

GSF Basics

The Purpose of the GSF

Since the early days of NA, our service manuals have described the ASC as responsible to both support groups and provide services. The proposed group support forum (GSF) and local service conference (LSC) divide the responsibilities of our current ASCs.

The GSF is intended to help groups better carry the message within their meetings by separating out the group support function from the “business” of providing NA services. The GSF gives groups the opportunity to share problems they may be encountering and to seek solutions from each other, to talk about what’s working well, and to have informal workshops on topics of their choice while avoiding the distraction of discussions about complex services provided outside the group. The GSF functions as a discussion-based gathering of the local NA community and may be an easier or less intimidating way for some members to get introduced to service. The GSF is intended to be like a community or neighborhood gathering, not another level of service.

What Happens at GSF Meetings?

- Welcome and outreach to new groups and members
- Informal discussion of group issues and sharing of solutions
- Information sharing (e.g., upcoming events, new literature, discussion topics)
- Checking accuracy of meeting information and creation of local meeting list if needed
- Introduction to service (e.g. introduction to service literature, traditions, concepts, etc.)
- Informal training and mentoring
- Some GSFs may provide options for groups to order literature and contribute funds to other levels of service
- In some circumstances, GSFs may be involved in some service delivery (e.g., putting up flyers in the community or supporting a local H&I meeting)

For GSFs using the linear option only:

- Selection of a GSF delegate (or delegates) to attend the LSC/ASC
- Reporting from the GSF on discussions at the LSC/ASC
- Gathering of any GSF input on LSC/ASC discussions for the GSF delegate to bring these to the LSC/ASC

Keys to a Healthy GSF Discussion

- Share our experience, strength, and hope
- Listen to one another and respect each other's ideas
- Everyone is welcome to attend and everyone can participate
- Take turns: One person speaks at a time, and no one person should dominate the GSF
- Try to stay focused on the issue at hand and avoid repetition
- Remember – honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts