

Rose City Metro Report
28 April 2007
PASC

The Rose City Metro Committee met on its usual date and time, this month it was Tuesday, 9 April 07 (I was late—sorry). In attendance were representatives from TVA and Portland Area. Portland was represented by Eric Activities Chair; Steve P. from H & I. Thank you both for your I especially want to acknowledge that representatives from the Learning to Live meeting, Travis theGSR and Michael, came to the Metro meeting to bring concerns about the forming of a Metro. They brought much experience in NA service. They have done a lot of work in researching and studying the workings of a Metro. At the end of my report, I want pass a few minutes to Travis so he can tell you, much better than I, what his groups concerns are, because they have valid points that the PASC should look into as we go on with this process of developing.

We are looking for people to fill the two service positions on this Committee as drawn up by the bylaws. That is the positions of Secretary and Treasure for the Metro Service Committee. Both these positions carry a one-year commitment. The treasure must submit a service resume and have a minimum of 5 years clean. The Secretary must also submit a service resume and have a minimum of 3 years clean. The nominations are to come from all three areas and the voting will go back to the groups of each area. On a side note the representatives to the Metro committees must have a minimum of three years clean as well. Also, We are also asking the areas to select a representative for the Metro Phone Line, Directories and PR Service Committees. However, I think that our Service Committee Chairs, when the committees are moved to Metro, will fill this for Portland.

Committee members worked on estimating expenses and area costs for Metro services. Estimated current costs of Area services are: H&I committee \$350/mo Portland PI \$175 TVA PI \$100 Phoneline \$140. Estimated Average monthly Group donations Portland – January \$1400. TVA \$593. GW \$150

Based on these numbers, the percentage split between areas would be:
Portland – 65% TVA – 28% GWV – 7%

Total PI and phone line service costs are \$415. If these were the only services, the monthly cost would be approximately Portland - \$271, TVA - \$115 and GWV - \$29.

If H&I is added, the monthly cost would be \$765, and the area costs would be approximately Portland - \$500, TVA - \$212 and TVA \$53.

The area representatives will bring treasurer reports next month so that a more accurate calculation can be made. We also need to determine what the monthly budget for running the Metro committee will be.

The Metro Bylaws have been finished. The committee is also going to be applying for EIN number and decided that applying for nonprofit status did not make sense. We are now in the process of deciding on how to begin to integrate and set up the bringing of the

new committees to the Metro. I want to read the opening page of the Metro Committee's bylaws just so all the members of this body can understand how the Metro Committee has defined itself and its mission as defined by the bylaws.

In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government. (12th Concept for NA Service)

Section 1 - PURPOSE OF THE METRO SERVICE COMMITTEE

This section defines our purpose—the reason we exist. Our purpose is based on NA's 5th tradition, "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers," and the 12th step," we tried to carry the message to the addict who still suffers". Everything we do in NA Service must be motivated by the desire to successfully carry the message of recovery— that an addict, any addict can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live.

Mission Statement:

The primary purpose of the Rose City Metro Service Committee shall be to administer the organization and delivery of services to the addicts of the Portland Metropolitan Area, freeing the participant Area Service Committees to focus on facilitating group support.

- 1.1. The name of this assembly shall be the Rose City Metro Service Committee, hereafter referred to as the Metro Committee.
- 1.2. The Metro Committee serves the needs of the Greater Willamette, Portland, and Tualatin Valley Area Service Committees of Narcotics Anonymous.
- 1.3. The purpose of the Metro Committee is to provide services to addicts residing in the Portland Metropolitan Area, as directed by the participating Area Service Committees.
- 1.4. The Metro Committee receives its direction from the participating Area Service Committees.
- 1.5. The Metro Committee, its officers and sub-committees shall not make any decision, pass any proposal or take any actions that conflict with the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.
- 1.6. The Metro Committee shall comply in all its actions with the following documents in order of priority as listed below:
 - a) The Twelve Traditions, Concepts, and Steps of Narcotics Anonymous
 - b) The current Guidelines of the Metro Committee
 - c) Any special rules of order the Metro Committee may adopt.
 - d) The current Guidelines and/or Bylaws of the participating Area Service Committees.
 - e) A Guide to Local Services in NA, and conference approved service handbooks

- f) Past Metro Committee Proposals
- g) Appendix A - A Model for Consensus Based Decision Making

Section 2 - MEMBERSHIP & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Although anyone can be a member of Narcotics Anonymous as long as they have “a desire to stop using” (3rd Tradition), the Metro Committee is established by the participating Areas as a means to provide the services that have been requested by their member groups, acting as ‘trusted servants’ to the Areas. Therefore, membership in the Metro Committee is limited to those trusted servants selected by the Areas to represent them. However, any interested member may attend and speak at Metro Committee meetings.

- 2.1 Any Narcotics Anonymous member or interested person may attend the Metro Committee meeting.
- 2.2 Decision making shall be limited to the Metro Committee members as permitted by these guidelines through consensus based decision making.
- 2.3 The members of the Metro Committee shall be; an Area Metro Committee representative from each participating area, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Committee Chair for each active Metro Service Committee.

I also want to briefly read from the NA Guide to Local Service as it addresses the question of whether a Metro Service Committee is a good idea.

WHY CONSOLIDATE?

Why would multiple areas in a large community want to form a metropolitan services committee? There are three primary reasons.

First, the consolidation of services citywide can help the NA community facilitate subcommittee activity more efficiently. Rather than paying the administrative costs associated with, say, five separate sets of area subcommittees, only one set of metro subcommittees must be funded. The overall time and energy spent supervising multiple sets of subcommittees can be cut substantially with only one set of subcommittees to guide. And it’s easier to find the people needed to make a single set of subcommittees work, even if those subcommittees serve larger territories, than it is to staff three or four times that number of subcommittees.

Second, the consolidation of metro services can make it easier for members, groups, and the community-at-large to identify and locate NA resources in the city. A single phoneline is easier to run and costs less than multiple phonelines in the same city, and provides a simpler way for people anywhere in town to contact Narcotics Anonymous. Contacts with jails, institutions, and other organizations that are run on a citywide basis can be coordinated on the same basis, significantly increasing the effectiveness of H&I communications. By providing a single source for public information about NA, anyone

anywhere in the community can easily find out about our program. And a single NA meeting list for the entire city is usually more useful than half a dozen lists covering separate districts.

78

The Metropolitan Services Committee

Third, consolidation of a city's NA services can help the regional service committee work better. In the absence of metro committees, some RSCs have tried to fill the gap, providing consolidated meeting lists, phonelines, H&I and PI services, even literature sales outlets for cities with multiple areas. Though well intended, such direct services have brought these regions' energies to bear on only a fraction of their member-areas. This has left other areas—and underdeveloped communities in particular—without the benefit of the service resource development work that regional committees do best. When ASCs in the same city consolidate and manage metro services themselves, they leave the regional committee free to do what it does most effectively, and to do it for all the region's areas.

Finally, a reminder: If the areas in your city have no particular need to consolidate all their services, but only wish to combine resources in one or two fields, there is no reason why they should form a full-blown metropolitan services committee. Some of the ways to combine limited service forces without creating an MSC are described in the sections entitled "...Or Not To Metro?" and "Function, Not Form" appearing in the previous chapter of this guide. If your NA community could be served more effectively by a metro committee then, by all means, create one; if you feel something simpler would serve your purposes, then try that. You need no one's permission to be creative, to experiment, to develop original methods for effectively administering local services as your NA community sees fit.

I hope this clears up some of the confusion that I understand some of the members feeling about the Metro. Please feel free to email me with any questions or come the next Rose City Metro Service Committee Meeting Tuesday, 8 May 07, at the Paulist Center located at 16th and Division. I would also like to ask the PASC to begin to make decisions on the permanency and a better definition of the PASC's Rose City Metro Representative position, length of service, time requirements and the positions actual place in the PASC's body.

In conclusion, I would like to add that I have served on this committee for a year in June. There is a very good possibility that I will be involved in something this coming August that may preclude me from continuing at this position for at least 3 months and possibly until January of next year. I will now move to next area but I may have to step down at the end of July and no later than the meeting in August.

In service David Poole
PASC Rose City Metro Service Committee Representative