



# 12 CONCEPTS

## FOR NA SERVICE

- Early 1950s, the 12 Steps for our personal recovery.
- The 12 Traditions are designed to guide the NA groups and meet its needs.
- In Tradition 9, the groups are encouraged to create a service structure.
- The 12 Traditions were never intended to provide our service structure with the directions it needs to serve by.
- The Twelve Concepts summarize a vast amount of experience in NA service, experience we would all do well to consider and apply wherever appropriate.

## **1st Concept**

To fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.

# **Responsibility**

The primary responsibility of an NA group is to conduct its recovery meetings. The service structure ensures that other services are fulfilled effectively without distracting the groups from their own primary purpose.

## **2nd Concept**

The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.

# **Authority**

The service structure must always look to the groups for support and direction. The groups have final responsibility for and authority over the service structure they have created.

## **3rd Concept**

The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.

# **Delegation**

Delegated practical authority is not a blank check, the groups still bear final authority. To make this work, we must carefully select trusted servants.

## **4th Concept**

Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.

# **Leadership**

Leaders help us organize, focus our energy and resources, and act in unity. Without good leaders it will be challenging, if not impossible, to achieve these goals.

## **5th Concept**

For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.

# **Accountability**

We need to eliminate confusion about who has authority to do what. Whoever is given the authority will be held accountable for the fulfillment of that task.

## **6th Concept**

Group conscience is the spiritual means by which a loving God influence our decisions.

# **Spiritual Guidance**

We need to bring the spiritual awakening of the Twelve Steps to bear in making service-related decisions. It is not, however, merely a euphemism for “voting” and is not itself the NA decision-making process.



## **7th Concept**

All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision making processes.

# **Participation**

NA service is a team effort. The full participation of each member of the team is of great value as we seek to express the conscience of the whole.

## **8th Concept**

Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.

# **Communication**

Regular communication is essential to the integrity and effectiveness of our services themselves.

## **9th Concept**

All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.

# **Open-mindedness**

To check judgment, to guard against hasty or misinformed decisions, and to invite the sharing of new ideas, our services must consider all viewpoints when making plans. This is essential to the development of a fair, wise, balanced group conscience.

## **10th Concept**

Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.

# **Fairness**

The Tenth Concept encourages us to treat each other with respect and provides us with a means of making amends when we wrong others.

## **11th Concept**

NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.

# **Finances Responsibility**

The sole absolute priority for the use of NA funds: to carry the message. The importance of that priority calls for total fiscal accountability. Direct contributions to each level of service help us to enhance accountability.

## **12th Concept**

In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government.

**Service,  
Not Government**

Within the context of the Twelve Concepts, as a body, this concept serves much the same function as Tradition Twelve in the context of the traditions.

It brings our consideration of concepts for NA service back to the spiritual root of selfless service.

# The 12 Concepts

provide our service structure with guiding principles to serve the groups.

They are not the law for NA service.

They are valid only to the extent that they prove helpful.

# Brainstorming Questions

1. Does NA have leaders?
2. What are some of the skills and personal traits we seek when selecting trusted servants? What is the real foundation of NA leadership?
3. “Effective NA leadership knows not only how to serve, but when it will serve best to step aside and allow others to take over.”  
What is your experience in regards rotation of leadership.



# Brainstorming Questions

1. How could clearly defining specific responsibilities help us get our services moving ahead at full speed?
2. Do you have clearly defined guidelines for each service task?  
If yes, how do you apply them?

# Brainstorming Questions

1. How could a lack of regular communication undermine those concepts, and the integrity and effectiveness of our service structure?
2. How has this effective communication - or lack of it- affected your group? The service structure?

# Brainstorming Questions

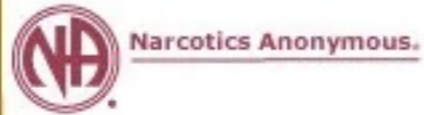
1. Is it important to make sure all viewpoints are considered when making service decisions?
2. Do NA services make the effort they should seek out new, different viewpoints?

**The full fruit of a labour of love  
lives in the harvest and  
that always come in its right season.**

From the preface of the Basic Text.

**For Your Attention**

Many Thanks



The  
Twelve  
Concepts  
for Service in NA



**Thank you  
for your ongoing support.**

**Your FD Team.**

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