

CoDA CSC – Atlanta, Georgia
Detailed Notes of Proceedings
September 9 – 13

Monday, Sept 9

1. Board motion:
 - a. To give voice to every CoDA member in attendance at conference 2019. If not representing a VEI then identify yourself as a non-voting member.
 - b. Passed with one “no” and one “abstention”
2. Board motion:
 - a. To accommodate the video participants
 - i. Add an extra minute to Q&A session up to 6 minutes
 - ii. 4 pros and 4 cons, with the final one for the remote video participants
 - iii. Add an extra minute to crafting
3. Literature Committee
 - a. Will be looking for more stories of recovery – will be extending the deadline
 - i. For “Growing up in CoDA” pamphlet that is in process
 - ii. Will be submitted to Ottawa – that is their goal for completion
 - b. “Story Gatherers” - Also looking for longer stories of recovery, like the ones that are in the Blue Book
 - i. Can also take voice submissions and the literature committee will work with you
 - c. Constantly doing editing when publications come up for reprint, and those are minor edits (typos, etc.)
 - d. One other new project
 - i. Matt – new member working on a new piece
 - ii. Will be presenting a workshop in relation to the subject
 - e. Motion #1
 - i. A piece coming to CSC can be voted provisionally and then given to CLC to obtain CoDA copyright and then will be prepared for the next CSC or an accounting will be made as to the status
 - ii. Tabled for old business on Thursday to review the previous two motions
 - iii. 9/12 update: Motion pulled, having faith about the flexible collaborative work that they are hearing about
 - f. Motion #2
 - i. Endorse “What is CoDA?” updated literature
 1. Approved – unanimous
 - g. Motion #3
 - i. Endorse “Attending Meetings” updated literature
 1. Approved – unanimous
 - h. Motion #4
 - i. Endorse “Am I Codependent?” updated literature
 1. Approved

- i. Motion #5
 - i. Endorse “Welcome to Co-Dependents Anonymous” updated literature
 - 1. Approved
- 4. CoDA Board presentation
 - a. Created public service announcement – could be used to spread the message
 - i. Was made professionally for about \$5000
 - ii. Looking for donations to help offset costs
 - b. Podcasts ... “Voices in Recovery” page on CODA.org
 - i. They are looking for people to talk about being of service
 - 1. 2-3 ½ hour sessions to do that
 - c. Fellowship Forum Recordings
 - i. Recorded shares about being of service and other topics
 - d. On the CoDA website there is now information about past motions and the history of CoDA
 - e. Priorities
 - i. Expand VE Designations
 - ii. Overcoming language & geographic barriers
 - iii. Spreading the word
 - iv. Keeping committees healthy
 - f. VEIs
 - i. Issues were submitted and Board assigned them to the appropriate committees during the year
 - 1. Florida’s motion assigned to SSC
 - 2. Colorado motion
 - a. Went outside the process and sent it directly to the board without having their service board review
 - i. It was taken off the docket
 - 3. NorCal motion
 - a. Brought it to the floor and will be voting on Thursday
 - g. Treasurer
 - i. Bank accounts
 - 1. Chase checking
 - a. \$169,210.63
 - 2. Chase savings
 - a. \$120,251.65
 - 3. Nation bank of Arizona savings account (better interest rate)
 - a. \$100,563.43
 - ii. Hired fellowship service worker
 - 1. Main job is the first approver for reimbursements to speed up the process
- 5. Finance
 - a. \$250,000 target prudent reserve
 - b. 2020 budget requested \$370,579, income estimated \$257,300
 - i. Looking at cuts

- ii. If no changes and spend it will affect the prudent reserve (based on past two years of spending)
 - c. Balances are coming down of cash on hand from 2018
 - d. Two ways to address that
 - i. Tighten our belt on spending
 - ii. Encourage more literature spending
- 6. Board motions ratification
 - a. Passed
 - b. SoCal voted “no” based on concerns about large projects/money spending without bringing a motion to CSC for approval
 - i. Ex. Hiring a finance person for 100 hours and Lou to train that person without approval from CSC ... ratifying something that was already done doesn’t give us an opportunity to understand the issues
- 7. Outreach
 - a. Goal: reaching the codependent that still suffers
 - b. Redesigning the outreach section on the website so it is more intuitive and easy to find things
 - c. Motion #1
 - i. Introduction to the 12 Step Study Group – service document
 - 1. Meant to be parallel with regular meetings
 - 2. Meant to be online as an option to F2F
 - ii. Excellent guidelines for helping with sponsorship and 12 step study groups
 - iii. Passed – unanimous
- 8. Voting Entity Presentations
 - a. Israel
 - i. Second time delegate – first time in 2014
 - ii. 2014 first national conference took place
 - 1. Every 2 years elections are held
 - iii. 14 groups in Israel, 200 members in Israel
 - iv. Website since 2014, with a daily meditation with meetings, etc.

Take away: Perhaps when creating the survey, when appropriate, add some “history” about motions so that the fellowship can vote with the most information possible (ex. Literature’s motion about wanting to have a provisional approval for CLC to say something about it before it is absolutely published)

Tuesday, Sept 10

1. Connections report
 - a. wip@coda.org to submit stories of recovery
 - b. Two members leaving and need more people
 - i. connchair@coda.org
 - ii. 1.5 years in coda, knowledge of 12 & 12 and the group conscience process
 - iii. A few hours a week needed
 - iv. Past professional experience is a benefit
 - v. Linda A is their board liaison
2. H & I
 - a. Need members who are willing to be sponsors for inmates
 - i. Through mail
 - b. Need more members as there are some critical positions that are currently open
 - c. Meeting in Hospitality tonight from 6-7 for questions
 - d. Looking for donations
3. Communications committee
 - a. Telephone numbers in English and Spanish 24-7
 - b. CET: info@coda.org
 - c. Verify meetings in the US, establish a contact person
 - i. Update the meeting info at cet@coda.org
 - d. World Connections Committee is taking care of the international meetings
 - e. Cphone@coda.org if you'd like to be part of the phone team
 - f. bzcet@coda.org email team business
 - g. Goals:
 - i. New mission statement – work collaboratively on a new one
 - ii. Attend weekend CoDA programs to understand what topics they want to see and how to get access to it
 - iii. Fine tune outreach
 - iv. Focus on the newcomer
 - h. If you'd like to help: comm@coda.org
4. Board Motions
 - a. Motion #1
 - i. Opening up Canada for many more delegates, 2 for each providence AND maintain 2 for the “country”
 - ii. Problem: Are we going to be “responsible” for translation for all those countries?
 - iii. New England: they have an alliance to help the individual VEIs in those states but they don't have any votes
 - iv. Passed with large majority, SoCal split our vote as it was too open
 - b. Motion #2
 - i. Increase the TRO grants up to a total of \$12,000, double what we have now
 1. Max \$750 domestic, \$1500 international
 2. IMC gives out the grants ... will they determine what each person gets?

- ii. Passed, with large majority, SoCal had mixed feelings about it (tax liabilities on those grants, as well as how to provide translations for those international people?)
 - c. Motion #3
 - i. A person can no longer simultaneously hold the position of Chair of a standing committee and be a delegate for a VEI
 - 1. Intent to get more people involved
 - ii. Passed by simple majority, SoCal split the vote
 - iii. There was concern about the fact that the Board has a vote for every member and no other committees so
 - 1. Evie is a member of an ad hoc committee to look at that situation
 - a. She feels that perhaps the officers of the Board would need votes (4)
 - d. Motion #4
 - i. Any standing world committee that is not meeting the requirement of Motion #18001 will be downgraded to a workgroup on 9/15
 - 1. Passed with a regular majority
 - 2. SoCal voted with 2 votes
 - e. Motion #5
 - i. No chair of a standing committee may serve as a member on other committees
 - 1. Crafted to add “standing” to committees
 - 2. 2/3rd majority passes
- 5. Elections for CoDA and CORE boards
 - a. Rita from Arizona: CoDA Board
 - i. 10 years in recovery
 - ii. Has been helping with the Board already
 - b. Gail from IMC: CoDA Board
 - i. Stepping down as chair of IMC
 - ii. 12 years of recovery in Las Vegas
 - c. Yvonne from NorCal-CORE Board
 - i. CORE Board – has worked as an alternate
 - ii. 15 years of recovery
 - iii. Was chair of events for 2 years
 - iv. Background in writing, PM
 - d. Susan from SoCal – CORE Board
 - i. Has been working on the board for 5 months
 - ii. At SoCal, worked on conferences
 - iii. Worked on Finance committee
 - iv. Strong writing and editing background
- 6. SSC Committee report
 - a. Goals:
 - i. Update part 4 of FSM from last year (update out of date items)
 - ii. Develop 12 service concepts – a new version
 - 1. Shorter than the current version

2. Will get detailed explanations next year
- iii. Update FSM in a timely manner with all approved CSC motions (w/i 2 weeks)
- iv. Update FSM part 1 (within CoDA) – postponed for 2020
- v. Goals 2020
 1. Part 1 of FSM
 2. Explanation of 12 service concepts
 3. Work on and improve service structure
 - a. Adhoc committee is working on that
 4. ssc@codas.org – if anyone is interested in working on the committee

b. Motions

i. Motion #1

1. Take “board approved” out of statement on using CoDA endorsed literature in meetings
 - a. Unanimous approval

ii. Motion #2

1. Give SSC the ability to make small changes to the FSM without CSC approval
 - a. Additions and modifications to the Glossary
 - b. Proposed committee or board description changes that do NOT alter the responsibilities of the committee or board
 - i. Changes could be requested by the committee to have their descriptions updated without CSC approval
 - c. When a change has been made the notification will be sent out to the Fellowship via the announcement list
 - d. All changes to FSM will be presented at the next CSC
 - e. Unanimous approval

iii. Motion #3

1. Changes to Part 2 of FSM
 - a. Policy of non-conference approved literature
 - b. Adding more verbiage to 13th stepping added to the recommended meeting script
 - c. Prudent reserve
 - d. Specifically items for meetings
 - e. 2/3 majority passes

iv. Motion #4

1. Changes to Part 4 of FSM
 - a. 2/3 majority passes

v. Motion #5

1. 12 Service Concepts
 - a. Simpler to understand
 - b. Approve the ones below
 - c. Change the name of the existing 12 to “old 12”
 - d. 2020 will be seeing explanations and then can vote on the “new 12”

- e. Motion Withdrawn
 - i. Next year SSC will work on service concepts for the broader fellowship and keep the ones that are in place for SSC
 - 1. Evie will discuss with the committee whether that is something they want to do
7. Spanish Outreach
- a. Monthly online meetings
 - b. Answers all emails in Spanish
 - c. Formed in 9/2018
 - i. 68 emails, 42 from new members since then
 - ii. 17 phone calls, 8 of calls from areas where no one spoke Spanish
 - iii. Request for info to open up new groups
 - d. Motion #1
 - i. Provide all published CoDA Spanish literature in digital format on Kindle/iBook
 - 1. Crafting added “all translated Spanish literature be published in printed and digital format within six months”
 - ii. Motion passes – unanimous
8. Nevada VEI presentation
- a. Nevada
 - i. Meetings all over Nevada
 - ii. Monthly via zoom
 - iii. Hispanic community hosting two-day event Nov. 22-23
 - b. Pennsylvania
 - i. 30th annual “Expect a Miracle Retreat” – 70 participants
 - ii. 3 active intergroups
 - iii. Support New Jersey – helping create their own intergroup
 - iv. 5 people on world service committees
 - v. 27 meetings total
 - c. Guatemala
 - i. 3 big groups
 - 1. 50 people
 - ii. 4 – 19 years recovery
 - iii. Working to reach hospitals and institutions

Recommendations from delegates for next year:

- 1. Need to get more background on motions to the fellowship
 - a. July CSC in 2020
 - b. Have a session at the SoCal conference to discuss motions (everyone comes)
 - c. Survey will then be available for voting with more info
 - d. Perhaps could also have a teleconference for questions/discussions
 - e. Pro/con’s could also be included in the survey itself?
 - f. Arizona hosts a teleconference before every CSC – could SoCal do the same
 - g. Could that also be co-hosted with NorCal and SoCal?

Wednesday Sept 10

1. Events Committee
 - a. Ottawa 2020
 - i. July 24 – 26
 - b. South Dakota 2021
 - i. Columbia applied but didn't want to have an International destination two years in a row
 - ii. There is no intergroup there so we will be helping them build in the area
 - c. Cruise October 2020
 - i. Flyers coming out shortly and can book now
 - ii. Cruising from Miami
2. Elections
 - a. CORE elections
 - i. Yvonne from NorCal
 - ii. Susan from SoCal
 - b. CoDA Board
 - i. Gail (from IMC) for alternate
 - ii. Rita (regular member)
 - c. IMC
 - i. Returning: Gail, Gregg, Steve, Chris, Lilliana, Andrea, Darlene, Theresa
 - ii. New: Dan
 - iii. Voted for all of them as a group
 1. 2 against
 2. 1 abstained
 3. Voted in
3. Translation Management Committee
 - a. They fill out the documents to make the translations legal
 - b. 66% of revenues for CoDA come from CORE
 - c. Need people to help!
 - d. Anonymity on legal documents
 - i. SOS only keeps that information and it is not available to the general public
 - ii. Some members may not want to sign them but it is not a violation of any traditions
 - e. 2 agreements necessary
 - i. Translation agreement
 - ii. Publication and distribution agreement
 - f. In discussion
 - i. Chinese, Danish, Farsi, Polish, Spanish (Guatemala, Mexico)
4. VEIs
 - a. Canada
 - i. All of Canada has less population than California
 - ii. Challenges in access to meetings in Canada
 - iii. Refer people to online meetings and suggest to start a meeting
 - iv. Ottawa

1. No shuttle from the airport and quite a ways away
 2. 4-5 hours from Toronto
 3. 2 hours from Montreal
- b. Costa Rica
- i. Need to have access to literature and working with TMC
 - ii. Do have meetings around the country
 - iii. Some other events but not this year yet
- c. Florida
- i. 88 meetings in 55 cities, in 67 counties
 - ii. Working in bringing structure to Florida
 - iii. Google drive – meeting recordings/minutes, event and literature
 - iv. Mini conference – November 16 – Winter Park, FL
 - v. Territory of moon and Mars as part of Florida!
- d. Arizona
- i. 3 intergroups – Tucson, Flagstaff, Phoenix
 - ii. Phoenix – meetings bi-monthly, began dial-in access
 - iii. 58 active meetings
 1. 33 in Phoenix
 2. 25 elsewhere in the state
 - iv. Events – revitalized it in May 2017
 1. One workshop and one fun events each month
 - a. Vision board
 - b. God box
 - c. Family recovery workshop
 - d. Vision board
 - e. Holiday party – ugly sweater and white elephant gifts
 - f. All day retreat – CoDA 32nd birthday
 - g. 2019 events – 33rd birthday
 - v. Facebook page
 - vi. Retreat, October 5, 2019

Thursday, Sept 12

1. Procedural motion from SoCal
 - a. Add 30 seconds before each vote
 - i. If works for today then SoCal can submit a motion to make it a regular part of the process for 2020 CSC voting (working with SSC)
 - b. Passed by 2/3 majority
2. NorCal motions
 - a. Motion #1 for the "Twelve Tips for Sponsors"
 - i. There were many suggestions for changes from literature committee, but they were denied
 - ii. Passed by 2/3 majority
 - b. Motion #2 for the "30 Questions"
 - i. Downloadable from the website
 - ii. "Getting Started Working the STEPS – As Simple as 1-2-3, Using the 30 Questions"
 - iii. Changed to: "Getting Started Working Step 1, 2 and 3 – Using the 30 Questions"
 - iv. Passed by 2/3 majority
3. AdHoc committee
 - a. Created in 2018
 - b. Focused on committee procedures
 - c. Identified major concerns in current CoDA service structure
 - d. Gathering information from other 12 step programs
 - e. Clarifying fellowship and corporation distinction
 - f. Motion #1
 - i. Separate out tasks for support of the fellowship, and tasks for the corporation
 - ii. The text will be included near the beginning of Part 1, Section 2 of the FSM
 - iii. First step in the process
 1. Further work will be done to flesh out how that will be done if the AdHoc committee continues (Motion #2)
 2. Perhaps make these changes but not update the FSM
 - a. Amended: The following list as created is a conceptual work in progress for foundational work of the AdHoc Committee moving forward with the goal of integration.
 - iv. The AdHoc committee has tabled this motion based on comments for later
 - g. Motion #2
 - i. To continue work on this task and asking for budget to do that, and report to 2020
 1. \$7000 for a F2F and to send the chair to CSC 2020
 - ii. Working toward a program of balance and less authority
 1. More spiritual balance in the fellowship

- iii. Crafting
 - 1. Add “in collaboration with the Board and Standing Committees”
 - 2. Budget \$1650 for the chair to be at the CSC 2020, no F2F budget
 - iv. Vote
 - 1. Split the vote from SoCal
 - 2. Passes by simple majority
 - v. Evie has resigned as the chair and they are inviting others to join the committee
- 4. World Communication Committee
 - a. Literature for professionals to give to “patients” about CoDA
 - b. Work with LGBTQ, AA, NA, etc for getting that information out
 - c. Tatiana in Russia doubled the meetings in Northern Europe in 6 months
 - i. Using the pamphlets and meeting list
 - d. Middle East expansion
 - i. Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan
 - ii. Need Arabic language
 - iii. Persian direction toward China
 - iv. Literature translation necessary
 - v. Bilingual Farsi/Arabic to move that forward
 - e. WCC @coda.org
 - i. Join them!
- 5. CoRe Report
 - a. 66% of income for CoDA
 - b. Free literature
 - i. H&I
 - ii. Starter kits
 - iii. Spanish
 - c. New 33 year medallion available
 - d. Sponsorship
 - i. New format – bigger pamphlet size coming out
 - e. CoRe will work with providing free literature for outreach!
 - f. Mixed media bundle
 - i. 12 piece relationship toolkit combined with Richard’s workshop
 - ii. Also included coupon for download the mp3
 - g. Spanish
 - i. Workbook
 - ii. Communication & recovery
 - iii. 11 new products coming out!
 - h. Online store
 - i. Links to countries that are selling literature: Canada, Germany, UK and Australia
 - i. Work on search engines to bring it up to the top on searches
 - j. New warehouse
 - i. Order shipped M-F

- ii. Answering phone 9-5 PST in English and Spanish
 - k. More media options
 - i. Bundles
 - ii. Free downloads
 - iii. Kindle/iTunes
 - iv. Working on Pocket Blue Book on audio
 - l. Motion #1
 - i. Partnership between local hosting community/events with CoRe to make literature available for purchase
 - ii. Something that has been working for a while but just making it “official”
- 6. Finance
 - a. Revised the ERP, in conformance with IRS guidelines
 - i. Created document to provide clearer guidance to the fellowship to submit expenses
 - ii. Working on it since January 2019
 - b. Continued to do that along with regular duties
 - i. Work with committees and getting budget requests from them
 - c. Service worker has been offered a job to work with ERRs
 - i. First reviewer of ERR with receipts
 - ii. Work on streamlining the process
 - iii. Independent contractor
 - d. Motion #1
 - i. Put into place provisionally for 90 days as further investigation is done
 - 1. May be able to clarify items during that time
 - 2. Collaboration with the Board and Standing Committees after 90 days
 - 3. The ERP would be reviewed again at CSC 2020
 - ii. Could get travel agent to front the money for hotel/airfare and only need to reimburse for meals – possibility that is still being researched
 - iii. Passed on 2/3 majority
 - e. 2019 budget
 - i. Budgeted Expenses: \$278,811.37
 - ii. Budgeted Income: \$257,300
 - iii. Shortfall: \$21,511.37
 - iv. Prudent Reserve: \$250,000
- 7. New business
 - a. Finance Motion #2 – pulled
 - b. Board Motion – pulled
 - c. SSC
 - i. Change Tradition #11: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films and all other public forms of media.”
 - ii. Simple majority: Pass

1. Foundational documents may not be able to be changed based on a simple majority – will be reviewed
 - a. Can't be passed without 2/3 majority
 - b. Post on the website to get feedback from VE's

8. VE Reports

a. Iran

- i. Started by someone who lived in the USA and had done the 12 & 12 with AA
- ii. First meeting held in Tehran in 2002
- iii. Translated literature: CoDA book
- iv. Next meeting established 2005
- v. Service structure establish in Iran in 2010
 1. Translation
 2. Literature
 3. Literature distribution
 4. PR and public information
 5. Workshop and training committees
 6. Changed to Persian language regional service structure to serve ALL Persian language countries
- vi. www.CoDA-ir.org
- vii. 111 groups in 2019
 1. 4 skype meetings
- viii. 64 workshops in a year
- ix. 425 newcomers
- x. Many members can speak multiple languages of neighboring countries and can help support spread of CoDA in those countries

b. UK

- i. Meet every 2 months in London – GSRs from around the UK
- ii. Coda.uk.com – trying to get back the old .org website
- iii. 7 meetings in Scotland, 2 in Glasgow, 3 in Edinburgh an 1 in Aberdeen
- iv. 2 meetings in Wales – 1 in north, 1 in mid-Wales
- v. 1 meeting in Belfast, 1 in Dublin
- vi. 100 around England
- vii. Been there since in early 1990's
- viii. Have weekend retreats across the UK
- ix. Two intergroups currently
- x. Ken and Mary will be in London in October 2019

9. Email lists

- a. www.codependents.org or coda.org (click on blue link for "email lists") – to sign up for the email lists
 - i. General CoDA announcements
 - ii. Co-NNections Weekly Reading
 - iii. Events
 - iv. H&I
 - v. Meeting contacts

vi. Quarterly Service Reports

10. New CoDA Board

a. Nancy O from Canada – new chair