

Work Group Summary

13.2 Caring For Our Members

Topics for discussion:

1. Care support program – Emergency Fund; Education Fund
 2. Retirement Communities
 3. Networks for support – connections for Subud members in isolated places , countries and regions.
 4. Subud members in crisis
 5. Younger Subud members
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1. Care Support Program

Very little information about the programs and the results achieved are known.

Information about access to both programs not widely known

Examples of poor response - and no timely responses to both Emergency and Education Funds. This must change

DR Congo for eg are special cases and attention must be paid to establish these as such. Susila Dharma support for the Education Fund has been sought.

Recommendations and Action items:

- The work of both programs must be better publicized and known.
- The work of helpers attached to the team to be acknowledged and recognized.
- Education Fund: Act as a bursary Fund rather than an Almoning Fund.
 - Publish stories from recipients of grants to be used to fundraise for the program. Results and impacts to be publicized
 - Moneys allocated to the Programs be enhanced by seeking matching funds and fundraising among Subud members.
 - Suggestion: Add Donation button on the news items so that people can donate directly to the program.
 - Fundraise among Subud educators.

2. Retirement Communities

Important that members come together according to their own needs and places, based on what's available and possible in each location.

Question was asked – who is asking , and why

Summary of key issues -

Subud population is ageing. People want to live in a place where they can do latihan together – (having a latihan place in your living space)

Important to be close to medical facilities. A caring place as opposed to standard retirement homes and facilities.

Summaries of initiatives in Toulouse, Orgiva, Sydney, Belgium, LA and Southern California were shared. Subud Britain as requested Zone 3 to initiate a retirement community as a Zonal Project and work is under way.

Action items and Recommendations:

Retirement communities may not be for all, and may not meet the needs of all. Cultural and other context may mean that not all countries and peoples may be following these.

WSA to circulate and promote news and information about initiatives so that people may learn from existing initiatives.

2012 World Subud Council Meeting Attachment 7. Caring for our members

SDIA will offer its services when requested to promote information where needed. (a distinction between non profit organizations which SDIA can support, and enterprises, which it cannot).

How will the wisdom and experience of older members be valued and honoured – is another issues to be strongly considered in group life. Eg Role of grandparents. (in other words, multi-age communities rather than isolating older people).

3. Did not discuss – but in general, connections to be made with countries and groups close by and use existing helper and wing networks to maintain close contact.
4. Subud members in crisis

Issues:

Add mental health to this category.

Helpers don't know what to do

Parents and families don't know what to do.

Recommendations and Action items:

SIHA strongly urged to take a leadership in developing data base of resource people which can be publicized and made available for Subud members.

The following is in the nature of information to be shared with Subud membership in general (SIHA – WSA to develop)

Important that Subud members be informed of the many approaches to treat mental health issues – Practical advice such as consulting mental health practitioners, doctors and other health care providers important.

Helper training to be explored re helper role in providing support to families who have to deal with this issue.

The stigma of mental health issues to be addressed so that members are not afraid of seeking help.

Services available in each country to be utilized.

Future SIHA – Helper collaborations to be explored (e.g. Matthew has already been providing consultations via skype and these are very useful in terms of Subud members who feel isolated, are in states of depression etc)

5. Younger Subud members

The workshop in meeting the needs of young members to be consulted as many of the points raised here are a repetition of that working group.

Action Items and Recommendations

In summary:

- Encourage and support enthusiasm!
- Avoid Us/Them categorizing
- Work with and for young people (no lectures, decrees, etc)
- Stories of groups who are working well in this area to be promoted and publicized - eg use of Subud Hall and space
- Create space – both physical (latihan hall usage outside of latihan times) and otherwise (in group life) to let young people flourish.
- SICA to take strong leadership in encouraging group life activities that integrate young and not so young.
- SDIA already working through the getInvolved and Human Force camps – and looking to expand based on interest.
- Have a Communications person in each Zone to ensure that news and information about what's happening in group and wing life is widely promoted in each Zone. (WSA News is not enough)
- IH s to provide helper training so that all helpers can become sensitive and aware of the needs of young members. (this can apply to all members – not just young people)