

December,,1986

TO: The World Service Conference - '87
FR: Bill Zimmerman
RE: Additional Needs

Dear Family,

It's that time again. That time when all of Narcotics Anonymous seems to make that great migration West. I think we all come to California each year in hopes of making a difference. I know I do. This is, however, a very special year for me. I come before you as a man with a vision, and as a man who brings many gifts. Now I would like to give these gifts to you as a fellowship and tell you of my vision. If you remember at end of last years' conference, you, the fellowship, directed me to go forth and research the question of Additional Needs, and bring to this years' conference my result. This report deals with that question, my results, recommendations, and direction.

The first gift that I would like to share with you is the work that has been done by WSC - Public Information Committee. The question of "Additional Needs" for addicts was first brought to the forefront of Narcotics Anonymous and placed on the floor of last years' conference by WSC - P. I. and also by the New England RSR in his report. With myself already serving on the Public Information Committee as a "special adviser" it wasn't long after the close of the conference that we took on "additional needs" as one of our tasks.

At the Quarterly Meeting held in July in Minneapolis we addressed this question for the first time as a task force. As it turned out that first Quarterly evolved into a brain-storming session giving us some direction. We all left Minneapolis with renewed vigor and a vision of hope. We were to go home to gather information and bring it back to the next Quarterly Meeting. We next met in October in Charlotte N. C.. While there we pulled the information which each of us brought and again we prayed for guidance and direction. Two truths came from the finding of that October meeting: The first being the fact that yes there is a need for Narcotics Anonymous to handle this question. Even more to the point and according to the principles of this fellowship we have a spiritual obligation to do so. Also after much discussion and many hours of work we came to another truth that weekend. This truth was that Additional Needs could not adequately be handled as one task of the P. I. Committee. It needed to be handled on a bigger scope. It was therefore recommended by our task force and I quote "Thus, we think the time has come for the WSC Public Information Committee to put a motion asking the Fellowship to form a standing committee to address Additional Needs!".

The next gift in my bag of goodies is the gift of "additional needs" coming of age and it's effect on Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. Those of us who were at the conference last year heard from the New England's RSR that New England had already established a standing committee of their RSC addressing the question of "additional needs". Thus the network began to form. At the close of the '86 conference there was myself, the WSC Public Information Committee, the New England Region, and the World Service Office each one servicing as a link in the network addressing the question of "additional needs for addicts". Communication has been sparse but nevertheless constantly growing. Thank God, it's a beginning. In October another link was added to the network. An adhoc committee was formed in my home region to research the need for establishing a standing committee of the Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Service Committee. This committee was given two months to research the question and was to report on its findings at the next RSC in December. The adhoc committee gave its report and as a result a standing committee was formed. A week later the committee met as a formal body, elected a Vice Chair, and went to work. Now is a good time to share with you some of the information revealed to us in forming this committee. A copy of the adhoc Committee Report is attached. Also, keep in mind that these numbers are concerned only with the Washington, D.C. area and only reflect about ten percent of the National Average. Which means in reality my friends that this is only the tip of a very large ice-burg. Please take notice of these states, they may help to save someones' life!! Continuing with the Adhoc Report please notice if you will a list of eight goals. We have completed or are completed each item on that list and are in the process of adding more. Some of the tasks that we have finished are:

- 1) An awareness flyer for the first Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Convention. We are also using this flyer for general awareness in the region as well as in the community at large. It seems to have had a significant impact.
- 2) We have adopted with minor changes New England's Group Questionnaire. Thanks, New England!! We have had a very good response.
- 3) We are preparing a questionnaire for professionals. Telling them of our existents and asking them how they handle the addict with "additional needs".
- 4) Recording of the Text. We are currently having the third edition revised made available on tape for the blind through "Readings for the Blind" in New Jersey. Members in our region are also in the process of taping the book for anyone.

We as a committee do aproud the efforts of the World Service Office in the taping of our text. However, we did experience and are experiencing a great deal of spiritual distress upon hearing that Basic Text on tape sells for \$15.00, and the text in the written word sells for \$9.00. Moreover, when one buys the Basic Text on tape they are only receiving half a book. Something is wrong with that somewhere? We as a committee are working quite hard towards the goal of making the Text available on tape at the same price as it is in the written form. We think it's only fair and we know we can do it.

Next here is a list of the states, regions, areas, and/or groups that have gotten involved and offered to help since last year's conference. I think it's quite impressive. They are:

- 1) The New England Region
- 2) The Chesapeake and Potomac Region
- 3) The Jersey Region

The List by states:

- 1) All of New England
- 2) Maryland
- 3) Virginia
- 4) Pennsylvania
- 5) New York
- 6) New Jersey
- 7) Ohio
- 8) Washington, D.C.
- 9) Delaware
- 10) Michigan
- 11) Minnesota
- 12) North Carolina
- 13) North Dakota

I thank you all. I thank all for making a difference.

My remarks in choosing will be as brief and to the point as possible. I intend to let the work done in the area of "additional needs" for addicts over the past year stand on its merit. I intend with the help of God's grace and the facts given in this report offer some direction to the conference.

One year ago this conference sent me on a mission - a fact findings mission. When I left here I was armed with little more than willingness, a higher power that loves me, and small but dedicated army of great people. Our first objective was to establish a need. We did so by answering the following question: ARE THERE ADDICTS OUT THERE THAT NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS CAN'T REACH THROUGH THE CONVENTIONAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS? The answer was a resounding Y E S!!!! Yes there are addicts still suffering out there who can't SEE, HEAR, SMELL, TOUCH, TALK, or experience in any way the freedom that Narcotics Anonymous offers. I ask you, here and now on the floor of this conference, can you live with that? I can't and they truly can't.

Therefore, I offer the following solution and direction. This direction comes in the form of the following motion

from the Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Additional Committee. It was also duly M/S/&C on the regional floor and carried here today by our RSR, Vince D. The motion is "that a permanent standing Committee of Additional Needs be established on the World level at World Service '87!" This motion was passed unanimously at the February RSC meeting of the C&P Region. This would establish the framework for a strong and viable network for Regional Service Committee to plug into. Thus, in turn we would better serve the addict with additional needs in as well as out of this program. To quote WSC P. I. Adhoc Task Force "thus, we think the time has come." We can make a difference. We have made a difference. Let us continue.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

I've given you my thoughts and input. The decision is yours, as a Fellowship, on what to do.

Yours In Loving Service,

Bill Zimmerman

23 April 1987

TO: The C&P Regional Service Committee
FR: Bill Zimmerman
RE: The Adhoc Committee Report

Dear Family,

The Adhoc Committee consisted of five hard working and very dedicated members. We met on Monday, December 1st from 8:30 - 10:54p.m. The purpose was to see if there is a need for a permanent standing "Additional Needs Sub-committee of the C&P Region and the overwhelming answer to this question was YES. Yes! We do need such a committee and we need it now. We of the Additional Needs Committee came to this conclusion by way of the following facts:

- 1) According to The Galludit Information Center there are over 240,000 deaf and hearing impaired in the Washington, D.C. metro area alone. NOTE - * This does not include the rest of Maryland as a state.
- 2) Using the National Average of 10% as ayardstick that gives us 2,400 addicts who may not know of Narcotics Anonymous.
- 3) Deaf Pride has what they call a "Drug and Alcohol Counselor" they did not know about Narcotics Anonymous, they will!
- 4) According to the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind there are well over 3,000 blind in the Washington metro area, again this does not include the rest of Maryland.

We are also already working towards the completion of these goals. They are:

- 1) A questionnaire to doctors, hospitals and lawyers to find them.
- 2) A questionnaire to our groups.
- 3) The cost and feasibility of teaching recovering addicts to sign.
- 4) Recording of the basic text (ie) approved literature on tape by the Lighthouse for the Blind.
- 5) Cost of interpreters for meetings.
- 6) Follow through on the marking of the meeting lists for weheelchairs and hearing impaired.
- 7) Contacting all service agencies in the Additional Needs population.
- 8) Open communications between curselves and other "A.N.C.'s" around the world of Narcotics Anonymous.

In conclusion I will be quite brief. The need is there. The time has come. We have a committee. We can make a difference. Let us continue our work. Let us continue to carry the message to those who are unable to learn of Narcotics Anonymous in the conventional way. We must be sure that no addict anywhere need die without a chance to find a better way of life!!

YOURS IN LOVING SERVICE

BILL Z.