

DRAFT

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

Ready to Blaze the Trail of NA Service?

Explore Our Trailhead of Workshops!

FACILITATION BASICS

A trailhead for mastering the basics and ways to improve their knowledge on chairing and facilitating service meetings.

GSR, RCM, AND RD OH MY!

A trail for every level of experience on being a servant in the delegation stream, and a path to practical application.

WHAT ARE ZONES?

Whether you want a quick tour of the SZF or about where zones fit in NA service, we have the trail for you!

PLANNING IN SERVICE

Pack your backpack with strategies for finding issues and opportunities, mapping goals, approaches, and action plans.

ISSUE DISCUSSION TOPICS

An explorers dream of presentation and discussion on a variety of issues. So many topics to choose from to workshop!

- Disruptive and Predatory Behavior
- DRT/MAT as it relates to NA
- Reimagining and Revitalizing Service Committees
- Gender-neutral and inclusive language in NA literature
- Building Strong Homegroups
- and more! Visit na.org/idt for more options!

CONSENSUS BASED DECISION MAKING

A navigation of the principles of CBDM and practical application at any level: area, region, or zone.

*Designed to
guide any
service
enthusiast
on their
journey!*

**Follow the trail
markers, or**

**forge your own
path off the map!**



szfna.org
fellowshipdevelopment@szfna.org

We're here to support you on the trail ahead!

SOUTHERN ZONAL FORUM

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

The US Collaboration of Zones will provide a single point of contact for Narcotics Anonymous in the United States, thereby providing a standing national presence. A national presence enables numerous Public Relations opportunities:

- *Working with national and federal agencies that are currently closed to NA in the US*
- *Providing a national website and other tools that can easily connect addicts and the public to local NA meetings, phone lines, and websites.*
- *Making available national PSA's that can help increase awareness of NA in the US*
- *Improving the quality and accuracy of meeting information across the US locally, and on NA.org*

Through communication and coordination, this collaboration will provide NA communities with support in public relations, fellowship development, training and mentoring, technology, and other needs that may arise. It will be a vehicle to fill service gaps and needs. The US Collaboration of Zones will complement, not replace, the existing service structure

AGENDA

- Welcome – Third Step Prayer, Reading of A Vision for NA Service
- Introductions / Roll Call
- Zonal Reporting / Information (Updates on new projects or upcoming events)
- Communication Workgroup Updates - Dawn P
- IT Workgroup Updates - Sherry V
- Public Relations Workgroup - Jessie B
- Mentorship Project Updates – Ruben P
- Marginalized / Rural Project Updates – Mandy H
- Budget Updates - Craig R
- Training and Mentoring / Updates as needed or upon request
- Open Forum
- New Proposals
- Elections (if applicable) / Nominations and voting procedures
- Upcoming US Collaboration Meeting Schedule: October 12th, 2025, 6:00 p.m. EST

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

ROLL CALL – 7 / 7 ZONES PRESENT

Attendee	Name		Email Address	Phone Number
Facilitator	Craig R	P	Craigrobertson87@yahoo.com	919.618.7771
Secretary	Rob U	A	FlyersScore@gmail.com	484.880.2368
Communications Workgroup	Dawn P	P		
IT Workgroup	Sherry V	P		
Public Relations Workgroup	Jessie B	P		
Project Mentorship	Ruben / Chuck	P		
Marginalized / Rural Support Project	Mandy	P		
Northeast Zonal Forum (NEZF)	James P	P		
Midwest Zonal Forum (MZF)	Jim B	P		
Plain States Zonal Forum (PSZF)	Beth N	P		
Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum (RMZF)	Dawn / Chuck	P		
Southeastern Zonal Forum (SEZF)	Mat	P		
Southern Zonal Forum (SZF)	Scott	P		
Western States Zonal Forum (WSZF)	Mandy H	P		

Other attendees: Kristen (TX), Patti (MZF), Alicia (RD-AK), Tom (WSZF), Craig (CMA), Maddie (SFLA), Kristen (SZF), John B (RD-SF), Jeff, Dennis M

ZONAL REPORTING / INFORMATION

Southeastern Zone Update – Mat

1. We are in the process of forming a Fellowship Development Team, replacing the traditional committee structure. This team will be composed of members from across the various regions within our zone, including the four task force chairs. The goal is to create a more responsive and service-oriented team that can better support the needs of our regions, areas, and local groups.
2. **CAR Workshop** - Scheduled for the second full weekend in November, shortly after the release of the CAR. It will be held in Atlanta, and we welcome participation from other zones and anyone interested in attending. Details can be found on our website, or you can reach out to me directly.
3. **CAT Workshop** - Tentatively planned for Orlando during the first or second weekend of February. Final confirmation will be provided soon. Orlando offers beautiful weather in February, making it an ideal location for this event.

Alicia asked for clarification on the key differences between the new *Fellowship Development Team* and the traditional committee structure. Mat explained that the team is modeled after the U.S. Collaboration of Zones' Communication Team. It includes representatives from each region and task force leaders and is designed to respond to service requests submitted through the zone's website. The team connects requestors with local or zonal members to provide direct support, such as workshops or guidance. He emphasized that the term "team" was chosen intentionally to avoid the political or cultural sensitivities associated with words like "committee" or "work group." Additionally, Mat noted that the original Fellowship Development Task Force has largely completed its work. Its remaining responsibilities, including a point of contact for service-related requests, have been transitioned under the zone's Public Relations (PR) structure. This includes access to resources such as guidelines, best practices, and recommendations developed by the task force to support fellowship development efforts.

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

Western States Update –Mandy

1. We have recently established two new standing work groups: **Mentorship Work Group and Newsletter Work Group**. These groups aim to enhance communication and support within our region and are an exciting step forward in our service efforts.
2. Our upcoming regional service conference, **Western States Service Learning Days**, will take place in **September**. This event focuses on service and fellowship, and we would love to see broad participation from members across the regions. More detailed information will be shared in the chat and is also available upon request.

Plains States Zonal Forum Update –Beth

1. Our next zonal forum will be held in **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**. We welcome participation from members of the Midwest Zone and the Rocky Mountain Zone.
 - o **Friday**: PR presentation
 - o **Saturday**: Workshop
 - o **Sunday**: Business meeting
2. The following zonal forum is scheduled for **December 5–7 in Iowa City, Iowa**. While Iowa in December isn't quite Orlando, we're moving forward regardless of the weather!
 - o **December 6**: CAR workshop - We've reached out to the Midwest Zone to explore potential collaboration, whether in person or virtually. The workshop will also be accessible online. We have requested Board support for this event.
3. Our CAT workshop is planned for **early spring in Kansas**, within the Mid-America Region. More specific details will be shared at our next meeting.

Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum Update –Chuck

1. Our next zonal meeting will take place **later this month in Fargo, North Dakota**. A flyer with full event details, including login information for virtual attendance, has been shared in the chat. All are welcome to join us in person or online.
2. We will be holding our **CAR workshop in December in Powell, Wyoming**. While Wyoming in December may not be everyone's ideal travel destination, we welcome anyone interested in attending and participating.

COMMUNICATION WORKGROUP REPORT – Q2 2025 - DAWN

The Communications Work Group continues to maintain transparency and accessibility for both new and existing members. As part of this effort, the team includes the communication flow chart and communication log in each set of meeting minutes. These resources help explain how emails are managed and provide a record of communications dating back to the beginning of the 2024 calendar year.

1. **Current Communication Flow document for your reference**
2. **Communication Log:**
 - a. communication log [here](#) for you to view.
 - b. Communication Stats: **Q 2 2025 Apr. 1 to June 30, 2025**
 - c. **Note- Numbers as of June 24**
 - i. **23** unique individuals
 - d. Internal or External unique communications
 - i. **12** External
 - ii. **11** Internal

US Collaboration of Zones

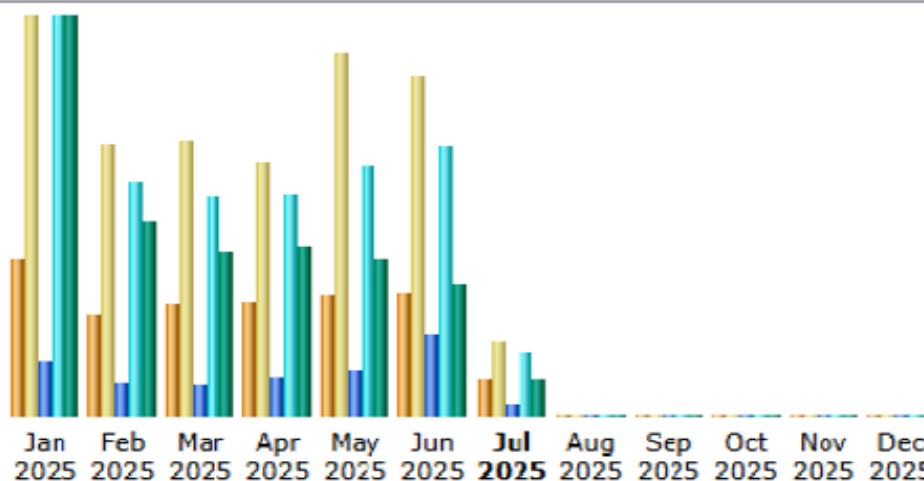
DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

- e. *In our annual report, we included categories. We will start doing that for our quarterly reports as well.*
 - i. *Events - 1*
 - ii. *H&I - 4*
 - iii. *Literature - 1*
 - iv. *Meeting Info -3*
 - v. *Public Relations - 2*
 - vi. *Other - 10*
 - vii. *Service Questions - 2*
 - f. *Reminder outgoing emails come from info@usa-na.org*
 - i. *We will sign fellowship requests US Collaboration of Zones Communications Workgroup*
 - ii. *We will sign public outgoing emails Narcotics Anonymous USA*
 - g. Communication Task Team meetings are held Fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 pm eastern time on Zoom
 - i. Meeting ID: 818 2584 3132
 - ii. Passcode: usa-na
 - iii. Next Meeting: **Tuesday August 28, 2025, at 9:00 pm Eastern Time**
- 3. Working on email templates for most common requests
 - 4. Working on FAQ sheet for when new people engage with our work
 - 5. View our email best practices document [here](#)
 - 6. **Note** we track zonal contacts for when we need to reach out. Please view document [here](#) and ensure we have your most recent contacts

IT WORKGROUP REPORT – SHERRY V

Webiste – Take back (if you would) for the email uszones.na@gmail.com to be taken off any websites of regions, zones, or other media. Also, please, especially if you have recurring zonal events, share them with us on the calendar.

Monthly history



US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

Website stats for the last Quarter

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2025	7,708	19,759	64,224	478,191	150.48 GB
Feb 2025	4,964	13,432	40,947	280,580	72.78 GB
Mar 2025	5,538	13,523	39,174	261,707	61.08 GB
Apr 2025	5,625	12,613	46,723	263,086	64.17 GB
May 2025	5,966	17,954	55,605	298,511	59.12 GB
Jun 2025	6,119	16,703	97,673	322,326	50.14 GB
Jul 2025	1,787	3,659	15,023	76,561	13.52 GB
Aug 2025	0	0	0	0	0

We are excited that our wish list is becoming a total reality or a great compromise. Some of the changes will not take effect until the next crouton update, while others are already live on our website.

1. Add a pin at the lat/long that Crouton uses for current search, regardless of the search method, beta mode for crouton map. In our testing, it works great. This will be live with a new crouton release.
2. Have the meetings displayed on the map match the meetings shown on the table at any given time-**Live and released**
3. Fix the Crouton header, bad interaction with the US Collab site theme-**Live/released**
On some themes, especially "Mesmerize", the filter headers stack vertically rather than horizontally.
4. Table issues-**Improved and looks a lot cleaner.**
5. Be able to move around / drag around the map during a Click Search-**Improved and still being worked on...**
When "click search" is selected, the map is fixed and unable to move, so someone has to know to have the map where they want it before selecting "click search". Makes it not very intuitive.
6. Allow farther zoom out-**Live/released**
Crouton isn't allowing us to zoom out to see the entire US, which is necessary for someone to be able to find a particular place easily without undue scrolling around.
7. Make the "Enter a city or zip code" box border stronger- **Live/released**

We want to thank the members of the BMLT community for working with us on these items and the work of the rest of our team.

IT Workgroup, thanks for all your contributions and service. We have received two suggestions:

1. Create Knowledge Base tab (i.e. NA.org local resources) as a resource to members-**ongoing**
 - ❖ Put out more detailed instructions and reminders regarding the date and time of meetings, and if they become recurring, let IT know so it can be set up on the calendar

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

- ❖ Instructions on the webpage for the calendar for zonal and us collaboration events. No non-narcotics anonymous events-
- ❖ Develop a page for the IT page to contain how to join Slack, submit events, etc
- 2. Post the project team's information and schedule
 - ❖ Create a separate 'Projects' tab to provide awareness of our work for members

New page about us <https://usa-na.org/about-us/> Please check it out. We are open to discussing any changes.

One last item: we have sent invitations to join Google Group email and Slack channels. We have 40 members who did not accept the invitations. Over the course of the next few months, we will send them again and wait for a while. If we don't hear back, we will then purge the names. Some of the invites date back to 2022.

Please join us monthly - ***The 3rd Sunday, 9:00 PM EDT***

Join Zoom Meeting - IT Workgroup - Meeting ID: 852 6997 3189 - Passcode: usa-na

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND SECURITY DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Alicia raised concerns about the meeting ID and password being publicly available on the website calendar, suggesting it increases the risk of unauthorized access. She recommended using waiting rooms and ensuring hosts have proper controls to manage meetings securely.
- Alicia questioned why Google Group is still in use given other communication tools like Slack. Sherry explained that Google Groups is mainly used to efficiently send bulk emails (e.g., agendas) to a large list (~886 members), though many have yet to accept invitations. The group acknowledged that communication is currently spread across multiple channels—Slack, Google Groups, and email. This causes occasional confusion or missed information depending on which platform members primarily use. Jim and Sherry discussed Slack being the preferred tool for real-time communication, but its free version only retains messages for 30 days, making it unsuitable for long-term document storage. Therefore, Google Drive is used for storing documents like meeting minutes and guidelines. Google Groups serves as an email distribution list. Participants agreed that communication methods need ongoing review and improvement to ensure everyone receives timely information without duplication or gaps. Alicia suggested leveraging Slack bots and calendar integrations to automate event notifications and improve usability.

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKGROUP REPORT - JESSIE

Since the last US Collab meeting, the Public Relations Work Group has met a few times; however, each meeting had fairly low attendance. To address this, the work group will now meet at a more consistent cadence and at a later time. Instead of meeting on Wednesdays, which sometimes conflicts with other service meetings, we will now meet on **the first Monday of each month from 9:00–10:00 PM Eastern Time**, unless stated otherwise.

Despite the low attendance, we have made meaningful progress. We have located contact information for each of the top three prioritized organizations and now have full access to MailerLite as well as the Public Relations email account. We will begin outreach soon, but we need your help! If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out. Attending work group meetings is not required—we can find ways for anyone to help increase our national presence while building our internal public relations efforts.

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

Additionally, our work group has begun developing mentorship opportunities, organizing relevant training sessions, and gathering or creating resources to strengthen local public relations efforts across the fellowship. We are hoping to compile a list of all zonal and regional Public Relations Chairs. Please send contact information to publicrelations@usa-na.org.

Mat was contacted by addicts in El Salvador who are experiencing a surge in newcomers, many of whom do not speak Spanish. He connected them with the Latin American zonal but is seeking guidance on whether the Public Relations (PR) Work Group would be the right place to bring information about these individuals and the organizations they interact with during their journey from the US to El Salvador. He wants to know if this scenario fits the PR Work Group's scope or if it requires a different approach. Jessie responded that Matt can definitely forward the information to the PR Work Group. The group will triage the information and determine if they can assist. If the situation requires more resources or staff, the group will escalate it to the appropriate parties with greater capacity.

PROJECT MENTORSHIP REPORT – RUBEN / CHUCK

The Mentorship/Training/Consistency task team met 3 times in May. We identified the goals of the Mentorship/Training/Consistency task team within the US Collaboration of Zones. Focused on enhancing service delivery through structured mentorship and training. This document summarizes the team's strategies, initial action plans, and the key focus areas from July to October, all geared toward achieving the goal of establishing a mentorship mechanism and increasing the US Collaboration's visibility as a resource.

The Rural Support Task Team and the Mentorship Project Task Team have been meeting to develop a unified survey. The team has met 3 times and has made good progress on the survey.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: A mechanism for training and mentorship is available that increases consistency in service delivery

1. Possible Approaches

- o Possibly focus on zonal/regional mentorship projects first
- o Be mindful of our language in the project – keep it simple, keep it simple. A message oriented to be easily understood by all regardless of experience or knowledge
- o Ongoing monthly “one-pagers” on different topics – one topic per month
- o Develop a process or procedure for recognizing people who need or want mentorship
 - Include a request for help on the website similar to NEZF
 - Engaging the zones / regions – direct outreach
 - Survey (join up with other project for one survey)
 - Get a sense of the regions and especially areas and what they are strong in or could use help in
 - Ask regions and areas for questions that they have on how to do something
 - Follow up survey with all the gathered questions asking for experience or information on those questions.

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

- Target RD's and RCM's
- o Develop training mechanism(s)
 - Regular zoom workshops
 - Specifically regular "Mentorship workshops"
 - Maybe do something that is framed as an "Experience strength and hope" meeting for service topics.
 - Monthly? Invite a "speaker" to do a brief workshop on a topic, then open to es&h on the topic for all present
 - Volunteer / mentorship pool
 - Training media
 - Two tiers of materials – "Starting point" and "more information" or "Want to know more?"
 - 101 packets / "Starting point material"
 - o Keep things simple
 - o Keep the starting point material / 101 packets as single page(s) on the website or in print
 - Videos
 - Presentations / PowerPoints / pdf's
 - Resource page(s) on the US website
 - Develop material on "What is mentorship" and "What is fellowship development"
 - US Collab YouTube Channel (separate from NA Virtual Outreach --- OR adopt NA Virtual Outreach)
 - Creative action of the spirit in service
 - o Leading by example
 - o In your own language and culture
 - o Maybe a short video and/or pamphlet?
 - Service sponsorship
 - Service body sponsorship
 - Look for new and innovative ways to carry our message
 - Ask newer / younger members to help with this

Goal 2: The US Collaboration is a recognized resource that members are aware of and reach out to

Possible Approaches

- Newsletter
- US Collaboration resource flyers (combine with flyer from other project)
 - What is a zone resource flyer
- Ask zones / regions / areas? to add the US website as a link on their website
- Internal US Collab PSA(s)
- Need to reach areas, ask for the regions to help with communication and connection
- Ask RD's to get us in contact with the local areas, or at least a list of areas with contact information – maybe by getting the secretaries of the areas involved to help

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

Action Plan Draft

Goal 1: A mechanism for training and mentorship is available that increases consistency in service delivery

Goal 2: The US Collaboration is a recognized resource that members are aware of and reach out to

Prerequisite Goal: Regions are engaged in a way that enables and empowers them to assist with this project – getting the word out

Phase 0 (Pre-July)

- Collaborate with other task team on survey

Phase 1 approaches (July – October)

1. Develop and send out the survey with the Rural Outreach Task Team.
2. Create a couple basic training materials (pdf / video)
 - o RCM basics
 - o Facilitation basics
3. Keep everything simple
4. Add a page on the website with our materials including video / pdf / flyer
5. Create materials about the project
 - o A poster/flyer or “one-pager” with what we are trying to do
 - o Create a short video PSA / “one-pager” with what we are trying to do
 - o Make sure all of them have a QR code to connect to the US website
6. Create a Facebook group for internal communication / information sharing
 - o Mentorship project Facebook group?
 - o Or just US Collab Facebook group?
7. Broadcast to zones, asking they pass along to regions
8. Further develop an action plan for the 2 broader goals for presentation in October

Ruben emphasized the team’s desire for confirmation that they are on the right track with their goals and plans. They seek constructive feedback and suggestions to ensure their efforts lead to impactful results.

Tom noted that the Western States zone has a mentoring and support group that has developed numerous training materials. He suggested making these materials available on a website for easy access and review, offering potential collaboration or resource sharing.

Alicia proposed creating training content focused on “matching tasks to talents,” addressing the challenge of aligning volunteers’ skills with appropriate service roles. She highlighted this as a needed but currently unavailable resource that could improve service nominations and participation.

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

RURAL AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES PROJECT REPORT – MANDY

At the request of the US Zones, our task team was formed to explore and support efforts aimed at increasing access to Narcotics Anonymous (NA) services in rural and marginalized communities. Specifically, our goals are:

- To increase awareness of and accessibility to NA services in rural areas.
- To increase awareness of and accessibility to NA services in marginalized communities—especially by identifying who may be missing from our fellowship.

To guide our work, we have developed and approved the following definitions:

Rural Areas - Defined as geographic areas outside of NA-populated communities, characterized by sparse populations, limited local NA meetings, and/or travel barriers such as geographic isolation (e.g., islands or remote terrain). In these areas, local NA groups may not have access to the same resources typically available to area service committees in larger urban centers.

Marginalized Communities - Defined as groups of people who have been systematically excluded, disadvantaged, or discriminated against, resulting in limited access to resources, opportunities, and social power. Often overlooked due to being in the margins.

Examples include:

- Racial/ethnic minorities
- Indigenous communities
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- People who are Deaf, Blind, disabled, or chronically ill
- People with limited literacy, language access, or stable housing
- Youth, elderly, or those with mental health needs

Since our formation, the task team has met eight times. Early in our process, we recognized the need for more comprehensive information in order to proceed effectively. We agreed that a survey would be the next best step to gather this data.

To avoid duplication and maximize efficiency, we met with the Mentorship Project task team to discuss combining our efforts into a single survey. We believe that understanding who, what areas/communities, where, what the barriers are, and what services are needed is crucial to achieving our goals.

We have developed a draft version 1.0 of the survey, which has been submitted to our IT team. They are currently working on a streamlined, digital version 2.0, which we plan to share with the collaboration for testing. Once feedback is received and any necessary revisions are made, we will request approval from the collaboration to distribute the finalized survey. Here is the link to review the first draft of the survey to get a sense of it. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J1bhYJA4hYLH5raAgQ9PYleC-YFB_W5n5rE70QxOiUk/edit?usp=sharing

In parallel with the survey development, we brainstormed various approaches that could support the Zones in reaching rural and marginalized communities. We've included both a timeline of our proposed

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

efforts and a flowchart that outlines our brainstorming process. These initial plans will be refined as we learn more from the survey responses.

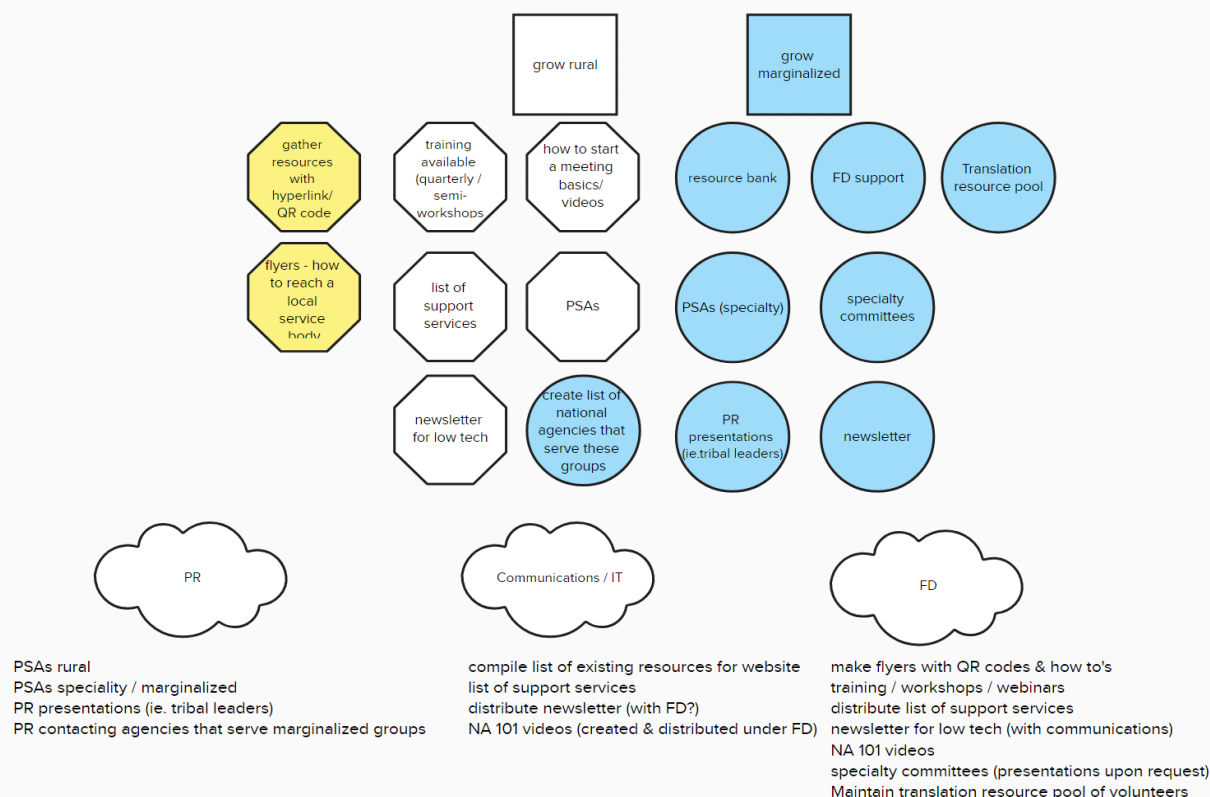
We propose continuing the work of this task team until we are able to formulate concrete recommendations based on data and feedback.

It has been a privilege to work together on this important initiative. The collaboration, dedication, and shared experience of the team have been instrumental to our progress thus far. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to the work ahead.

Phase	Timeframe	Focus	Key Deliverables
Phase 1	Now - July	Survey Development and Introduction	survey being created Present the idea and progress to the large group Refine the plan for future phases
Phase 2	Aug- October	Survey Development & Approval	Final draft of unified survey submitted, approved, and distributed Refine plan for future phases
Phase 3	Nov- January 2026	Survey Distribution & Engagement + Begin Deliverables	Survey launched and fully distributed across Zones/Regions Engagement with local service bodies to increase participation Begin development of toolkit, PSA drafts, and resource compilation Begin to gather the translation resource pool Refine the plan for future phases
Phase 4	Feb- April	Data Review & Content Curation	Survey data complete and reviewed Themes and gaps identified Curated library of tools, trainings, and outreach assets Refine the plan for future phases
Phase 5	May- July	Tool & Resource Development	Make recommendations for collaboration to review, approve, divide Draft inclusion toolkit, videos, service guides, and best practices Develop workshop/training outlines Refine the plan for future phases
Phase 6	August – October	Activation, Training & Refinement	PSA campaigns launched Toolkit finalized and shared Refine the plan for ongoing work and make recommendations

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025



Alicia: Offered to help brainstorm ways to use AI in service work; emphasized it's easier than it seems and encouraged openness to change. **Tom:** Explained they identified internal talent for mentoring instead of surveying needs, due to low response rates. **Mandy:** Noted the updated report aligns with their efforts to identify strengths, successes, and barriers.

BUDGET

There are currently no new budget updates to report. The primary expenses incurred this year have been for the collaboration's dedicated Zoom account (separate from personal accounts) and for domain registration and web hosting costs related to the collaboration's website.

These expenses, totaling approximately \$300, were promptly covered by contributions from about 10 individuals within the community. Donations were received quickly following the funding request, ensuring all current costs are paid.

While the current expenses are covered, there may be future costs to address. The group acknowledges the need to continue discussing the budget and funding strategies moving forward.

US Collaboration of Zones

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES 07/13/2025

OPEN FORUM

Participants engaged in a wide-ranging conversation centered on inclusion, representation, and growth within the U.S. NA fellowship. Concerns were raised about the lack of diversity in service, particularly regarding language and cultural representation, and the need to actively reach marginalized communities, such as Spanish-speaking members and people of color. Emphasis was placed on intentional outreach, mentorship, and creating welcoming environments to ensure all voices are included.

The group also reflected on the stagnation in NA's U.S. growth over the past 30 years, attributing it partly to structural changes in World Services and the rise of alternative recovery programs. There was discussion about revisiting the outcomes of the WSC inventory and exploring whether further structural changes or renewed efforts at the local level could spark renewed growth.

Many noted the evolving landscape of recovery, including competition from well-funded treatment alternatives and the challenges of volunteerism. Suggestions included improving how service is presented, making service opportunities more accessible and appealing, and coordinating stronger Public Relations (PR) efforts.

Overall, the tone was both reflective and hopeful, with agreement that the U.S. Collaboration can fill gaps, support regions and areas, and help foster renewed passion for NA service and outreach.

Participants discussed how to manage financial contributions to the U.S. Collaboration Zones, including the need for a bank account and possible structures for managing funds. Several members expressed support for opening an account, while raising concerns about legal and logistical challenges. There was consensus that a small task force should explore options and report back. Suggestions included creating financial guidelines, assigning temporary roles, and using a Slack channel for ongoing collaboration. The group agreed to take the conversation offline for further planning.

[illegible]



Southern Zonal Forum - January 25, 2025 Minutes

Guideline Workgroup notes and suggestions

- The language is not consistent throughout guidelines.
- The description needs updating
- The location needs updating
- Add participation of member regions
- Pg 2 Sentence below Executive committee, What newsletter? I could not find a previous newsletter on the website. What goes in this newsletter? Who does it, all of this is too vague. It is not discussed anywhere else in the guidelines.
- Pg 3 #20 define Zonal contact versus zonal delegate
- Pg 4 Treasurer D. #2 add at each, and define what is to be in the report, i.e... last 2 bank statements, not just check register spreadsheet.
- Pg 4 D. #6 Remove travel and add it under its own section for all administrative committees. Define airfare booked? Is there a Cap i.e. FD and PR \$800. Hotel not consistent with FD/PR Hotel. Why?
- Pg 4 D. #7 I have never seen this spreadsheet.
- Pg 5 Zonal Delegate D. add # 5 Reports on US Zonal collaboration progress and updates.
- Pg 6 PR Coordinator D. #1 remove changed numbering
- Pg 6 Budget #1 Change to state FD Team member and PR team member.
- Pg 6 Budget #2 Contradicts itself
- Pg 7 Budget #4 defined by the body i.e. by delegates or who?
- Pg 8 Hosting Organizer Replace RDA to AD
- Pg 8 #6 Discuss raising room block
- Pg 8 #7 Remove line item (Hospitality Room)
- Pg 8 # 11 Discuss doing away with T shirts not cost effective