

Proposal 2022 – 13

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Issue: We propose that, within three years, The Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACA) World Service Organization (WSO) will implement Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) at the level of the Board of Trustees, WSO committees and the Conference. WSO will create educational materials to assist the rollout of KBDM for potential use by Meetings, Intergroups, and Regions.

Background: Committees within ACA WSO are frequently understaffed and overworked. The implementation of KBDM can provide an atmosphere of collaboration not currently experienced. It can also create an atmosphere more welcoming to participation, including inviting the delegates of the conference to work towards implementing proposals passed at the Annual Business Conference (ABC). This change is sought to legitimize and honor the group conscience process of the fellowship and the right of decision laid out in the Twelve Concepts.

KBDM is based on a philosophy of open communication between leadership and membership that emphasizes:

- Dialogue before deliberation
- Common access to all information for all involved in decision making
- Creation of a culture of trust
- This corresponds to the Twelve Concepts of Service by emphasizing:
 - Mutual trust
 - Designation of roles and responsibilities - traditional and legal
 - Participation
 - Leadership
 - Right of Decision
 - Our spiritual foundation

This is a good model for ACA because:

- It allows thorough examination of issues without preconceived outcomes
- Allows who makes the decision to become less important than the fact that a good decision is made
- Is a process for ongoing strategic thinking and strategy development
- Will allow ACA to develop a reputation for value and responsiveness in carrying the message to adult children who still suffer

What could this mean for ACA as a whole?

- Recognition as a credible organization
- A reputation for value
- A culture built on trust and communication

Resources/Implementation: As the purpose for KBDM is to ensure the seat of power within ACA resides in The Conference, and by extension the delegates, who are the representatives of the groups and the effective group conscience of the fellowship, implementation would require active education and encouragement for all groups to send delegates to the Annual Business Conference (ABC).

It would require the World Service Organization to restructure the makeup of committees and put the creation of committees under the guidance of The Conference. The Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) would need to be updated.

WSO Analysis: ACA World Service has participated in discussions about Knowledge Based Decision Making since the 2021 Annual Business Conference. WSO has begun to include a form of

KBDM in its committee work, incorporating a common set of questions for evaluating issues into a new system known as Collaboration Committees. It is believed this will support an “informed group conscience” by WSO committees. The Board of Trustees also believes some form of long-range strategic review, such as KBDM, is highly appropriate as part of the ABC and ballot measure process. The Board will ask delegates at the 2022 ABC to consider a proposal to incorporate KBDM into the Annual Business Conference without waiting three years. It is believed that a deliberate and consistent process for evaluating strategic issues would be very helpful to the ABC process, but that decision is best made by delegates.