

**Families Anonymous  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 16, 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1. Call to Order:** 12:01 pm EDT, by Maria S, Chair

**2. Roll Call:** by Maria S

<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	A	E
Jeff S	BMAL	E	W
Sarah T	BMAL	P	N
Cristina B	BMAL	A	N
Jeff F	BMAL	E	W

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, Guy seconded, voted on and accepted.

**4. Tradition One:**

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

**5. Approval of February 2024 WSB Minutes: Jan**

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

**6. Chair's Report: Maria S.**

Maria submitted with her report both an update from the Education Committee as well as an update regarding the planning of the new Bereavement Meeting in the US based on the UK's positive experience of running a group in the past 2 years. Thanks to the UK members for their support in getting this off the ground.

- 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 February 2024 as part of her monthly report.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Treasurer's Report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>
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**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>
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. Review of the Dashboard**

Fellowship Growth: One new group in February in Atlanta that Chris Z reached out to, 1 group asked for a started kit. Chris also reached out to them and 2 others, and one group has closed.

Awareness & Outreach: Families Anonymous' Official Facebook page picked up 13 new followers, Instagram, which is newer for Families Anonymous, has 6 new followers, 5 posts in February, Vignettes project has its launch date as an "open item", and Issuu e-resources picked up 2 new countries, Panama and Finland.

Literature & Events: The Jan/Feb issue of the Serenity Messenger was published in February 2024 with a Spotlight on *Understanding & Releasing Guilt* which led to 22 sales = \$59, and a mention of *FA and the Professional Community; Faith Leaders* got 1 download and 11 reads.

Still need a Convention host for 2024, Chicagoland has expressed interest in hosting in 2025.

Education Sessions: April-none, May-Boundaries, Future topics- Spread the Word, Social Media, Sponsorship.

There is a huge potential for outreach and awareness via social media.

Please share social media with groups throughout the US and world.

Group Secretary Calls: For people who have not made calls, if there are personal reasons, please let Maria know, so that we can pass off the calls to others who can take on additional calling responsibilities. Please let Maria know if you can take on more calls as well.

Question: Ann: What is the What Do I Say? Video? It's a video on Families Anonymous' website and YouTube highlighting that piece literature title. Chris: What is the upside of using Social media? Posts attract people to FA through topics about family recovery. Ann: we have Education videos, would they be good to put on YouTube? Maybe parts of them could be edited and be put up on YouTube. Maria will talk to Ed Com. Next time to see if there is someone to take that on.

Maria: Are thinking of creating a Sibling Meeting in addition to the Bereavement Meeting and that would be good to promote on Instagram, reaching that younger population. So as a first step, if you are aware of anyone in your home group who is a sibling who might be willing to be part of a planning session, let Maria know. Chris Z said she is very interested in helping out with this group.

## **2. Motion to Approve Fiscal Year 2024-25 Proposed Budget: Cindy**

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget calls for a \$13,200 loss. Families Anonymous' cash projection is the most serious concern. Before January of 2027, Families Anonymous will have to decide if it can renew the typical 5 year lease, or if it will need to renew for a shorter time, or if it will have to find an alternative to an office, etc. Cash is our biggest issue. Families Anonymous needs to grow the fellowship in order to have adequate cash to cover the costs of a World Service Office.

Questions:

Guy- what is the biggest cost? Is it personnel? Yes, Families Anonymous employs two part-time employees who together work the equivalent hours of 1.1 full-time person.

Chris Y- Any other unknown risks-such as if one of our staff left, would we have to pay someone new a lot more? They are being paid a market rate for the Chicago metropolitan area.

**Cindy made motion, Guy seconded, voted on and approved unanimously.**

## **3. Motion to Invest in \$25,000 Certificate of Deposit (CD): Cindy**

(Note: On March 25, 2024, the existing \$25,000 2-month CD will mature. Upon maturity, this is a motion to reinvest this funds in another 2-month CD.)

No questions.

**Cindy made motion, Chris Y seconded, voted on and approved unanimously.**

#### **4. NPR ON Point Podcast - Any next steps?**

Mother interviewed mentioned FA in very positive terms, how should we use the podcast if at all? Ann felt the expert was not following FA principles, can we take clips out of the text? Cindy also liked what the mother said and suggested we interview her ourselves to obtain quotes we might like to publish. Bob: NPR does own the copyright, so we would need their permission. He agreed that the expert was speaking out of both sides of her mouth. Cindy will speak to Jeff about reaching out to the mother for an interview and will get back to the WSB with a proposal. Sarah would like to possibly interview this woman for a vignette. Suggested to approach NPR to have someone from the WSB to be interviewed on NPR.

#### **5. Future Vignettes**

Next Steps: thinking of 2 more vignettes, one in Spanish. Have gotten 3 donations, \$200, so far.

As far as the pilot goes, we want to get feedback on it, how do we go about getting feedback?

Cindy: Can tell from the sites how many people view it, whether they watch the entire thing, whether they then click on to our other videos.

Maria: Want to get feedback from the fellowship as well on the video.

Guy: Want to voice concerns from the UK about the video. Think the video itself is great. However, the UK issue is the breach of our Traditions of anonymity by putting the names of FA members names at the end. Also by mentioning TeagleFilms and other contributors. Seems we have lost our way a bit, by including the attribution of names. Would like to ask Sarah, what is the rationale for living the names? Sarah left that to Maria, who said that we have some places where names are listed, some where they are not. In future videos, we will have to rediscuss, this issue, and hopefully come to a consensus. Do not always have to rely on precedence. Breaching 6, 11 and 12. Seems like ego and is unnecessary. May need to strike the names from Serenity Messenger. SM is an internal newsletter, this video is meant to be external. Ann suggested, "For information about the production of this video, please call the WSO". This would be instead of the list of names and then Sarah could get her company name out there later to anyone who is interested, but it would not be on the video. Trying to find consensus since this is so divisive.

Maria suggested having a separate meeting for anyone on the board who wants to attend to try to arrive at a consensus for vignettes going forward.

Sarah: Sees no distinction between Serenity Messenger and the Videos. Could switch to podcasts from vignettes.

Thank you Sarah for all your work.

## **CLOSING**

### **1. Announcements/items forgotten to mention:**

Chris Z: Group Outreach Co. needs help, Who is responsible for the mailbox for the GO committee? It is the chair of that committee.

### **2. Adjournment:**

Chris Y moved to adjourn, Ann seconded, voted on and all approved.  
Adjourned at 1:21 pm ET.

### **3. Close with Serenity Prayer**