Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum Annual Meeting

Louisville, CO

July 24, 2010

Present: Colorado RD Brenda E., Colorado RDA Chuck C., Upper Rocky Mountain RD
Tommy O., So ID RD Harper N., So ID RDA Jody G., RMZF Webservant Don T. and
RMZF general member Linda L. Also present was Travis F. (Presenter, member of the
World Service Project Team: Service System, and addict from Boulder Area, CO)
Absent: RDA from Upper Rocky Mountain Region, RD and RDA from Montana, plus
RD and RDA from Utah.
Other Guest attendees included Shawn H, Shell H, and Dawn H. from the Off The Wall
Area, CO. Arriving for some to all of the afternoon portion of the RMZF were Mac Mc.,
Joan D., Bob D., Tawni C., Joseph B., Mo M., and Marie A.

10:12am: Travis began his presentation:
Materials he brought are newer than otherwise available. Materials to be presented at the
planned 5 NAWS Workshops throughout the US from Aug to Nov of 2010. Travis
explains that the Service System Team (hereafter called SST) met with the World Board
and the Executive Committee for 2 of its (SST) 6 meetings yearly. Travis gave an
overview of what the SS team has done to date.

Next, we all did a get-to-know-you exercise involving each person in the room.

The history of the SST (how is came about): (1) having a new Service System helps
addicts better function since we (NA) started with the service handbook, "The Service
Tree" about 30+ years ago. And the Guide to Local Service is old too (at least 10 years).
(2) A new Service System can be used to point out where are the old timers, how to do
better service, how to serve the newer addicts. (3) And, input from the IDT from addicts
drove the response of creating the SST to review and up-date the present NAWS service
structure.

The team started with making a list of what _must_ happen to meet the needs of addicts
today. The SST refers to this lists as the "Musts". (Travis is seeking permission for us to
have a copy of the "Musts"…. Will send as soon as…) Then, the timelines came next.
Travis did state he personally wished the SST had more time to make more perfect;
however, taking time means losing lives (to the disease of addiction). The Group level is
important so fewer lives get to be lost.. The SST work is in its 2nd cycle of the WSC
cycles but a third cycle (2012-2014) would allow the SST a cycle for implementation of
the new Service System.

Got the handout of the newly approved NAWS Vision Statement that includes the
sentence about the benefits of every addict doing service. ("Every member, inspired by
the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;") The
SST worked to incorporate this Vision Statement into the main steam of the new Service
System. The team's focus was/is what must happen to best serve our Fellowship.

Tommy O had a question about the service material approval process being different from the approval processes for literature like the Living Clean (Book) Project. We discuss this question, making sure everyone understood the why and way of these 2 different approval paths.

We are encouraged to join, log on and participate in the Service System Discussion Board on the NAWS website. Use http://www.na.org/service system to join. Also the SST and the World Bd along with NAWS is doing those 5 workshops to get this info out.

Next everyone was involved in a small group activity of "What 3 things would you do/want to do to improve our Service System to better serve our Worldwide Fellowship (reach our vision)?"

Results from Group 1.:

a) Workshop on starting meetings (missing meetings/needed meetings) to educate members on how to better help underserved areas – show more involvement.
b) Focus on the Traditions at workshops at all levels
c) Service task orientations/training – well defined roles and responsibilities (job description).

Results from Group 2.:

a) Find more ways to show a personal change brought on or by doing service in NA
b) Bigger push thru PI/PR letting people know we (NA) are here and better define who we are and how we function.
c) Start push in groups to teach them better how money should flow based on the 7th Tradition.

Results from Group 3.:

a) Better communication skills (to be taught) and clearer paths so the average NA member has privy to ALL information need about NA: how it works, what is does, what is new, what the past looked like and how the future is shaping up.
b) Developing methods/process (etc.) about increasing interest in NA service – creating a consistency to commitment.
c) Sponsorship/Mentorship – improve the literature! AND clarify the process!

NOTE: According to Travis – All 3 Groups' results were "musts" from the SST's list.

BREAK

Next, Travis did a Power Point Presentation:

Since our Service System was first created, we experienced a number of common challenges:

~ Ineffective Communication

~ Insufficient Funds (including people, money and time)

~ Frustrated Trust Servants

~ Poor atmosphere of recovery in service meetings

Even with the challenges, parts of the Service System does work – but, with problems occurring, people work around the system (rather than fixing it).

The SST, created in 2008, and reaffirmed in 2010 (with a possible extension if Fellowship wants in 2012), looks to improve all service bodies – even those that seem to be functioning well.

The Service System was established in the 1970's (prior to the appearance and approval

12 Concepts of NA Service). This early Service System did not take a holistic look at

improving the service system on local levels and this conglomerate of issues resulted in

these new changes (coming from the SST project) attempting to bring us closer to the 12

Concepts.

The Service System contends today with:

58,000 meetings worldwide

more countries as members

different social attitudes toward addiction and recovery

The Service System Project is to begin a Fellowship wide discussion – not a set of "finished" models. Worldwide change requires worldwide Fellowship discussion. So, again we were encouraged to join the Service System Project discussion Board (see link above). See also the CAR 2010 essay on the Service System Project on this link.

The first task of the SST was to work towards the vision of all NA services being broadened to apply to all NA service. The NAWS Vision Statement is a small part of the SST's work on the foundational principles of an effective NA service system.

Principles of an effective NA Service System:

~ Purpose-driven

~ Group-focused

~ Defined by geographical boundaries

~ Flexible

Purpose-driven = need a reason for action

Group-focus = critical that group and addict needs are being met

Flexible = accordion piece – like Iran just popping up and fitting in

Elements of the System:

As we consider changes it is helpful to consider 4 components that make up the NA Service System:

~ Structure

~ People

~ Processes

~ Resources

All of the above working toward the NA Vision…….. The above is arranged diagrammatically into a "Fishbone Structure" – see CAR 2010 essays (link given above) to gain a visual picture of this schematic. We need all 4 components to make our service system effective and functional.

NOTE: Some Processes (see above) that have been identified by the SST as critical are:

~ Planning

~ Decision-Making

~ Communication

~ Training and Mentorship

These Element plus the Processes listed above are for discussion and idea gathering from the Fellowship…….. they are models for future vehicles to drive NA service.

LOCAL LEVEL CHANGES:

Present day = Group → GSR → ASC → RCM → RSC → WSC (World)

New plans: Groups would remain – only better / stronger / more effective

The Group local service bodies would be the "work horse" of NA. Thus, there are 2 model options with new units at the local level.

The Group Support Unit (or GSU – a new unit) would be devoted entirely to the needs of groups. How many and where these GSU created is up to the Groups themselves.

GSU's:

1. Would reduce the workload of the local service body

2. Would be more responsive to its local groups (recovery meetings)

3. Would provide a supportive environment for newer members to get into service
     Could train people – getting addicts into service – NA pure..

The following is copied from the Service System link on the World Service Conference Related Materials link on the www.na.org website:
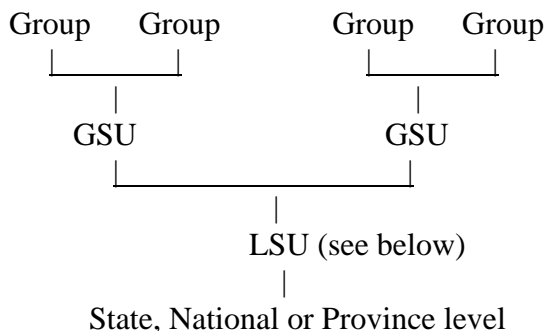
Functions/Focus of the GSU
The GSU may do some or all of the following:
· Welcome new groups and reach out to isolated groups
· Provide a discussion forum for group issues
· Pass on information to groups and individuals, including:
   o News from other communities such as upcoming events, new
   meetings,decisions and plans made that involve the wider fellowship, etc.
   o Availability of new recovery and service materials
·Pass on information from its constituent groups to other groups and
  service bodies, including
 up   to   date meeting information and potentially useful service experience
·Maintain an archive of solutions, service resources, and best practices to   assist groups
· Provide basic services and participate in projects organized by the LSU
· Serve as a training ground
· Elect a delegate to the Local Service Unit Functions/Focus of the GSU

 (Note: This last function is not found on both models – only one model, see below)

MODEL 1.:

Group   Group   Group   Group
   |_____| |_____|
        | |
     GSU   GSU
      |_____|
                    |
          LSU (see below)
                    |
     State, National or Province level

(Note: Vertical lines end in arrow at bottom of line)

Local Service Unit (or LSU) – is PR, providing H&I. PI, and all other services for the Groups and to the local communities. This structure results in a separation of roles and responsibilities of groups and gives a concentration of addicts focusing on service.

The following is copied from the Service System link on the World Service Conference Related Materials link on the www.na.org website:

Functions/Focus of the LSU
The LSU may do some or all of the following:
· Provide training, including orientation, mentoring, and leadership

development
· Serve as a communication and accountability link
· Plan, including developing strategic plans and action plans
· Provide GSU support, including some or all of these:
    o Facilitation
    o Support, both personal and/or financial
    o Assistance in delivering local services
·Administer its own affairs such as facilitating meetings, renting space,
  setting agendas, etc.
·Put on fellowship events such as conventions, learning days, and CAR
  workshops
· Coordinate translation work—
   e.g., local dialects in multilingual countries, or service resource
   translation for sharing with other LSUs
· Conduct PR, including:
   o Institutional liaison
   o PI events
· Coordinate human resources such as a human resource pool
· Oversee financial resources
·Participate in fellowship development and support, including outreach to
  isolated NA communities
· Maintain a meeting list
· Distribute literature to groups
· Elect a delegate to the geopolitical unit

(Note: This last function is not found on both models – only one model, see below)

MODEL 2.:

Here, the GSU is just about the Groups and the addict. Intention is to promote recovery and the Vision Statement.

Shawn H. had a question about using the OutReach position to form the GSU's…….. discussion ended with the idea Groups would be autonomous in how they form GSU's.

In this model, GSU not linked to the LSU. As a result, Groups would need to send everyone (all who are interested and part of Home Group) to the GSU and then, send reps to the LSU…….. that's, one representative from each Group. This model allows the GSU to focus all its energy on Group support and leaving the delegation stream (see below) to the LSU.

Delegation Stream = approval processes / participation in Consensus-Based Decision-Making or voting.

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Group    Group          Group    Group
 |  |_____|   |           |  |_____| |
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|        |        |         |      |        |
|  GSU   |        |  | GSU    |     |
|        |        |         |      |        |
|_____|_____|_____|_____|
                  |
                  |
             LSU (see below)
                  |
        State, National or Province level
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(Note: Vertical lines end in arrow at bottom of line. Plus, what appears to be broken lines from the Groups to the LSU are/should be solid. And, for truly better renditions of these models please see web link listed above.)

12:45pm LUNCH

1:45pm – Resume meeting

For the LSU – there are at least 3 possible models for the structure of the LSU:

MODEL 1. and MODEL 2. Listed or attempted to be diagrammed above.

MODEL 3. is, of course, the current model in use: Group → GSR → ASC → RCM → RSC → WSC (World)

INTERMEDIATE BODIES:

Could insure flexibility to meet specific needs of service communities: for example, minority language needs – the IB's see that these needs are met. NA and the local community would receive all other services through the LSU.

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GSU     GSU                                    or  the several LSU's could use one IB and it
  |_____|                                       could (or does not have to be)  connected
      |                                             to the next level. (see diagrams on link)
     LSU
      |
    IB → onward to state, National or Provinces
            Called now Geopolitical Units or GPU's
```
What Intermediate Bodies are trying to do is reduce the resource needs in a service system and reduce the amounts or types of needs not being defined and/or met.

Chuck C's question: When this Service System Project comes out in the next CAR, will it be ala carte for us to pick and choose or will be we getting one model on which to vote. Answer…….. probably one model – being based on responses from the 5 NAWS Workshops being done in the US later this year. Earlier an addict had asked if the model coming out had room for flexibility? Question not answered.

OPTIONS FOR WSC SEATING:

Currently Zonal Forums are used for workshops, Fellowship development, and discussion of common issues. Zonal Forums are not part of the delegation stream (voting or making decisions on NA issues). Zones are just forums.

In both new (complete) models, RSC's will adapt to conform to the GPU's (externally recognizable geographical boundaries) or defined States, Nations, and/or Provinces.

Again, there are two options for the Models……. One where the Zonal Forums are or remain as they exist today – for the sharing, learning and information gathering – not part of the delegation stream.

In the second model, GPU's would then send ideas/needs/ consensus/votes onward to the Zonal meetings. And, they (the Zones) would in turn send and receive info between themselves and the WSC. In other words, Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum (one delegate) would represent our 5 regions at WSC – not our RD's and RDA's. Zones would have a more organized role – selecting delegates and participation in Decision-Making.

WSC needs to define what where the zones are…… comment by presenter.

Linda asked since the GPU's as defined would reduce the number of Regions to 52 (50 states + DC + Puerto Rico – we would lose 24 regions like where there are 2-++ regions in one state alone and 2+ regions in some of US's bigger cities..)… would that really solve the problem of too many delegates/not enough room/ higher costs to WSC – because not all countries are individually seated so regional delegate numbers would again go up? Answer was presenter couldn't answer this question.

Note: Several times by several members present, a comment was made that a goodly portion of this Service System Project comes across as a rewording or up-dating of Resolution A (WSC many years ago – soundly defeated by Fellowship vote!) No real comments or discussion was available on these comments……….

Discussion now turned to State/National Service Unit or GPU's:

Option 1. – as is now: US has many regions which are split cities or split up states while in other places multiple countries have one conglomerate vote, and so forth.

Option 2. – Seating at WSC would be by State, Nation, or Province (US number of delegates reduced by 24 – question still remains whether rest of world countries would eat up and/or surpass the numbers the US gave up.)

Option 3. – States/Nations/Provinces (GPU's) would narrow down to zones (picked by WSC) and then this greatly reduced number of delegates would then participate in WSC.

Discussion then turned to the distinction between services (PR: H&I, PI, Web, etc.) and support (help for the groups directly).

The following is copied from the Service System link on the World Service Conference Related Materials link on the www.na.org website:

Functions/Focus of the GPU
The roles of this body are again flexible according to local need. Some of the tasks the GPU could undertake include:
· Performing large scale PR on the state or national level
·Assisting local services, e.g., helping local H&I by working with the state
* or national corrections department*
· Planning, including:
        o Environmental scanning
        o Creating action plans
        o Assisting local planning efforts
· Training
·Serving as a communication link so as to disseminate information,
* especially to and from the global level*
·Upholding legal responsibilities, e.g., maintaining some form of legal
* identity such as a legal association*
·Maintaining a service office with multiple functions such as literature
* supply*
·Holding conventions/events, with a project based structure rather than a standi ng committee
·Performing outreach/fellowship development and nurturing emerging
* communities*
·Maintaining information technology, including a website, discussion
* groups, and a meeting database*
· Handling archiving and information management
· Coordinating human resources, such as a human resource pool
· Overseeing financial resources
· Coordinating translations
· Electing a delegate to the global body

BREAK

Next came a discussion, review and overview of the presentation and related discussion from the morning session for one hour – since not all participants were there.

We also discussed a 3rd cycle for the SST from 2012-2014 for implementation of this new Service System. Travis as a addict's personal wish and as a member of the SSTeam hopes thus 3rd year happens.

3:18pm – WE (RMZF) thanked Travis and he left.

BREAK

3:38pm Zonal Forum meeting resumes.. We chatted for a while and portable AC was put in to reduce room's temp.

3:51pm Region reports – Regions will send to Brenda to be added to the minutes

Discussion then centered on PR and the challenges of Internet social networking with anonymity….. FaceBook is bad but the question was raised how else can we reach the younger addicts of today, especially since they are glued to their phones and to their computer??!! Perhaps we should have an info page or an advertisement blurb on right side of home page on FB? Or, it was suggested that there be a NAWS advertisement plug on the right with a link to an info page and/or with a link to the NAWS meeting list by city and/or Helpline/Phoneline directory.

We then all got to view the Power Point Presentation / RMZF report to WSC developed by Brenda and Chuck. It was truly enjoyed by all!!

Discussion then centered on a discussion from the WSC and NYC / PR having a streaming message on the Jumbotron about NA – offered to NA for about $1/200^{th}$ of the normal cost.. Apparently the timing was off for an informed decision and the resultant effects or reactions. (Attraction rather than promotion) Follow up would be very critical!

Growth of PR:

2002 NAWS PR roundtable discussions marked the beginning.
2006 PR Handbook started coming out in pieces – it is meant to be a resource

The NA Fellowship's involvement in PR/PI efforts has been seen at State fairs, professional conferences, on billboards, D&A related conferences, correctional meetings, meetings/conferences of Medical people (and now especially rural medicine), posters, Pridefest, and so forth.

We then went over the latest statistics about our membership from NAWS.

Don T. next discuss some needs for our RMZF's website (www.rmfna.org):

~ we get about 500 hits per month

~ do we need changes?

   a) suggested that he link the picture of each state on home page to their regional
       page
   b) Don add links to specific NAWS links for each member region
   c) Tawni wanted to see "For the Professional" on Regional & Area Website –
       mostly not there. Don will link our website to the NAW "For the Professional"
       link

Don reminded us that the RD and RDA link are not working - that emails for RMZF members need to go to Don and he will distribute to us.

Jody further added about social networking on the Web that we need to be careful about how and what we post, especially with regard to being tagged or in pictures labeled as attending an NA event.

We then went back to everyone's (who was there) Regional reports:

Colorado = CRCNA dates & times + stats, our PI Professional Symposium, H&I meeting packets for our prisons, PR Coordinator & the Group-Adopt-A-Group across Area lines, our bid for WSLD for 2012, we're revising our Guidelines and our Regional Assembly is going to be in Vail in Sept.

Upper Rocky Mountain = Stress Service System - need workshop – this is so important, is doing one on the PR Handbook, and mote to come in Regional report to be emailed to Brenda for inclusion in these minutes.

Southern Idaho = got new PSA's, and the RD & RDA were given slots at the convention.

(Montana and Utah – not here and no report sent or given)

Saw the PSA's from South Africa

No topics (except probably the Service System) were selected for the next RMZF in MT in July of 2011. It was encouraged that members of RMZF email each other if wanted or needed topics arise…..
WE came up with or actually just clarified our next cycles of RMZF meetings thru the Regions:

July, 2011 is Montana

Dec, 2011 is Southern Idaho

July, 2012 is Utah

July, 2013 is Upper Rocky Mtn and

Dec, 2013 is Colorado

We adjourned at 5:19pm for dinner and recovery meetings

Submitted still loving service,

Linda L.
CO RD Requested Recording Secretary

Reports:

Colorado Region

Our region is moving along. We do not have a regional vice chair, but our other positions are filled. Our regional convention is moving along with 210 pre-registrants. The regional convention is October 15-17, 2010 in Grand Junction, Colorado. Bids were presented for 2011 convention.

Our Colorado Regional Incorporation committee has put together a board which consists of members at large. Chuck C. is the incorporation committee chair and we are moving to work and complete the 501c3 paperwork.

PI has been working towards a professional symposium and a questionnaire was sent out with no responses. They are trying to reach other professionals to expand the list for participants.

H&I is busy with Area H&I and DOC for taking meetings to jails, prisons, and other facilities. Literature and packets are being created for institutions so they can run their own internal NA meetings by the inmates.

PR has been coordinating efforts through PI, H&I, and starting on some Fellowship Development/Outreach. Outreach/fellowship development is going to try Group-Adopt-a-Group. They are working jointly with other areas and groups to help outlaying NA groups.

Our region is revising guidelines and is in the infancy stages.

Our region placed a bid for the Western States Learning Days to be held here in Denver. Preliminary work is just getting started. This would be held in 2012 if our bid is accepted.

Our Regional Assembly will be in Vail, Colorado on September 19, 2010.

Brenda E. & Chuck C.

Upper Rocky Mountain Regional Report to the Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum
24 July 2010
Louisville, CO

Dear RMZF Members,
Delynda and I will be conducting a workshop on our PR Handbook at our next RSC meeting, August 7th in Laramie, WY. As previously reported to this Zone, our RCMs

decided that we would have a ninety minute workshop prior to each RSC, conducted by the Delegate and AD, on WSC topics or on a topic of the hosting Areas choice.

We also expect a final report from the Convention Committee Eleven. The Convention Committee for our 12[th] Regional Convention is underway, with a Karaoke and Casino night fundraiser on August 28[th] at the 12/24/Club in Casper. Please check our Regional Website at www.urmrna.org for a flyer and further info on this event. That is also when they will decide the Theme and Logo for next year's celebration of recovery.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual celebration of recovery next May in Casper.

In fellowship and service,
Tommy O'Reilly (TommyO)
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