commitment training. So, certainly to reiterate  
2 training doesn't just mean to stick somebody in the  
3 room, give them some pamphlets. We bring the  
4 person to train and, you know. It was like  
5 important.

6 THE FACILITATOR: You can always send me the  
7 input. I got Mat and Alfonso. Then we got to  
8 close -- We'll give you the method to go ahead and  
9 submit this input so we could add it to the input  
10 that we'll submit to NAWS.

11 Go ahead, Mat. You have got two minutes.

12 Alfonso, you have got two minutes.

13 PARTICIPANT: I actually have been on the  
14 service boards and I haven't received much of an  
15 answer or know how to approach it. But to use  
16 Broward County as an example, we do have four  
17 different areas providing services in Broward  
18 County right now. And a big part of why there's  
19 four different areas is because a lot of people  
20 don't see eye to eye about how things should be

1 done.

2 In what ways does any of these address that?

3 THE FACILITATOR: It does not.

4 Alfonso.

5 THE WITNESS: For starters, I was one of those

6 16 that voted linear was better. I am also one of

7 those 18 that said this whole thing, I would like

8 to see it go away.

9 Everything that they're proposing to do under

10 this system, either can be accomplished or is being

11 accomplished by our present system. That's the

12 bottom line in a nutshell. Everything can be

13 accomplished in this present system. Four areas in

14 one county, so what? And H&I -- Something like H&I

15 is not being covered. We know they got four-area

16 chairpeople or whatever. You can call and say, you

17 know, we have this institution that's not being

18 covered.

19 South Dade covers H&I in Dade County. Lots of

20 them. Some of the places are covered by other

1 areas, is the point I'm trying to make.

2 Those are problems that we create for  
3 ourselves or whatever are easily solvable with the  
4 same structure. We're just screwing this up.

5 THE FACILITATOR: First, you understand, we  
6 have got to deal with -- Kevin told me I got to be  
7 out of here in five minutes to get ready for admin  
8 and stuff like that. We have got to deal with this  
9 Orlando workshop. Let's deal with that. If we  
10 have more time, then we'll go ahead and come back  
11 to this.

12 As of right now, for Orlando workshop, for  
13 those who don't know, some who do, we have -- The  
14 region is paying for six rooms in Orlando for any  
15 member in South Florida who wishes to attend on a  
16 first-come, first-served basis; as well as two  
17 vans, one going from the east side, one going from  
18 the west side to Orlando. As of right this minute,  
19 we have 20 of those 24 available beds taken. Okay.  
20 So, we only have four. That's after Meredith,

1 Isis, Dave, and whoever else today, and Alfonso  
2 gave me the information.

3 Is there anyone else here that has not already  
4 told me that they want to go?

5 PARTICIPANT: If I withdraw my name from one  
6 of the beds, will I get the same rate?

7 THE FACILITATOR: Yes, the \$89.

8 (Thereupon, the proceedings were concluded.)

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