

RDA Activities in December:

The Learning Days -Decision Making in ABCD Part I- were conducted with David F., Policy Chair, with the assistance of Karelyn and Kristin, to explain issues regarding decision making at ABCD and if there might be another way to move forward in service. Part II, developing policy, will be after Region today. We were asked for an encore which we recorded and Dennis posted at: <https://youtu.be/zbJullx LN8>. As it turns out, some Areas were interested as they are also struggling with decision making at an Area level.

In short, what we discovered was:

1. Having every decision go to the groups is not a decision-making mechanism that appears in either the Guide to Local Services or the Concepts.
2. Because of this somewhat unusual way of making decisions in service, it makes coordinating with other regions at the Zone, the US Delegation of Zones or through WSC and other world services very difficult.
3. We are not the only region that uses this type of decision making which looks more like a representative government than a service structure. Other regions in our Zone who use a similar model are also looking at their decision making. Even some of our Areas are re-examining this model at the Area level.
4. The speed that decisions need to be made at the Zonal, multi-zonal and world level do not lend themselves to this type of decision making.
5. We only have a few RCM's and the information does not get to the Areas and I have heard of no group that has discussed Zonal issues, multi-zonal issues, or world issues that have come up since I have been RDA at their home groups.
6. Home groups are focused on carrying the message to the addict who still suffers, keeping their doors open, staying on top of Covid protocols, getting the closed groups back open and other issues that may concern the home groups more than Zonal issues and beyond. However, it would be best if we came up with some type of policy that would allow any members who are interested to participate in either the discussions, the decision making or both.
7. Some ideas:
 - a. Continue to allow decisions to be made at the region only if they have gone to the home groups.
 - b. Continue some decisions to be made that way but delegate others to the Regional body and allow all members of that service body to participate in the decision making process in keeping with the GTLS and the 7th Concept with accurate reporting from the RCM's to the Areas as to what decisions are being made in keeping with the 8th Concept.
 - c. Allow some decisions at the Zonal or World level to be delegated to the RD team with accurate reporting to the Region about what decisions are being made in keeping with the 3rd and 8th Concepts, the Guide to World Services, and the GTLS.
 - d. Allow all members of the Region to participate in the decision making and/or discussions using a Consensus Based Decision Making process.

We will discuss all of this after Region today as we develop policy for ABCD to move us forward. Please stay if you can. It may be of more interest to your Area than you think.

GENERAL NAWS ISSUES:

WSC 2022

- The videos for the interim CAR/CAT have not yet been released but I did attend one CAR/CAT workshop at a Conference Participant Webinar so I feel ready to present. There are only 5 motions in the CAR/CAT. I would like to have the Regional Assembly after Region in February.
- Policy states that I am supposed to do a CAR/CAT workshop in every Area and a Regional Assembly. As there are only 5 motions, it has been suggested that, if we develop a proposed policy soon, I could combine the CAR/CAT workshop with a discussion of the new proposed policy for decision making at Region so I will try to do that.
 - Scheduled CAR/CAT Workshops:
 - **Regional Assembly:** February 5, 2022 at noon. Zoom ID: 848 0620 5225.
 - **Mohawk River:** Saturday, January 29, 2022 after Area. Area meets live 1 pm. 970 State Street, Schenectady, NY.
 - **Green Mountain Area:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 after Area. Area meets via Zoom at 1:15, workshop should start at 2:15. Zoom ID: 774 158 303.
 - **SAMMA:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 after Area. Area meets via Zoom at 3:00. Workshop should start at 4:00. Zoom ID: 214 447 1582 Passcode: 539148.
 - Albany-Rensselaer, Berkshire, Mid-Hudson, and Seaway Trails TBD.
- The Zone approved the final project plan for the mini-virtual WSC in ABCD April 22-24. I have been working with Kristin and I did execute that contract with the Hilton in Albany (previously the Crown Plaza on State and Pearl). I am trying to connect with some local members for tech support and we will need some activity for Saturday night. I wanted to just go out for a local meeting but I don't see a local meeting near Albany on Saturday night at the right time. I'm working on it.
- The interim CAR/CAT is available on NA.org.

ZONAL FORUM

I attended the Sunday Zoom Zonal Forum in December and they approved the plan for the virtual WSC in ABCD. It does change our scheduling a bit for the Zone. I would love a volunteer or two to help with this project scheduled for April 22-24.

I attach here the summary of decisions and the notes from the Zone. Again, I abstained from every decision. As you can see, we are not the only Region struggling with the idea of the US Delegation of Zones but we are one of the only Zones that is struggling.

RD TEAM

If anyone is interested in service at this level, please contact me. ABCD policy allows for an RD Team. Therefore, you can become involved and become part of the team even if you don't want to run for RD or RDA. I am currently the only member on the team and would love some company

OTHER NEWS

Please let me know today if I can do our CAR/CAT Regional Assembly after Region in February.

ILS,
Sandy Mc, RDA