

WORLD SERVICES PROJECTS

There is always more to do in NA service than time to do it. World Services' work is planned and budgeted on a cyclical basis (currently a three-year cycle). Most of the work is relatively consistent from cycle to cycle. Work that is new or drives change is described in project plans that spring from the NAWs Strategic Plan. The project plans are included in the Conference Approval Track Material (CAT) and approved at the World Service Conference (WSC).

In the 2023–2026 cycle, we launched a new planning process that involves all conference participants as well as communities that are members of a zone but not seated at the conference. The goal is a single system to evaluate all of the needs and ideas for projects next to each other and make strategic decisions together about what to accomplish first.

We're not there yet, though. Currently we have a patchwork approach that involves regional/zonal motions, the *Conference Agenda Report* (CAR) survey, and projects from the World Board that have come out of the strategic plan. In order to consider the ideas for literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) next to each other and prioritize what to work on next, all of the ideas are listed in a survey that is included in the CAR. Regions and zones respond to the survey with their regional or zonal conscience, and the survey is open to any individual member as well.

The CAR survey is a tool that allows a profoundly inclusive process: any member of the Fellowship, any group, any service body is able to weigh in on what matters most to them and what should be a priority for the work. It is important to remember that we are a large, global, multilingual community and that even when priorities are shared within a number of regions, the Fellowship as a whole may choose differently.

The project plans from the board for service material, recovery literature, and Issue Discussion Topics are all published without a specific focus. The board makes recommendations about the focus of the project, keeping the survey priorities firmly in mind and also thinking about what's possible and practical given available resources and plans for other work. The conference uses the survey results and the board's recommendations to help guide decisions about the focus for these project plans.

When the conference passes a regional/zonal motion to create a project plan for literature or service material, that idea gets included in the CAR survey alongside ideas from members and from the board. In the 2023 CAR survey, those ideas were in a different color font to make it easier to distinguish them.

Note: The CAR survey is just for the service material, literature, and IDT project ideas. When the conference passes a regional/zonal motion to create a project plan for something else, that results in a project plan in the next Conference Approval Track Material. One example is the 2018 motion from Australia and Aotearoa Regions to create a project plan on the role of zones. That project plan was in the 2020 CAT, was approved at the conference, and was completed in the 2020–2023 cycle.

CAR Survey Responses

2016

~85 Regions
~4,585 member responses

2018

~72 Regions
3,142 member responses

2020

53 Regions
4,557 member responses

2023

57 Regions
7,731 member responses

MYTH BUSTERS

There is not a backlog of approved projects that are not being worked on. There is always more work to do than time and resources to accomplish it (that's why we need to prioritize!), but in recent cycles the board does not typically offer more projects than they believe they can accomplish.

A motion to create a project plan does not initiate work or put that idea in a queue. If the project idea is for a piece of literature or service material, the idea is included in the *CAR* survey, color coded, and considered alongside the other ideas when setting project priorities. If the project idea is for something else, a project plan will be included in the next CAT and voted on by the conference participants. Work on a project begins after the WSC approves a project plan in the CAT.

Ideas that the board has for literature and service material are subject to the same prioritization process as ideas from regions, zones, and members. The ideas are included in the *CAR* survey. Ideas in the *CAR* survey that are not prioritized by the conference do not make it into projects for that cycle.

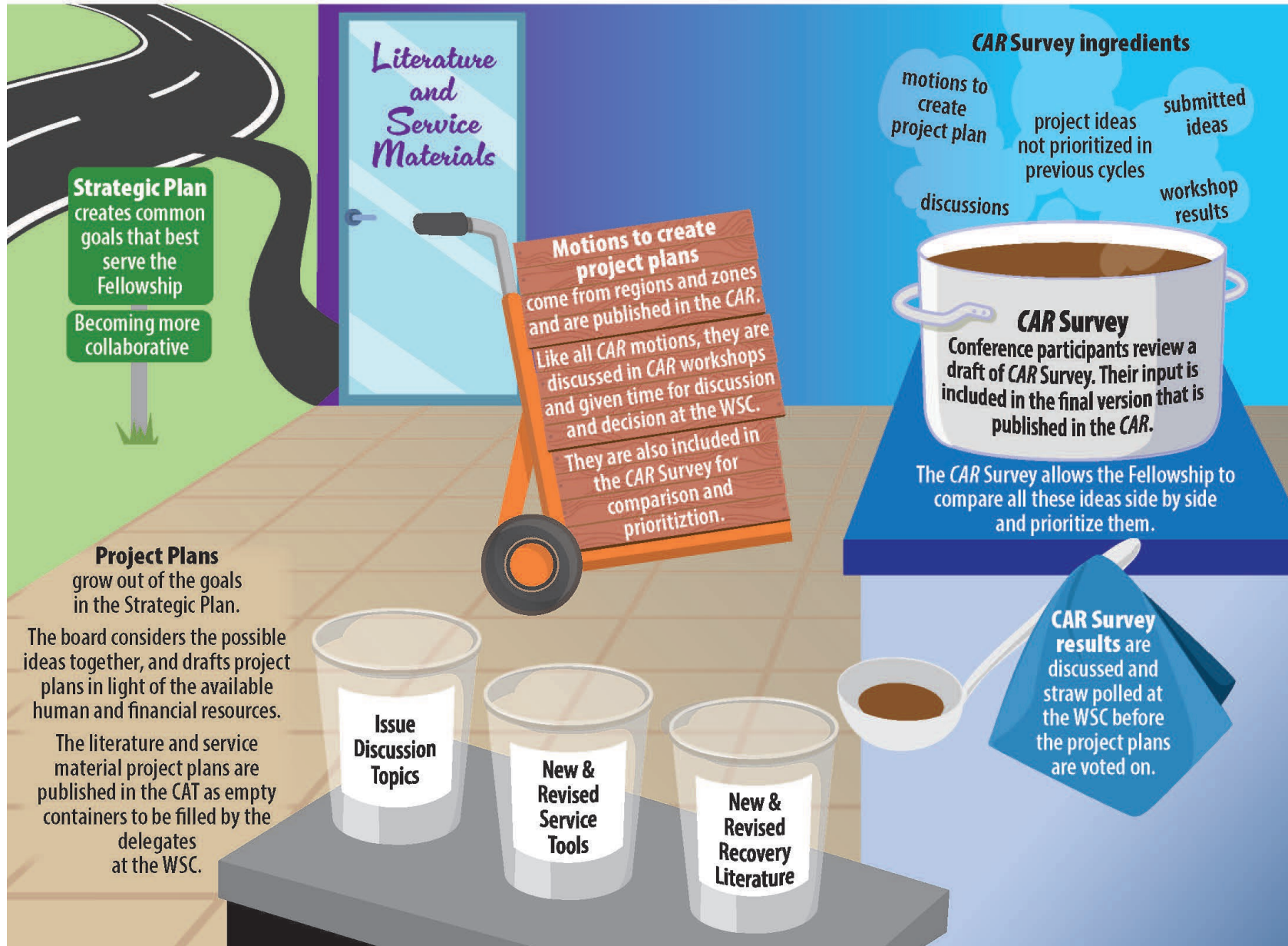
Projects to create or revise service material and recovery literature do not have an impact on translations work. The resource most needed for translations is members willing to service on a local translations committee. Approving literature and service material project plans does not divert resources from translations work.

It takes "too long" to get projects passed and work done. The process as it has developed over the years is slow on purpose. There is a lot about how we do things that we can and will streamline, but slowness in literature creation and revision is deliberate. It allows us to think deeply about what is important and not be driven by impulse. Because projects require so much time and energy from us, we want to make sure we are putting our resources where they need to be. More importantly, we want to make sure that the literature we write today won't be obsolete in a few years; that the ways we approach problems won't be dated by the time they are executed; and that our experience is reflected accurately and appropriately for our membership as a whole. Being driven by that goal, and by our Vision, helps to ensure that our literature, our service materials, and our discussions reflect what is true for us, not just what we feel.

In summary—we are in a transition to a new collaborative planning process that should ultimately be the unified stream of how ideas get considered and prioritized. In the meantime, there is a lot of confusion about how the current process works and what project work is in process or completed. Following is a list of all of the projects and motions to create project plans that have passed since 2016. Some of these ideas have been discussed before 2016 (for instance, DRT/MAT), but the conference actions listed here begin in 2016.

We also created a picture of the process to make it easier to understand.

The Project Plan Process—Literature & Service Material



Status of Projects

Conference Cycle	Ongoing	Not Started	Completed	Other Projects
2016–2018	Service Tools—Group and Area Tools		Mental Health IP Meditation Book Service Tools—Events and Conventions	Collaboration in Service, Future of the WSC, Fellowship Development and Public Relations, Social Media as a PR Tool
2018–2020	Drug Replacement Therapy/ Medication Assisted Treatment and NA IP		Service Tools—GSR Orientation Material	Future of the WSC
2020–2023	Revise <i>The Loners</i> IP PR Video		Service Tools—Virtual Meeting Basics	<i>FIPT</i> Revision, Role of Zones
2023–2026	Revise <i>H&I Basics</i> Virtual Service Basics	Revise and Update <i>Group Business Meetings</i> New Step Working Material		Future of the WSC, Invest in our Vision

Not prioritized for project plans:

Social Media and Our Guiding Principles IP, Step Study Booklet Taken from BT Chapter 4, IP for Women, IP for Personal Inventory of Gratitude, New Step Working Material

Initiated at WSC 2016

Mental Health IP **CURRENT STATUS: COMPLETED.**

Mental Health in Recovery IP #30 PUBLISHED 2020

2016 Motion #3 Eastern New York Region / Second: Chicagoland Region

That the NA World Board develop a project plan which includes a budget and timeline to create an informational pamphlet specifically about mental illness and recovery for consideration at the 2018 World Service Conference.

2016 CAR survey: *Mental Health* was the top regional priority and second individual member priority for booklet- or pamphlet-length recovery material.

2016 Motion #19 World Board

To approve the *Recovery Literature project plan* for work in the 2016-2018 conference cycle.

[No objection from CPs to this focus: for input to be gathered on the daily meditation book and *mental health* in the 2016–2018 cycle and project plans for development in the 2018 CAT]

2018 Motion #32 World Board

To approve the project plan for a *Mental Health/Illness Informational Pamphlet* for inclusion in the 2018-2020 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget.

2020 Motion #2 World Board

To approve the IP contained in Addendum A, “*Mental Health in Recovery*,” as Fellowship-approved recovery literature.

Meditation Book CURRENT STATUS: COMPLETED.

***A Spiritual Principle a Day* PUBLISHED 2020**

2016 Motion #19 World Board

To approve the *Recovery Literature project plan* for work in the 2016-2018 conference cycle.

[No objection from CPs to this focus: for input to be gathered on the *daily meditation book* and mental health in the 2016–2018 cycle and project plans for development in the 2018 CAT]

2016 CAR survey: *Meditation book—spiritual principle a day* was the top priority, and was *Daily Meditation book—Living Clean* was the third priority for book-length recovery material.

2018 Motion #33 World Board

To approve the project plan for a *New Daily Meditation Book* for inclusion in the 2018-2020 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget.

2020 Motion V4 World Board

To approve the *Spiritual Principle a Day* project for inclusion in the 2020-2022 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget

2022 Motion #4 World Board

To approve the book contained in Addendum B, “*A Spiritual Principle a Day*” as Fellowship-approved recovery literature.

Service Tools—Events and conventions- CURRENT STATUS: COMPLETED:

Contracts and Negotiations, Money Management, and The Program Committee & Development of the Program developed and posted at www.na.org/basics

Service Tools—Group and area tools, CURRENT STATUS: ONGOING

CBDM Basics and Serving NA in Rural and Isolated Communities, developed and posted at www.na.org/basics

2016 Motion #20 World Board

To approve the *Service Tools project plan* for work in the 2016-2018 Conference cycle.

[No objection from CPs to this focus: *group and area tools, and events* and conventions.]

2016 CAR survey: *Local/Area Tools/toolbox* was the top priority, *Events and conventions handbook* was the second regional priority and third individual member priority. *Group service tools/toolbox* was the third regional priority and the second individual member priority for the question What pieces do you believe will meet the needs of NA service in the next 2–6 years?

2018 Motion #37 World Board

All service materials produced by the *Local Service Toolbox Project* and the *Conventions and Events Project* will be identified as World Board–approved material, and follow the same approval process as service pamphlets. That means after the World Board signs off on them, drafts will be distributed to Conference participants for a 90-day review before being identified as approved

Other project plans approved and completed in the 2016–2018 conference cycle

Collaboration in Service, Future of the WSC, Fellowship Development and Public Relations, Social Media as a PR Tool.

Initiated at WSC 2018

Social Media and Our Guiding Principles IP NOT PRIORITIZED AS A PROJECT PLAN FOCUS.

2018 Motion #1 *Ohio Region and Michigan Region*

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to convert the service pamphlet *Social Media and our Guiding Principles* into a recovery IP that includes fellowship input and review.

2018 CAR survey: *Adapt Social Media and Our Guiding Principles to an IP* was the second regional priority and third individual member priority for recovery literature.

2020 CAR survey: *On using social media in NA* was the third regional and individual priority for new recovery literature.

2023 CAR survey: *On using social media in NA* was the second regional and third individual priority for new recovery literature.

Drug Replacement Therapy/Medication Assisted Treatment and NA IP **CURRENT**

STATUS: CHOSEN AS AN IDT TO BUILD CONSENSUS

2018 Motion #9 *Northern New York Region*

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to create or revise one piece of recovery literature to directly address *Drug Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) as it relates to NA.*

2018 CAR survey: *An IP for members: NA and addicts on DRT/MAT* was the top regional priority and second individual member priority for recovery literature.

2020 CAR survey: *DRT/MAT as it relates to NA—what do we want to say in a piece of recovery literature* was the top individual priority and third individual member priority for Issue Discussion Topics

2020 Vote *World Board*

To accept *DRT/MAT as it relates to NA—what do we want to say in a piece of NA literature?* As our first IDT

2020 Vote *World Board*

To approve a fellowship survey about *this (DRT/MAT) topic*

2022 Fellowship Survey: Fellowship surveyed in 2022 about what to include in an IP on the topic. Survey results posted in 2023 *Conference Report*. Results show there is no unified Fellowship position.

2023 CAR survey *Create a new IP or booklet: DRT/MAT as it relates to NA* was the top regional and second individual priority and third individual member priority for new recovery literature.

2023 New Idea Proposal

Prioritized for discussion at WSC 2023: *DRT/MAT as it relates to NA* how we can best welcome members on DRT/MAT lovingly and kindly and how we can cooperate with the current treatment approach without compromising our principles or expressing an opinion on an outside issue.

Service Tools—GSR Orientation Material-CURRENT STATUS: COMPLETED

GSR Basics published and posted at www.na.org/basics

2018 Motion #34 World Board

To approve the **Training and Tools Project Plan** for inclusion in the 2018-2020 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. budget.

[Announced at the WSC that GSR orientation material would be the next priority.]

2018 CAR survey: *GSR Orientation Material* was the third regional and individual member priority for service material.

Step Study Booklet Taken from BT Chapter 4 NOT PRIORITIZED AS A PROJECT PLAN

FOCUS.

2018 Motion #3 Baja Son Region – COMMITTED TO WORLD BOARD

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for a **Step Study booklet containing questions derived only from sentences in the Basic Text chapter ‘How It works’**, for consideration at WSC 2020

2020 Motion #7 Baja Son Region – NOT PRIORITIZED FOR CONSIDERATION AT WSC 2020 (Conference participants decided through a poll which CAR items to consider at WSC 2020, given the time limitations of the first ever virtual WSC.)

To direct the World Board to develop a project plan, for consideration at WSC-2022, to create a booklet of **Step study questions with the parameter that each question is derived from one sentence in the Basic Text chapter ‘How It works’**.

2023 Motion #16 Baja Son Region – FAILED

Co-makers: South Florida Region, México Occidente Región, Northern California Region, Southern California Region, San Diego Imperial Counties Region & Región de México

To direct the World Board to develop a project plan, for consideration at the next World Service Conference, to create a **booklet of Step study questions where all answers relate to a line in Chapter Four in the Basic Text**

2018, 2020, and 2023 CAR survey: *Booklet of Step study questions taken from Chapter Four* was not prioritized for new recovery literature

Other project plans approved and completed in 2018–2020 conference cycle

Future of the WSC.

Initiated at WSC 2020

Revise *The Loner* IP CURRENT STATUS: WORK IN PROGRESS

Approval draft will be in the 2026 CAR

2020 Motion V6 World Board

To approve the **Revising Existing Recovery Information Pamphlets** project plan.

2020 Vote: *Maker World Board*

To accept **The Loner – IP #21** for the Revising existing recovery literature project.

2020 CAR survey: *Revise IP #21 The Loner* was the top regional priority for revisions to existing recovery literature.

2022 Fellowship Survey: Fellowship surveyed in 2022 to gather input on a revision to **The Loner IP**. Survey results posted in 2023 *Conference Report*.

2023 Motion #27 *World Board*

To approve the project plan for **Revising Existing Recovery Informational Pamphlets**.

2023 Straw Poll for New and Revised Recovery Literature:

That the focus for new and revised recovery literature be the following:

- **Revise IP #21, The Loner**
- If the SWG was edited and simplified, it could satisfy three of the prioritized ideas. These are:
 - Step working guide aimed at members not new to working the Steps
 - Step working booklet focused mainly on Steps 1–3, aimed primarily at new members and those in treatment and drug courts
 - Revise and simplify the Step Working Guides

Service Tools—Virtual Meeting Basics **CURRENT STATUS: COMPLETED**

Virtual Meeting Basics published and posted at www.na.org/basics.

2020 Motion V8 *World Board*

To approve the **Local Service Toolbox** project plan.

2020 CAR survey: *Online meetings best practices* was the top regional priority for service material.

2020 Vote : *World Board*

To accept two topics as our beginning focus for the Local Service Toolbox project – **online meetings best practices** and **carrying the NA message effectively and virtually**.

2020 Motion #10 *Latin American Zonal Forum*

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2022 to create **a guide for online meetings**

IP for Women NOT PRIORITIZED AS A PROJECT PLAN FOCUS.

2020 Motion #9: *Iran Region*

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for WSC 2022 to create a new **IP for women in recovery**.

2023 CAR survey: *Literature for women* was not prioritized for new recovery literature.

PR Video **CURRENT STATUS: WORK IN PROGRESS**

2020 Motion #15 *Argentina Region*

Instruct the World Board to develop a project plan for the 2022 World Service Conference (WSC) to produce **an informative video about Narcotics Anonymous, for Public Relations services** [committees] and online publication, approved by NAWS, where it is briefly explained:

1. What is Narcotics Anonymous
2. How it Works
3. How to contact NA

2023 CAR survey: *PR video explaining what NA is, how it works, and how to contact us* was the top regional and individual priority for new service material.

2023 Straw Poll for New and Revised Service Tools:

That the focus of the New and Revised Service Tools be the following:

- Virtual service basics (including virtual service meetings, virtual meetings and areas participating in the service system, virtual workshops and trainings, etc.)
- PR video explaining what NA is, how it works, and how to contact us
- Revise and update H&I Basics.
- Revise and update the service pamphlet Group Business Meetings, with a section on using a CBDM process, and the concept of delegation.

Other project plans approved and completed in 2020–2023 conference cycle

FIPT Revision, Role of Zones.

Initiated at WSC 2023

IP for Personal Inventory of Gratitude NOT PRIORITIZED AS A PROJECT PLAN FOCUS.

2023 Motion #13 *Argentina*

To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the next World Service Conference (WSC), for the development of a **new IP for daily personal inventory of gratitude**.

2023 CAR survey IP for Personal Inventory of Gratitude was the third regional priority and not prioritized by individual members for new recovery literature.

Revise H&I Basics CURRENT STATUS—WORK IN PROGRESS

2023 Motion #21-a1 *Free State Region as amended by South Florida*

Create a project plan for the next WSC to **update the Hospitals and Institutions Handbook** and remove outdated terms and references.

2023 CAR survey Revise and update H&I Basics was the second regional priority and not prioritized by individual members for revisions to existing service material.

2023 Straw Poll for New and Revised Service Tools:

That the focus of the New and Revised Service Tools be the following:

- Virtual service basics (including virtual service meetings, virtual meetings and areas participating in the service system, virtual workshops and trainings, etc.)
- PR video explaining what NA is, how it works, and how to contact us
- **Revise and update H&I Basics.**
- Revise and update the service pamphlet Group Business Meetings, with a section on using a CBDM process, and the concept of delegation.

2022-2023 Fellowship Survey: Fellowship surveyed in 2022-2023 to gather input on a **revision to H&I Basics**.

Virtual Service Basics CURRENT STATUS—WORK IN PROGRESS

2018 New Idea Proposal

Prioritized for discussion at WSC 2018: **NA Virtual Group & Service Guide:** What help do you need? What do you want to see in a virtual group and/or service guide?

2023 Motion #29 *World Board*

To approve the project plan for **New and Revised Service Tools**.

2023 CAR survey *Virtual Service Basics* was the third regional and individual priority for new service material

2023 Straw Poll for New and Revised Service Tools:

That the focus of the New and Revised Service Tools be the following:

- **Virtual service basics** (including virtual service meetings, virtual meetings and areas participating in the service system, virtual workshops and trainings, etc.)
- PR video explaining what NA is, how it works, and how to contact us
- Revise and update H&I Basics.
- Revise and update the service pamphlet *Group Business Meetings*, with a section on using a CBDM process, and the concept of delegation.

Revise and Update *Group Business Meetings* CURRENT STATUS: NOT STARTED

2023 Motion #29 World Board

To approve the project plan for **New and Revised Service Tools**.

2023 CAR survey *Revise and Update the Service Pamphlet Groups Business Meetings* was the fourth regional and individual priority for revisions to existing service material

2023 Straw Poll for New and Revised Service Tools:

That the focus of the New and Revised Service Tools be the following:

- Virtual service basics (including virtual service meetings, virtual meetings and areas participating in the service system, virtual workshops and trainings, etc.)
- PR video explaining what NA is, how it works, and how to contact us
- Revise and update H&I Basics.
- **Revise and update the service pamphlet *Group Business Meetings*, with a section on using a CBDM process, and the concept of delegation.**

New Step Working Material CURRENT STATUS: NOT STARTED

Fellowship to be surveyed before WSC 2026

2023 Motion #27 World Board

To approve the project plan for **Revising Existing Recovery Informational Pamphlets**.

2023 Motion #26 World Board

To approve the project plan for **New Recovery Informational Pamphlets**

2018 CAR survey: *Step working guide aimed at members not new to working the Steps* was the top individual priority and the third regional priority for recovery literature. *Step working booklet focused mainly on Steps 1-3 aimed primarily at new members and those in treatment and drug courts* was not prioritized

2020 CAR survey: *Step working guide aimed at members not new to working the Steps* was the second regional and individual priority for new recovery literature. *Revise The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides* was the top individual and second regional priority for revisions to existing recovery literature.

2023 CAR survey: *Step working booklet focused mainly on Steps 1-3 aimed primarily at new members and those in treatment and drug courts* and *Step working guide aimed at members not new to working the Steps* in combination formed a top regional and individual priority for new recovery literature. *Revise and simplify the Step Working Guides* was the top regional and fourth individual response for revisions to existing recovery literature.

2023 Straw Poll for New and Revised Recovery Literature:

That the focus for new and revised recovery literature be the following:

- Revise IP #21, The Loner
- If the **SWG was edited and simplified**, it could satisfy three of the prioritized ideas. These are:
 - Step working guide aimed at members not new to working the Steps
 - Step working booklet focused mainly on Steps 1–3, aimed primarily at new members and those in treatment and drug courts
 - Revise and simplify the Step Working Guides

2024 Bundling of Step Material:

Fellowship given notice of plans to publish a boxed set **bundling the chapters on the Steps** from NA's books: the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, and *The NA Step Working Guides*. The set is due out in 2024 and will be called *The NA Survival Kit*

Other project plans approved for 2023–2026 conference cycle

Future of the WSC, Invest in our Vision