Submitted by Leilani B. April 29, 2019

Abstract

A summary report of the first strategic planning meeting held April 27, 2019 and suggestions for subsequent strategic planning meetings.

OA Heart of CAnada Intergroup Strategic PlanNing Report

2019-2020

In February Intergroup (IG) unanimously decided it was most important to plan strategically and co-create a Vision and Mission to move forward thoughtfully, together.The intention for the ½ day strategic planning meeting held April 27, 2019 was to create vision and mission statements and begin creating a plan for the work IG will do long-term and over the next year. The strategic planning process used was selected because it was solution focused and ensured everyone’s voice was heard. The outcome of the work completed by IG was arrived at in unanimity and forms the foundation of the future work of IG.

The OA service structure is an inverted pyramid with the groups forming IG driving everything IG does. The Vision and Mission statements agree upon give IG and the OA fellowship focus and direction. The vision is what IG is working to achieve over time and the Mission describes who IG is and what the committee will do to achieve the vision. Both statements inform and unite IG and the OA fellowship throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario to achieve OA’s primary purpose.

# **OA Heart of Canada Intergroup Vision**

The Overeaters Anonymous Heart of Canada Intergroup is an inspired team working together to carry the message of recovery throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

# **OA Heart of Canada Intergroup Mission**

The Overeaters Anonymous Heart of Canada Intergroup is a self-supporting partnership of Overeaters Anonymous groups in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario organized for the purpose of 12-Step work beyond what is possible for any single group. Intergroup members are recovered trusted servants who carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

## **What IG Members Envision IG Becoming**

* A structured, productive team of diverse recovered people that support 12 step recovery from compulsive overeating.
* A committee that is progressive with change; with ideas to overcome the disease of compulsive overeating.
* A committee able to effectively use resources and the skills of its members to impact the compulsive overeater who still suffers.
* A pep rally that our members look forward to.
* A committee comprised of members who have long term abstinence; are free from obsession with food (recovery); a good understanding of and are genuinely living, the steps, traditions and concepts.
* A committee with excellent lines of communication.
* A committee actively participating with clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities; achieving unanimity; working collectively, to achieve its primary purpose; carrying the message.
* A committee with lots of participation in/from groups and IG members acting with excitement and happiness.
* A committee of IG members actively using reserves/resources to carry the message within and outside the fellowship.

## **The work accomplished on April 27 could be used to formulate the next steps in strategic planning.**

## **Achieving Unanimity about What IG members Want IG to be:**

1. What does it mean to be a team? What does a great team look like, sound like, feel like? What does a great team member look like?
2. How will IG work toward making the vision a reality as a team?
3. What does progressive with change mean? What does it look like? What is IG doing when they are progress with change?
4. What does effective use of skills and resources mean? What does it look like when IG members are using skills and resources effectively? What are the skills, gifts, talents and aptitudes of IG members?
5. How will IG ensure the people, with the skills gifts, talents and aptitudes matching the activities IG agrees to undertake have the opportunity to lead and/or participate in those activities.
6. What does it mean to use reserves/resources to carry the message?
7. What will IG do to achieve the vision for using reserves/resources?
8. What has been the average monetary resources IG has had to work with annually over the past 3 years? How could this information be used to create a budget for IG including Standing Committees, the Executive and WSR?
9. How does the Executive, Standing Committees, WSR communicate their financial needs to IG as a whole? How is the need for committee volunteers communicated to the fellowship?
10. What does a pep rally that our members look forward to look like, feel like, sound like?
11. How will IG achieve the vision of IG as a pep rally?
12. What will IG do to achieve the vision of a committee comprised of members who have long term abstinence; are free from obsession with food (recovery); have a good understanding of and are genuinely living the steps, traditions and concepts?
13. What does excellent lines of communication look like?
14. What will IG do to achieve the vision of excellent lines of communication?
15. Who will be responsible for communicating how IG communicates within IG? to groups and how groups will communicate with IG?
16. What is unanimity? Is unanimity the same as a majority? What do IG members understand unanimity means? What does it look like when IG members are actively participating in unanimity; working collectively, to carry the message.
17. What will IG members do to ensure they are actively participating in unanimity?
18. What does lots of participation in/from groups and IG members look like?
19. What will IG do to achieve the vision of participation in and from groups and IG members?
20. What are the roles and responsibilities of IG as a whole, the Executive, Standing Committees, Group Representatives and the WSR?
21. What will IG do to create the roles and responsibilities? How will roles and responsibilities be communicated? How will members be held accountable for the responsibilities they agree to take on? (See Appendix I Terms of Reference)

## **Two long-term goals were agreed upon when the vision was created.**

Over the next X years, the OA Heart of Canada Intergroup is committed to:

**Goal 1:** Creating a team that includes all groups in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

**Goal 2:** Working as a team to carry the message of recovery.

Accomplishing all the work identified in a single year seems daunting as opposed to energizing. When IG convenes for the next strategic planning meeting it may be helpful to prioritize 3-5 of the tasks which will have the most positive impact along with working toward the two long-term goals agree to when creating the vision. (See Appendix II Setting Goals and Objectives)

## **Prioritizing**

Each participant was asked to reflect on what came to mind as the final version of the Vision and Mission were read and express what they believed could be the 3 most important activities IG could undertake in 2019-2020 to live the mission and work toward making the vision a reality. During this discussion members referred to IG resources previously created which could be helpful tools when deciding on what IG will undertake in 2019-2020.

## **Resources to Draw On**

“Resources to draw on” means the work IG has already done that could be used in the next phase of planning.

IG documents to draw on to create Goals and Objectives:

• The consultation with Don/Dawn.

* Christine committed to forwarding this document to IG members.

• The IG group inventory.

* Who will commit to ensuring everyone on IG has this document?

• The data collected from the Interview process.

* Ron will forward all the documents created through the interview and strategic planning process to all IG members by May 1.

• The Strategic Planning Report from April 27.

* Leilani will forward everything created for and from the first Strategic Planning meeting to Ron by April 30.
* Leilani declined the invitation to facilitate further strategic planning meetings.

## **The 3 most important activities IG identified that would lead IG as a whole toward living the Mission and working toward the Vision on April 27:**

1. Survey the OA fellowship to discover information that will help IG plan what is most important to focus on this year because what groups want and need from IG drives the goals and objectives IG will set.
2. Based on survey results, plan workshops to meet the needs of OA members from the groups that form the IG committee.
3. Training groups on matters of group administration ie: group inventories, group service structure, meeting format, and group conscience.

# **Appendix I- Terms of Reference**

# **Appendix II-Setting Goals and Objectives**