



**CoDA Service Conference 2020
Motion/Voting Entity Issue (VEI) Form**

Check one: **Motion** (Committee/Board)
 VEI (See VEI Guidelines on reverse side of this form)

Committee/Board or VE&DelegateName: Website Information

Date: June 5 - 2020

Assigned Number: _____

Revision #: _____ **Revision Date:** _____

Motion or VE Issue Name: Updating with proposed request: Meeting handbook Tab

Motion/Issue:

In the "Recovery Patterns" packet, there are 2 columns. The first says "Codependents often" and the 2nd says "In Recovery." For some reason, these are said from 2 different perspectives. The motion is to make a packet with uniform perspectives in one first person perspective or, if 2 packets are allowed and preferred, to make 2 different packets : 1 with the "I" uniformity and 2 with passive 2nd

Intent, background, other pertinent information:

CODA encourages I statements and there is currently 2 differing perspectives of statements on the Recovery Packet. Not only is this confusing but it loses the suggestion of communication with "I" perspective. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PROPOSAL

Remarks:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PROPOSAL

This motion or VEI requires changes to: (please check any that apply)

By Laws **FSM P1** **FSM P2**

FSM P3 **FSM P4** **FSM P5**

Change of Responsibility

Other: _____

(Data Entry Use Only)

Motion result: _____

VEI Result – Assigned to _____ **on** _____ **(date)**

Guidelines for Presenting Voting Entity Issues to CSC

- a. Local Voting Entity discusses an issue and forms a recommendation to resolve that issue by using the group conscience process. This issue and recommendation is called a Voting Entity Issue (VEI)
- b. Voting Entity drafts the VEI, completes the VEI form, and sends it to the Board of Trustees via VEI@coda.org. From this point of submission, all email communication concerning the VEI from all parties must copy VEI@coda.org.
- c. Board sends email confirmation acknowledging receipt of the VEI to the Voting Entity within 14 days.
- d. Voting Entity Issues (VEI) may be submitted at any time of the year. Submission is not limited to the CSC submission deadline.
- e. Board assigns the VEI to either the board or the appropriate committee within 30 days of acknowledging receipt of VEI. Board notifies the VE at the time the VEI is assigned.
- f. Assigned Board or committee examines the issue and through group conscience, develops a response or written plan to address or resolve the VEI within 90 days of being assigned. During the response/plan development, it's important that the assignee and the VE collaborate, communicate transparently, and work together towards a mutually agreeable plan, in service to the VE.
- g. The VEI may not dishonor or be in conflict with any By-laws, Steps, Traditions or legal considerations. If so, in it's written response, the assigned Board or committee must cite specific reasons for the conflict.
- h. Assigned Board or Committee, in collaboration with the VE, may develop a motion to be presented at the CSC.
- i. In the event the VE is not satisfied with the response or plan from the Board or assigned Committee, the VE retains the right to draft and submit a motion to the next CSC using the electronic motion form available on the CoDA website. The motion must not dishonor any by-laws or legal considerations, and must meet all criteria for presenting a motion. (See procedures for submitting CSC items in part 4 of the FSM). The VE may request assistance from the IMC in drafting and presenting the motion.
- j. The Issues Mediation Committee (IMC) will monitor the progress of the VEI to ensure the process is being followed and the timelines are being met.
- k. The VE Delegate is responsible for following up on the status of their Voting Entity issues and reporting back to their membership.

WSO CODA SUBMIT PROPOSAL

As a member of CODA of 13 years and chair of several meetings over the years, I propose to adapt a communication of the recovery patterns as two different, fluent tenses of speech and from the same point of view.

Currently there is PDF download available on the WSO CODA website, an example is as follows.

Codependents often...	In Recovery...
Have difficulty identifying what they are feeling	I am aware of my feelings and identify them, often in the moment. I know the difference between my thoughts and feelings.

You notice this format has a “Codependency Pattern” column and a “Recovery Pattern” column. For whatever reason, these 2 are not both said uniformly in either the third/passive second person “you/codependents” or the first person “I” format. This reads instead, as if they’re two different people or perspectives, either teaching “those codependents” or “owning what I see when I am in recovery.”

Generally, CODA does encourage “I” statements (to avoid cross talk and encourage self-care) and it seems that some people may still prefer “you” or the passive generality. I propose that, rather than split the language perspectives of speech, instead keep the language uniform in “I” or “you/general” in TWO different packets of Recovery Patterns. In this way, the reader can see the difference and choose accordingly, what their preference would be for recovery. If WSO “had to” pick just one format, I would of course lean toward the “I” statements uniformity to encourage self-awareness and avoiding the potential codependency pattern of starting a meeting with the “you” statement, as this language may enable and build into cross-talk or care taking (teaching) tendencies.

In summary, I am simply proposing to make 2 different uniform formats in the “I” or “you” phrasing, or to do away with the “you” altogether and support uniform clarity on the material, aligning with the recovery goals of self-care perspectives. In essence, the encouragement of healthy options is the essence of recovery and it starts with awareness, that is my proposal.

Here are the final examples of resolution. Sincerely, Nick B., CODA member of AZ/TX

PACKET 1 Ex : The preferred “I” option

In codependency...	In Recovery...
I have difficulty identifying what I am feeling	I am aware of my feelings and identify them, often in the moment. I know the difference between my thoughts and feelings.

PACKET 2 Ex :

Codependents often...	In Recovery...
Have difficulty identifying what they are feeling	They are aware of feelings and identify them, often in the moment. They know the difference between thoughts and feelings.