

**Families Anonymous  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 21, 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

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

**2. Roll Call:** by Jan B

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>WSB Role</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Report</u></b>
Maria S	Chair	P	W
Chris Y	Vice Chair	P	W
Cindy C	Treasurer	P	W
Jan B	Secretary	P	W
Greg C	BMAL	E	W
Bob S	BMAL	P	W
Chris Z	BMAL	P	W
Guy B	BMAL	E	E
Helen L	BMAL	A	N
Lori H	BMAL	P	W
Cristina B*	BMAL	LOA	LOA

\*Christina needs to take a 6 month Leave of Absence. Maria will reconnect with her in March of 2025 to see if she can re-involve herself in the WSB then.

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:**

- Maria moved to accept the Agenda, Bob 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 August 2024 WSB Minutes: Jan

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

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

Additions from Maria:

- Jan to add approval of 7017E via email vote to the August minutes of WSB.
- Maria met with Greg C and a member of the Bradenton group regarding the new Zoom Siblings Group which will meet monthly to start for the first time on November 7th at 7 PM and on every 1st Thursday of the month after that. There will be an email blast announcing the meeting.
  
- 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 August 2024 as part of her monthly report.
- There were no other comments or questions concerning the Treasurer’s Report.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Committee**

SC-1 Public Information

SC-2 WSO

SC-3 Literature

#### **Chair**

TBD

Maria S

Maria S

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	Greg C

### **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	TBD
AH-3 Document Review	TBD
AH-4 Education	Maria S
AH-5 Literature Access Initiative	Maria S

- There were no other comments or questions regarding the committee reports.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

### **TABLED ITEMS: NONE**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Review of the Dashboard (Cindy C)**

- **Fellowship Growth:**
  - There were 3 new groups started this month, 2 in Springfield, Mo (the same group meeting on 2 different nights) and 1 in VA.
  - There was 1 Starter Kit was sent out to the groups in Springfield.
  - Two groups closed down this month, one in NY and one in KS.

- **Awareness & Outreach:**

Social media: Still picking up new followers, still posting daily, alternating between Facebook and Instagram.

Vignettes: Had 635 views of Don't Do It Alone on YouTube and 5 potential participants for new video projects.

ISSUU stats: 33 countries are accessing the e-resources via ISSUU.

- **Literature and Events:**

New publications this month: 7007E - Spread the Word e-Resource and 7017E - Welcome to Families Anonymous e-Resource, both for sharing widely.

Convention: Chicago will be holding a regional convention on November 2nd this year and a World Service Convention in 2025.

FA Niche Groups: Planning meeting held for Sibling Group on 9/18, will launch on November 7th. Planning meeting for Parents of Adolescents scheduled. These 2 will be in addition to the already successful Bereavement Meeting Group.

Education: Spread the Word Session scheduled for October 26th.

-Future Ideas: Social Media, New Groups, Sponsorship

Dashboard Discussion:

Chris Y asked if it is known how many people are in the new groups, vis a vie how many members we lost in the group that closed, is it a net growth? Cindy does not have that information. Maria however will ask Nicole to connect with the group secretary of closed groups to ask them to encourage members to look into joining other FA groups , where they would be most welcome.

**2. MOTION LC-1 (September 2024): The LC moves for the WSB to approve disposing of the obsolete inventory of #1021 “But She’s Too Young to Be an Alcoholic”: One Mother’s Story and replacing it with the previously approved revision #1021 “But She’s Too Young (Isn’t She?): One Mother’s Story.**

Rationale:

- (a) History: In January 2023, the board approved a revision of #1021, titled “But She’s Too Young (Isn’t She?)”. It replaced the old #1021, titled “But She’s Too Young to Be an Alcoholic”, originally published 36 years earlier, in 1987. One of the LC’s primary objectives in revising this piece was to “eliminate the negative,” meaning that FA is no longer using personally disparaging and potentially damaging terminology in any of our publications. For more than a decade, the labelling of people as being totally defined by just one of their illnesses, such as an alcoholic, addict, drug abuser, etc., has been deemed to interfere with people being willing to seek treatment. It has also been shown to negatively impact the way practitioners view their clients and the quality of treatment they offer them. The LC’s other primary objective was “latch onto the affirmative,” i.e., to bring FA’s terminology in line with that being used in the psychological, medical, and behavioral health communities. This specifically includes replacing terms such as drug abuse or drug dependence with substance use disorder, its subset alcohol use disorder, and the like. Best practice requires that a person no longer be referred to as an addict or an alcoholic or a drug abuser—but rather as a person with an addiction or a person with substance use disorder or a person with alcohol use disorder. Thus, even the title of the old #1021, which refers to the daughter as an alcoholic, is out of touch with current practices, as is the text of the booklet itself. At the time of approval at the January 2023 meeting, the motion had specified that the updated version would be printed when warranted by inventory levels.
- (b) Sales, Cost and Income: In the 18 months between January 2023 and July 2024, the WSO has sold just 22 copies of the obsolete “But She’s Too Young to Be an Alcoholic”. At \$2.00 each, the gross income has been \$28.00. Page 2 of 3 The sales breakdown for that period is as follows: In January 2023, when the LC’s motion to approve the revision was passed, the WSO had 399 copies on hand. Sales were about one copy per month (14/year). As of July 2024, the WSO had 377 copies on hand. Sales were even less than one copy per month (11/year). At the current rate of sales (11/year), it would take over 30 years to deplete our inventory. The inventory remaining at the WSO has no asset value. When 500 copies were ordered in 2018, the printing cost was \$165 (\$0.33 each). Since then, a total of 271 copies have been sold (237 copies @ \$1.50 = \$355.50; 34 copies @ \$2.00 = \$68), for a total income of \$423.50. Thus, our income (\$423.50) has already exceeded our printing cost (\$165) by \$258.56, meaning we have made back our monetary outlay and then some.
- (c) Informational Promotion: The LC has not promoted the existing #1021 “But She’s Too Young to Be an Alcoholic” in the Serenity Messenger or elsewhere, since we feel

that it would be unethical to encourage people to purchase an obsolete, personally disparaging publication. On the other hand, because this piece is still for sale, the LC has continued listing it in the literature catalog, which may give the impression, to FA members and the public, that FA is stuck in the past and not up-to-date with what's currently happening in the recovery community. The LC feels that the revised #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)" would be a valuable addition to our literature offerings that can be made available to the fellowship for a negligible monetary outlay and that can generate revenue. We look forward to this once the board approves this motion.

- (d) Translations: When an FA entity outside the U.S. wants to translate #1021, it is the revised #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)" that the LC is giving them permission to translate. We are not authorizing translation of the obsolete #1021, even as we continue selling it here in the U.S. Most recently, in June 2024, we approved Portugal's publication of #1021.PT Mas Ela É Tão Nova (Não É?), which is a translation of the revised #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)". Perpetuating the disconnect between what's published here in the U.S. and what's published abroad does not reflect best practice.

Feasibility:

1. Based on recent price quotes for printing other eight-page booklets, printing 50 copies of the revised #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)" should cost about \$40, or \$0.80 each.
2. Printing the revised #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)" would give the LC the opportunity to inform the fellowship of this "new" piece and stimulate sales.
3. No cost is involved for the WSO to dispose of #1021 "But She's Too Young to Be an Alcoholic" in its recycling bin.
4. Much-needed space would be freed up on the WSO's literature shelves by not having the space taken up by obsolete publications with negligible sales potential.

Implementation: Upon approval of this motion, the LC will:

- 1) coordinate with the treasurer on ordering the new #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)"
- 2) prepare a Serenity Messenger article announcing the new #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)" 3)
- 3) update the literature catalog, which will include placing #1021 "But She's Too Young (Isn't She?)" in a SPOTLIGHT box
- 4) instruct the WSO to dispose of the obsolete copies of #1021 "But She's Too Young to Be an Alcoholic" in its recycling bin.

**Maria made the motion, Jan seconded, voted on and approved, with 6 votes for and 2 votes against.**

## **CLOSING**

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

Chris Z asked if the Serenity Messenger can promote the Summit group's new Zoom meeting. Bob suggested they write up a short article, maybe with some history of the Summit group and include the Zoom information.

Maria asked Cindy to help with Canva for the Member Stories and to finalize the New Group Starter Kit which needs another link or 2 added. Cindy agreed.

Chris Y suggested the Board needs to be more aggressive in recruiting new board members since we are stretched so thin.

Maria said that sending out an e-blast as we have done in the past, has not brought any responses. She suggested that when Cindy and Greg attend the Chicagoland convention that they look for leaders who might be interested.

Chris Y stated that the Fellowship needs to know that this volunteer organization will not exist without volunteers to the WSB.

Chris Z asked for a letter that can be sent to group secretaries that they can then print out and hand out to their members would be most helpful.

Bob called it Word from the (Vanishing) Board that would go into the Serenity Messenger and some form of the same would go out to secretaries. Chris Y will draft something, Bob will help edit.

Jan suggested that Cindy and Greg can bring the letter to the Chicagoland convention in November as well.

**2. Adjournment:** Chris Y moved to adjourn, Bob seconded, voted on and approved. Adjourned at 12:31 pm ET.

**3. Closed with Serenity Prayer**