



CoDA Service Conference 2016

Motion Form

Committee: NYC Co-DA Intergroup

Date: August 18, 2016

Motion Number: 1

Result (data entry purposes only)

Motion: In order to maintain the safety of Co-DA meetings, now and for future generations: It is moved that what has been known as the No Crosstalk/No Feedback “guidelines” be elevated to one of the core principles of what defines a Co-DA meeting.

The principal of No Crosstalk/No Feedback shall be incorporated into the opening format and read aloud at all Codependents Anonymous meetings, worldwide.

Intent: Freedom from unasked for advice and feedback during meetings is at the core of allowing each individual to experience their recovery without interference. No matter how well intentioned or “qualified” an advice-giver may feel they are, if the advice/feedback is unasked for, it is inappropriate. Inside Co-DA meetings this is just as important as Anonymity, when outside of them. The principal of No Feedback, No Crosstalk in meetings protects the vital sense of safety that allows people to share freely and openly. Which is so important in the recovery process.

Remarks:

Some background: For a number of years in New York City there have been ongoing issues with meetings that have begun to allow crosstalk, or have a chairperson that comments and gives advice after shares. This makes them feel unsafe for many newcomers and old-timers alike. Consistently, this has been the result of an individual (personality) chairing a meeting (often indefinitely) who feels they are somehow entitled/qualified to give feedback and allow crosstalk) People new to Co-DA may not understand the importance of the No Crosstalk/No Feedback guidelines and will often go along with what the personality/leader says. This is of course, as A.A. states “An ego feeding proposition”

At one meeting a visiting older member protested that crosstalk was making the meeting feel unsafe for them. The chair not only mocked the older member but encouraged the other members to do so as well. A group conscience was taken that crosstalk be allowed. It had the majority. The older member left the meeting in consternation.

How many people came to this meeting looking for help and fellowship? Instead, finding unasked for advice and inventory taking. For those people Co-DA would never again be looked upon as a safe resource to turn to.

Many people came to NYC Intergroup, of which I was chair at the time, complaining that this meeting was unsafe. The question was, since according to the Second Tradition, we do not govern; how then could we address this issue on the intergroup level? With a meeting that many considered toxic?

We determined that according to the 4th Tradition, this group by allowing an unsafe environment to continue, was harming not only newcomers, but the meetings of Co-DA as a whole. It was therefore determined that New York City Intergroup, would discuss and vote on this issue. With representatives from most of the groups present, a motion was passed. We affirmed that in order to call itself a Co-DA meeting, and be listed on the nycoda.org website, the No Crosstalk/No Feedback guidelines had to be in place, and read aloud at each meeting.

The meeting was informed of intergroup's decision and they complied.

It's important to note that we did not tell them that they had to end their meeting. They were informed that they could not themselves Co-DA meeting without the N.C./N.F. Guidelines in place.

This is why I feel strongly that the guidelines of no crosstalk/feedback be made a principle, incorporated into the core definition of what makes a Co-DA meeting.

Daniel H.

Last Revised 8/4/2016