

**Families Anonymous
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 17, 2024**

INTRODUCTION

1. **Call to Order:** 12:00 pm EDT, by Maria S, Chair
2. **Roll Call:** by Jan B.

<u>Name</u>	<u>WSB Role</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Monthly Report</u>
Maria S	Chair	P	W
Chris Y	Vice Chair	P	W
Cindy C	Treasurer	P	W
Jan B	Secretary	P	W
Ann P	BMAL	P	W
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Chris Z	BMAL	P	W
Guy B	BMAL	P	W
Helen L	BMAL	E	E
Jeff S	BMAL	P	W
Sarah T	BMAL	P	N
Cristina B	BMAL	A	N
Jeff F	BMAL	E	E

Attendance Key: P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused, LOA=Leave of Absence

Monthly Report Key: W= Submitted by deadline, L=Submitted after deadline,
N=No report submitted, E=Excused for extenuating circumstances, LOA = Leave
of Absence

3. Acceptance of Published Agenda:

- Chris Y moved to accept the Agenda, Jan seconded, voted on and accepted.

4. Tradition One:

- Read by Jan: *“Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity.”*

5. Approval of January 2024 WSB Minutes: Jan

- Jan moved to accept the January WSB Minutes, Cindy seconded, voted on and approved. Jan to distribute.

6. Chair's Report: Maria S.

- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Chair's Report.

7. Treasurer's Report: Cindy C

- Cindy provided the monthly financial reports for January 2024 as part of her monthly report.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Treasurer's Report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
SC-1 Public Information	Jeff S
SC-2 WSO	Maria S
SC-3 Literature	Ann P
SC-4 Serenity Messenger Newsletter	Robert S
SC-5 Bylaws, Parliamentary	Maria S (ad interim)
SC-6 International Groups	Helen L
SC-7 Budget Committee	Cindy C
SC-8 Sponsorship	Helen L
SC-9 Group Outreach	Chris Z
SC-10 Financial Oversight	Chris Z
SC-11 Technology	Chris Y
SC-12 Long Range Planning	TBD

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
AH-1 Convention Liaison	Cindy C
AH-2 Intergroup Support & Development	Jeff F
AH-3 Document Review	Ann P
AH-4 Education	Maria S
AH-5 Literature Access Initiative	Maria S

- There were no other additional updates from the Committee Chairs

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

TABLED ITEMS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bereavement Group Meeting (Maria):

Establishing a Bereavement Group Meeting was a suggestion that came out of Long Range Planning. The UK already has a bereavement group meeting up and running and has shared their format with Maria. Guy said that this group has filled a gap for FA members who had lost a loved one to addiction who felt that their sharing at their home group might depress those at a regular FA meeting. It has been very successful. Maria already has several people interested in attending the planning meeting (Jan, Chris Y and Sylvia).

2. Raising Awareness Dashboard & Project Plans (Cindy):

Cindy created a new SPREAD THE WORD Dashboard whose goal is to focus on growing the Fellowship and thereby raising the funds needed to keep FA afloat. FELLOWSHIP GROWTH looks at where we have new groups opening, who has asked for Starter kits and what groups have closed up in order to be able to absorb those members into other groups.

AWARENESS & OUTREACH currently includes the FA Facebook page stats (need to spread the word about the FaceBook page as well), the Vignettes Project and the ISSUU stats, e-resources have reached 15 countries!

LITERATURE & EVENTS highlights the newest publications of the Literature Committee, Convention status (still looking for a host for 2024, but there is interest from Chicagoland for 2025) and Education Session stats.

HOW IS ALL THE ABOVE HELPING? Feedback from the Education Sessions is consistently positive and new ideas for future topics come out of them. The e-resources are reaching many people in many countries through social media. And Facilitating Sponsorship within the Fellowship is a great service we are providing, 7 sponsors in 3 different countries offered to sponsor, 2 sponsees have been matched already.

OUTREACH CALLS BY WSB: This is a method to keep track of calls, hope to have all calls made by March 11th. Also, this is a good way to picture where the groups are localized for different reasons, one being Convention hosting.

Chris Y suggested sharing the Dashboard with the Fellowship, as it would encourage members with its positive message and show how the WSB is working on raising awareness. He also suggested that we put a link to FaceBook on the website. The Board

agreed with both suggestions; we will see if Nicole knows how to add the FaceBook logo to the website as a link, and go from there.

Bob suggested that the new tagline, Spreading the Word, which will be appearing in the January/February edition of the Serenity Messenger, should also be mentioned in the Dashboard. He also suggested to Jeff S that he can use content from the Serenity Messenger in his FaceBook posts. There was then a short discussion on whether it is within our Traditions to use non FA material on our FA FaceBook page, with differing opinions and no overall agreement.

**Thank you to Cindy for creating this handsome and useful tool.

3. Vignette Pilot Update (Sarah):

Sarah added 10 seconds of audio of Mike adding a hopeful, positive message at the end. She is now working on cleaning up the audio and adding captions that will need editing. Jeff S will write an introductory note to the pilot to be sent out with it. It is not going to be perfect, but Sarah will send out the finished product to the Board for review on February 26th and asks for feedback by March 4th, Then the hope is it will go out to social media: FaceBook, Instagram, YouTube and the FA website soon after.

Sarah also will prepare a communication asking for people who have experience with creating Public Service Announcements (30 second slots), as she is thinking to work on PSAs next.

CLOSING

1. Announcements/items forgotten to mention:

Bob, during one of his secretary calls, spoke to a person who writes grants for a living and who offered to do so for the FA if the WSB finds it within our Traditions to do so. He feels that FA could easily get a grant of \$25,000 from a private foundation that was formed by the family of someone who died from SUD, for example. After discussion, the Board decided it was worth pursuing. Bob will call this FA member back and Maria will reach out to other Anonymous groups to see if they have experience in pursuing grants of this type.

2. Adjournment: Bob moved to adjourn, Chris Y seconded, voted on and all approved. Adjourned at 1:22 pm ET.

3. Close with Serenity Prayer