

N.A SOUTHERN AREA COMMITTEE:

ASR's Report 29th March2009:

ELECTIONS:

FUNDRAISING: This position is still vacant

EVENTS: This position is still vacant

GROUP REPORTS:

Most groups in Southern Region are doing well, with all positions filled, by and large, and regular levels of attendance. There is still a lack of Clean Time at meetings and there is concern being raised about the "burn-out" of members who are doing service. (See Ad Hoc Committee 'Service Brainstorm Session Report)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

All our sub-committees are working well. However there is growing concern with the shortage of members coming forward to fulfil speaking commitments for our H&I and PI sub-committees.

Both PI and H&I have given presentations to and are in ongoing liaisons with the local Drugs Task Force (one outcome being a suggestion for prescription medications to be considered as part of the DTF remit) and have been invited to the next meeting of the Regional (Munster) Drugs Task Force meeting.

Through H&I/PI we have been invited to take part in this year's Irish GP's conference and it is suggested that the Irish Regional H&I/PI coordinator be made aware of this and we ask that they contact either Martin C (H&I) or Danny F (PI) for more details.

AD HOC Committee: In response to a concern raised at the SAC meetings on both the 8th of Feb and the 8th of March by Martin C (H&I Chair) we arranged our own brainstorming session on the shortage of service volunteers coming forward to fulfil speaking engagements in treatment centres and institutions. Martin C reported that finding people to fulfil these commitments was becoming a 'fulltime job' and often entailed spending hours contacting people with no guarantee that an agreement to take part would actually be kept.

Summary of H&I/PI 'Brainstorming' Session
La Verna Thursday 19th March 2009

Format:

The initial idea was to list the views of all present as to what they felt the problem(s) were. These were summarised and written on the board and then grouped them headings. In reality Ger had already prepared some suggestions which he read out and were noted on the board. We then went around the group asking for any thoughts and inputs.

In the end we grouped the suggestions under 4 headings:

- 1) Commitments;**
- 2) Presentation/Attractiveness of service;**
- 3) Support for service volunteers;**
- 4) Groups and their role;**

We then broke into 4 groups of 4 or 5 people. Each group was allocated a heading and asked to suggest solutions to the problems that we had identified that fell under that heading. We allowed 10-15 minutes for this then came back together and listed the suggestions.

Solutions:

- 1) Commitments:-**

We identified the following issues:

H&I alone requires **24 members every month** just to fulfil its current speaking commitments (assuming one member only speaks at one meeting).

At present there are approximately **10-12 members** who actually take part.

Are we committed to too much?

We should draw up a printed list of those willing to take part and continually check that those listed are still willing to speak for H&I.

Perhaps the 'cleantime' requirement could be reduced to 6 months (its 12 months at present).

We need to take the issue of volunteers back to each group and ask them to canvas their members for volunteers.

2) Presentation/Attractiveness of service:-

The actual service commitment should be explained in more detail (i.e. not 'service keeps you clean and is part of the programme' but rather for example 'Tabor Lodge is held every 2nd Wednesday and a spin will be provided from town to the meeting and you get tea and biscuits, plus a spin home to your door if necessary afterwards. You will not be asked to speak every time only maybe once or twice a year and the format of the meeting is as follows....)

Members should include their experience of this when they share.

Suggest each group hold a 'service/H&I chair every month.

At a group level be more selective about who we choose for group service positions i.e. don't just accept whoever is first to come forward without a group conscience.

Shorten the length of service commitments from 12 to 6 months.

How is the handover of service positions conducted and also not receiving a volunteer when the current holder's time is up.

Actually thank people for their service work.

Draw up a H&I service poster with a signup sheet attached and distribute one to each group.

3) Support for Service Volunteers:-

Each group should draw up written guidelines and duties of each service position from Tea Secretary to GSR. The same should be true for each H&I

speaking position (explaining times, format, travel arrangements and expected commitment).

Group secretaries encouraged to organise an 'experience of service chair'.

H&I should provide 'signup sheets' at each meeting and collect them regularly.

The handover by the outgoing service person to the incoming person needs to be improved.

Members with cleantime should be more supportive of those doing service, especially for those doing service for the first time.

H&I committee to have regular (monthly) meeting of all the H&I secretaries to compare notes and assess the levels of support and commitment.

Sponsors to make service more attractive to their sponsees.

That SACNA hold a GSR and group service workshop.

4) Groups and their role:-

Each group to be asked to suggest, or to ask for, 3 members to volunteer for H&I service.

Each group to be asked to examine their own service structure and the support they provide for their own service volunteers.

Each group to be asked to stress the fellowship part of the Narcotics Anonymous programme especially Tradition 1.

Each group to be asked to hold a 'service' chair every month.

Each group to display the H&I Service Poster and Signup sheets and to mention them in 'Any NA related announcements' part of the meeting.

These are the suggestions we as a group came up with and we agreed to

- 1) Bring them to the Southern Area Committee meeting for discussion.
- 2) That the ASR should mention them at the next IRSC meeting and to ask the IRSC for a GSRs workshop.
- 3) That we will meet again on Thursday 9th April at 6pm in La Verna.

SAC are concerned that we still haven't been able to facilitate any service workshops and we are thinking of conducting our own, are there any materials available online or in other formats that we could use?

Donation:

There is a donation of €650.00.

In service,

Dave W, Southern Area ASR

Email: irscsadelegate@gmail.com

The next SAC meeting is on Sunday April 19th in the YMCA, Marlboro St at 3pm.