

## KBDM for “Inclusion of electronic meetings in Colorado” Task Force

### 1. What do we know about our members’ (and prospective members’) needs, wants, and preferences that relate to this issue? Our Member’s Needs, Wants, and Preferences:

- a. The GR’s at the Colorado Area Assembly commissioned a Thought Force (ThF) on “How to transition electronic meetings into our Area Service Structure,” and the ThF provided a report at the 2022 CO Summer Assembly. The Assembly voted to approve the acceptance of electronic meetings into the CO Area and to create a Task Force (TF) to develop the procedures to include Permanent Electronic Groups into the CO Area. The TF reviewed similar processes developed in 13 other Areas. From these processes the TF was able to determine a baseline for the needs, wants, and preferences of our members. The TF developed proposed guidelines and procedures to meet the Service Manual’s (SM), CO’s, and WSO’s needs and requirements. We added the current CO Records Coordinator to the TF to ensure the current and future CO Records Coordinator’s needs were also met. We invited inclusion and commentary from an AI-Anon GR from the Global Electronic Area to give us insight into the GEA’s process.
- b. The TF decided that each electronic group that wanted to join the CO area would need to pick a current District and an associated Zip Code within that District to allow the WSO to include the group in their Meeting Finder and to meet the SM’s requirement that each Group has a District. We decided not to ask CO Area to create a new District because we thought it would increase the complexity and time needed to create the process and guidelines. **We also decided that the Electronic Group would need a member to physically attend any CO Assemblies and their chosen District Meetings, if those meetings were conducted face-to-face, to meet the SM suggestions that the group’s GRs attend District and Area meetings.**
- c. The TF developed proposed procedures & a flow chart showing the steps and requirements that each electronic group wishing to participate in the CO Area needs to follow.
- d. The TF will discuss its findings at AWSC and Assembly meetings and welcome all input and suggestions to improve the procedures.
- e. The decision of the assembly to approve the procedures allows members to choose to attend electronic meetings instead of face-to-face meetings.

### 2. What do we know about the resources and our vision of AI-Anon and our meetings that are relevant to this issue?

#### Resources and Vision:

- a. Our vision was to develop a straightforward procedure that allows a permanent electronic group, the CO Area Group Records Coordinator (AGRC,) and WSO to have all the information they need to include an electronic group in the CO Area.
- b. The resources we used included the AI-Anon Service Manual, other Area’s guidance documents, the WSO group registration website, and asking WSO about their future steps related to this issue.
- c. We know the WSO, GEA, and other areas are working quickly to adapt solutions for permanent electronic groups and that procedures may still be changing.

### 3. What do we know about our “culture” and “environment” that is relevant to this discussion? In other words—will our decision be consistent with our principles, policies, and legacies: the 12 Steps, Traditions, and Concepts? What are the implications of our choices? What are the pros and cons?

#### Consistency & Relevance with our Culture and Environment:

- a. Allowing electronic meetings to participate in and become part of the CO Area supports the growth of AI-Anon’s fellowship by accommodating new ways for members to meet. These procedures help us to meet our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition primary purpose: to help families and friends of Alcoholics through our enhanced and expanded ability to welcome and give comfort to families and friends of Alcoholics with the inclusion of electronic meetings in our Area.
- b. We increase our ability to practice Step 12 by carrying our message to those most comfortable with electronic meetings.
- c. Per Concept 9, good personal leadership at all service levels is improved for CO’s Districts, Area, and the WSO Board of Trustees (BOT.) The BOT has encouraged the WSO and Areas to fully support including electronic meetings into AI-Anon.
- d. We have included the Service Manual’s guidance in our suggested procedures.
- e. Over 30 electronic meetings in CO are not part of the Area’s service structure and have no vote or voice in our District or Area business meetings. By adopting these procedures, we will increase the number of available AI-Anon meetings for members in CO.
- f. Some face-to-face groups may close after the separate electronic meetings become WSO-registered groups.
- g. Incorporating electronic meetings in CO will help deal with the future challenge of keeping AI-Anon available to anyone who would like to attend a meeting.
- h. Changes in AI-Anon member demographics may provide increased access to AI-Anon meetings and reduced mobility of members. Maintaining the CO Area membership will depend more on adapting technology (Tradition 1.)
- i. Electronic meetings have limited fellowship, which may cause newcomers looking for one-on-one support to feel unimportant.

### 4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? Would we be practicing our “principles in all our affairs?”

#### Ethical Implications:

- a. Allowing electronic groups to become part of the CO Area is a legal action for the CO Area Assembly to consider.
- b. Including Electronic Groups in the CO Area gives those Group’s members a voice and vote at all AI-Anon levels within the Area (Concepts 4 & 5.)
- c. The decision to include or not electronic meetings in CO Area expands or limits the choices that the Area members have of which meeting(s) to attend.
- d. We encourage inclusion for permanent electronic groups by allowing them into the CO Area without strict GR requirements.

### 5. What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

#### What We Don’t Know:

- a. We don’t know how WSO will implement its future changes to AI-Anon group registration documents and procedures on the WSO website.
- b. We don’t know how those changes will affect our CO procedures to include electronic meetings in the CO Area.
- c. We don’t know how smoothly (or not) the proposed process will be accepted by the electronic groups in the Colorado Area. Will most groups wait until a single group has gone through the process before taking the plunge?
- d. We don’t know the value of the process of incorporating electronic meetings until the next major cultural/societal event occurs.
- e. We don’t know whether electronic groups want to participate in the GEA or the CO area.