

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 1990

WSC H&I REPORT

Greetings from your WSC H&I Committee. The project we completed for this conference year is the booklet, *Behind The Walls*, which we are asking the Conference to approve. We have worked on this booklet for six years, have sent it out for extensive review and input, and forwarded it to the JAC in full compliance with the process outlined on the bottom of page fifty of the TWGGS (1989).

It has come to our attention that there has been some concern about the above mentioned process. Perhaps a brief history of its development would be informative. In the past, WSC H&I submitted the literature it produced to the literature process. This was a completely satisfactory experience with *Staying Clean On The Outside*. However, the booklet, *For Those In Treatment*, followed a more tortuous path. The WSCLC's first revision of our draft was less than a page long. As a result of WSCLC's receptiveness and our concern about this piece, we had several meetings of small groups with both WSC H&I and WSCLC participation. These meetings resulted in a draft which was satisfactory to all concerned.

As we moved to the closing stages of our work on *Behind the Walls*, we initiated discussions with the then WSCLC Chairperson, aimed at setting up another series of small joint meetings. This was in August of 1988. We informally agreed to meet in February, 1989 and to use a few hours of the Literature Committee's regular March, 1989 meeting. WSC H&I approved the final draft of the booklet and anticipated using what we had learned from the *For Those In Treatment* process to work with WSCLC on *Behind The Walls*. Unfortunately, the then Literature Committee Chairperson was not able to attend a February joint meeting, so none was held. It also was not possible for the WSCLC to make any time available to WSC H&I in March.

When I talked with the then WSCLC Chairperson and the WSO Literature Project Coordinator about what this delay meant for the future of this booklet, they told me they could not foresee the WSCLC having time to begin to look at *Behind The Walls* before 1992. As a committee, we felt we needed this booklet at an earlier date than the 1992 starting point indicated. We also felt that there was a significant difference between the two earlier projects, *Staying Clean on the Outside* and *For Those in Treatment*, and *Behind The Walls*. We knew the earlier pieces would be distributed through NA groups.

Our expectation for the *Behind The Walls* was that it need never appear on a group literature table. We only sought to have it available for use with addicts in correctional facilities. This remains the extent of our concern.

For several years the members of the administrative bodies of WSC, P.I., H&I and Literature had informally discussed the emerging need for a class of literature that did not fit neatly into our existing two category structure of service or recovery. There was a perceived need for literature for use by service committees in the course of performing their duties which dealt with how the NA program works, what we do to stay clean, that did discuss recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. In this sense, it would be literature about recovery. It was however, needed to be used with professionals in the field of addiction, correctional administrators, members of the clergy, individuals being served by H&I panels, and a variety of people who are in positions involving contact with addicts. This seemed to be a "grey area" in terms of our existing definitions.

WSC P.I. had addressed their needs in the form of a process adopted in 1988. In telephone conversations and informal discussions before, during and after the March, 1989 JAC, a process was drafted which met this need. These discussions involved the Conference administration as well as the administration of the Board of Trustees, WSO Board of Directors, WSCLC, Policy, P.I., WSC Ad Hoc Committee on N.A. Service and H&I.

Since the motion was to come from H&I, it was discussed at our first committee meeting at the 1989 World Service Conference. With the committee's concurrence, the motion was made, seconded by the WSCLC Chairperson, and passed by the Conference. P.I. immediately moved to delete the portion of the TWGSS which outlined a process for approval of P.I. materials. This motion also passed.

As I mentioned in the March *Fellowship Report*, there was no discussion that anything other than literature was concerned, since the same Conference had already passed a motion addressing the approval of handbooks and guidelines.

Our on-going work includes the *Reaching Out* newsletter for which we solicit and write material. We are also working to develop a subscription plan to take some of the financial burden of its continuing growth off WSC.

We are in the process of compiling the information our experience indicates would be helpful to an isolated meeting/group. The final disposition of this task will be determined by the work of the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Groups, and Conference decisions about this issue.

We are working to prepare an audio tape of a mock H&I panel presentation. There are two separate ad hoc committees assigned to this task, one for a treatment panel and one for a correctional panel. This is an on-going project. Another ad hoc committee is working to streamline our internal voting procedures. In addition, several WSC H&I members have been working with the Conference Ad Hoc Committee on Isolated Groups.

This year, we have been able to have more members attend a variety of learning days and workshops than ever before. As you know, this type of exchange of information and education has become our primary focus. Our increased level of activity is probably due to an increase in the fellowship's awareness of our interest and the allocation of a larger portion of our budget to this purpose. If you would like to have a WSC H&I member or members attend a learning day in your region, write a letter to the H&I Project Coordinator c/o WSO. Let us know the date of your event and the level of service involved. In general, we give multi-regional events a higher priority than regional events. We are not able to fund members to

area events unless there is a local problem which the region has been unable to solve. Our policy is to send the geographically closest member. The host region will be asked about any funding they can supply and the topics they wish to address.

As mentioned in last year's report to the Conference, due to the continuing requests for assistance from area and regional committees, as well as addicts and/or professionals in an H&I setting, we included a line item in our budget for a literature stockpile. During the period from May 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990, we disbursed 387 Basic Texts, 632 White Booklets and 2,426 I.P.'s. For more specific information regarding the literature stockpile, see the attached reports. Additionally, the WSO has shipped approximately \$3,000 worth of literature to addicts and/or professionals in an H&I setting. The specifics regarding the WSO H&I department's distribution of recovery literature is the last attachment to this report.

During this past year, we have been delighted to see the interest in the new *Hospitals and Institutions Handbook*. Our greatest hopes for its usefulness to area and regional H&I committees are being realized. It has been a year of fulfillment for us as a committee, as we see our work on the Handbook, *Behind The Walls*, and our new direction to education and information begin to bear fruit. We thank you for all your support and for allowing us to be of service.