

Group Chat Features & Considerations*

The most important feature of group chat is for week to week member support between meetings. It has also proven helpful for posting announcements, disseminating information quickly, and to coordinate projects. We have successfully used group chat at the local meeting level, for communication and support during a step study, and to enhance the function of CSG.

Groups that have decided to implement a group chat for member support report a stronger sense of fellowship and belonging. Because group chat allows us to reach out whenever we need to during the week, members don't have to feel isolated between meetings, and anyone who is able to respond can do so.

Members share and grow from one another's strength and hope all week long in the form of memes, reading recommendations, and prayers. The group chat has helped us to demonstrate in a very real way that in CoDA we are not alone in our codependency, and we feel a stronger sense of connection between meetings.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS for GROUP CHAT:

Member Privacy:

Just like our meetings, we want to make sure that group chat remains a safe place to share. We do this by ensuring that only members who have shown a commitment and continue to actively participate in CoDA are allowed to join the chat group. By group conscience, a group may decide to allow new members to join the chat after attending at least 4 meetings, for instance.

This accomplishes 3 things:

- It ensures that only active CoDA participants are members of the group chat.
- Access can be granted at the same time that they receive their 1 month chip.
- It provides newcomers something to look forward to and incentive to keep coming back.

What is an Active Participant?

An active participant includes anyone who is *either* actively attending the local meeting *or* who regularly posts to WhatsApp. To keep the group chat a safe place to share, it is understood that once someone is no longer active that they can and should be removed from the chat to ensure privacy.

Which Group Chat to Use?

There are several chat apps to choose from such as WhatsApp, Telegram, The Crew, Group Me, and others. Facebook groups are discouraged because of the ability to see personal information in someone's profile.

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