

Service System Update

Western States Zone

February 2011

New Timeline

- Originally a 4-year project, with proposals for change presented at the 2012 conference
- We heard the Conference in 2010 say this was completely impractical and we needed to slow down
- Now we are planning to offer a set of “agreements in principle” on the direction we’ve discussed at the 2012 WSC
- We will propose a project for the 2012-2014 cycle to continue this work
- This model matches the “Resolution Group / Transition Group” model used for WS restructuring

Foundational Principles

- Group Focused
- Flexible
- Geographically Defined
- Purpose Driven
- Collaborative (new)
 - System rather than pyramid structure
 - Both “Vertical” and “Horizontal” cooperation
 - “You’re a [LSC, intermediate body etc] when you say you are” may not be best practice

Group Support and Local Services

- “Linear” vs “Two-track” has been discussed and straw polled as though the new model will be one or the other
- The system could be both/either, with rationale provided about why a local community may choose.

What Happens at the GSU

- Informal training and mentoring
- Discussion of group business, group sharing
- Welcome and outreach to new groups and members
- Orientation and Introduction to Service
- Informal information sharing
- Some limited, informal service (putting up fliers, supporting outreach or H&I)
- Open attendance, with at least one designated delegate from each group

Local Services (LSU)

- Local Service Board
 - Meets Monthly (or as needed)
 - Admin officers and delegates to next level
 - Oversees workgroups
 - Coordinates planning assemblies
 - Develops budgets and plan
 - Maintains external relationships
 - Sends delegate to next level of service

Local Planning Conference

- Quarterly event, not a body
- Consists of participants from both GSUs and LSUs, Local Service Board members, Project and/or workgroup leads, interested members
- One meeting a year is the Annual Planning Assembly (next slide)
- May be some focused sessions, like a session for interface with another level (collaborative) like CAR Workshops today or a training
- Primary focus: executing this quarter's step in the annual planning cycle
- Consensus decisions

Annual Assembly

- One major check-in and refocusing event in the cycle each year
- Scanning, reaffirming priorities, setting new priorities
- May complete some workgroups and begin others
- All Planning Conference Participants in attendance

Intermediate Bodies

- “Span a gap” where needed. For example, it may not be practical for the California State body to be composed of delegates from all LSUs
- Need a clear statement of purpose and scope. Perhaps a “charter.”
- Defined and formed by the next level (e.g. State) not the previous level (e.g. LUS). Perhaps “petition” to form such as conference seating now
- Not a place-holder to retain existing structure. Needs based
- Not shared services.
- More discussion, creativity, experience is needed to further define this level

State / Nation / Province

- Basic model going in: US States, Canadian Provinces, Nations elsewhere
- Identify “anomalies” in this, such as perhaps Brazil, Mexico, Russia and make appropriate adaptations.
- Additional anomalies may be, for example, New England or other smaller states which could combine

WSC Seating

- We are recommending State / Nation / Province going in because of the practicality and current size/development of the fellowship
- Some form of Zonal or restructured representation will be needed

Processes

- Still need concrete, documented processes, and have made some progress, but this continues to be a major focus of the next cycle
- Cyclical planning processes, leadership development processes, communications processes, delegation processes, decision-making processes. Much work to be done on these.

Identified Issues to Resolve

- Fund flow, including how GSU is funded (if the GSU needs funds)
- Literature distribution
- Legal issues: Corporations, insurance, RSO's
- Synching planning cycles throughout the system
- Who creates intermediate bodies?
- Who determines LSU boundaries?
- How do shared services committees work?
- State/Nation "Anomalies" and how to identify and resolve
- Further seating criteria