



youth IPs

Review and Input

Hello from Your World Board

We are happy to present you with review drafts of the new Youth Informational Pamphlets (which include a separate pamphlet for the parents of young members). This new pamphlet is titled, "By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts" and would replace the existing Youth and Recovery IP (whereas the piece geared toward parents of younger members is new). Also enclosed is background information for the project, as well as a session profile to use when gathering input in your local NA communities. Please don't limit yourself to the enclosed session profile; we look forward to receiving your input in any way that works best for you. We do encourage you to get members involved (especially younger members) and forward us your thoughts and ideas about these drafts.

Introduction and Background

When we invited a focus group of young members (most of who were under the age of eighteen years old) to input these new Youth IP drafts, they shared about how they didn't feel they qualified as NA members in many of the meetings they attend. They talked about how hard it is to change their old "playmates" when they are still enrolled at their high schools. Or how they had to explain to their parents that being grounded from NA meetings is like being grounded from school.

We've known that young people in and out of NA would benefit from material written to them, and these individual voices confirmed it once again. Those who helped develop these new IPs were able to get clean without them—some at age fourteen, sixteen, seventeen, or twenty. But we know that just because many members were able to find NA without this material, doesn't mean that there aren't those who didn't stay or those who could have experienced NA's message more easily with material like this.

We believe that expanding our literature and finding new ways to reach those who haven't yet heard our message is crucial, not only to accomplishing our Vision, but in fulfilling our primary purpose. During the creation of this material, the workgroup was often moved by how much this information would have helped them had it been available when they were newcomers.

As some of you may remember, we've had fellowshipwide discussions for the past four years about a group's atmosphere of recovery. These discussions identified young people as missing from NA meetings or missing out on NA's message. We also continue to receive requests from professionals for literature geared toward young people, and we prioritized the development of targeted literature for youth at WSC 2006. Needless to say, there is a significant need for new literature geared toward young addicts. We look forward to hearing from you as to how we can make these new pieces even more relevant to those young addicts still suffering from addiction.

Yet, as we reported in NAWS News, targeting literature to a specific population (in this case younger addicts) means that these pieces have been created to speak directly to this population. These new IPs look and sound different. We've discussed the challenge of asking members to review pieces not meant to speak to many of those doing the reviewing. We know that asking, *do I relate to this*, is not the most useful way to approach these IPs.

As your board, we had our own challenges in reviewing these pieces. Since these IPs weren't intended to speak to us, we had to focus our conversations on whether or not this material could be helpful to younger members in NA and if it was consistent with NA's principles. We know that making NA's message more viable to a widely diverse population means that not everything will be in a voice that we relate to. The piece geared toward parents may be even more of a challenge for many of us. Those of us who have never sponsored younger members may shy away from the idea that a parent might want to arrange a meeting with a sponsor. Yet, those of us who are parents acknowledged that a meeting with a sponsor made perfect sense—though the addict in us may have balked at the idea.

What will be useful in reviewing this project will be to take these session profiles and get members involved. If there are younger members in your community, get their input on these drafts—better yet, encourage them to hold their own workshops. We know that this new material will only benefit from the ideas and experience of members in our worldwide fellowship.

Review and Input Questions

We are aware that the drafts could benefit from a broader range of experience from around the world and from various cultural and experiential demographics. We are eager to hear from members about what would help to fill these gaps.

- What are your overall impressions of the drafts?
- What kinds of experiences or cultural demographics are missing from these drafts? What do we need to add so these pieces can better address these various perspectives?
- If you got clean at a young age, what did you need to hear in order to identify with NA?
- Is there anything else missing?
- Is there anything in these pieces that you strongly object to?

Deadline and Mailing Information

Input is due **31 May 2007**

You can get project updates and submit input online at
<http://www.na.org/conference/youth/>

Or send your input to:

**World Board
19737 Nordhoff Place
Chatsworth, CA 91311 USA**

Or email: **Worldboard@na.org**



Youth IPs Review and Input

Session Profile

We hope the following session profile will be a useful tool in providing input for these drafts. Feel free to modify this format in any way that best suits the needs of your session.

Background and Introduction to the Project

Briefly explain where the project comes from and what has led to the development of these drafts.

- The development of targeted literature for youth was prioritized at WSC 2006.
- For the last four years, the fellowship has had discussions about a group's atmosphere of recovery that identified young people as missing from NA meetings or missing out on NA's message.
- NAWS continues to receive requests from professionals for literature geared toward young people.
- The existing Youth in Recovery IP was written over twenty years ago.

Read and Input Drafts

In a large group, take turns reading the drafts aloud. Then, break into small groups to provide input on the drafts.

In small groups, ask members to answer the following questions:

- What are your overall impressions of the drafts?
- What kinds of experiences or cultural demographics are missing from these drafts? What do we need to add so these pieces can better address these various perspectives?
- If you got clean at a young age, what did you need to hear in order to identify with NA?
- Is there anything else missing?
- Is there anything in these pieces that you strongly object to?

Ask a representative from each small group to report on the group's discussion. In addition to recording this input for NAWS, write members' ideas on a large sheet of poster paper (so the group can see their input).

Conclusion and Wrap Up

Before closing, open the large group discussion for ideas that weren't covered in the small groups. Once all the input has been discussed, try to summarize some of the key ideas offered in the session. Let participants know that their input will be sent to the World Service Office and encourage participants to submit input individually if they'd like.