



## CoDA Service Conference 2023 Motion Form

**Check one:**     **Motion** (Board - CoDA Inc.)  
                   **Motion** (Board - CoRe – CoDA Resource Publishing)  
                   **Motion** (Committee)  
                            **Committee Name** - Issues Mediation Committee  
                   **Motion** (VE - Voting Entity)  
                            **Voting Entity Name-**

**Submitted Date: 2023 April 27**

Due 75 day prior to CoDA Service Conference (CSC)

**Motion Number:** 1. (  ) 2. (  ) 3. (  ) 4. (  ) 5. (  )    **(Check One)**

**Revision #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Revision Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Due 60 day prior to CoDA Service Conference (CSC)

**Motion Name: Abstain Vote**

**Motion:** Henceforth, during the CoDA Service Conference “CSC”, the abstain vote will no longer count as a "No" vote; it will count as an abstention only.

Background & Remarks:

- We no longer follow Robert's Rules of Order so counting the abstain as a “no” is no longer relevant.
- Forcing the abstain to be a "no" vote is forcing people's opinions
- Patterns of Recovery states "Codependents often believe people are incapable of taking care of themselves; in recovery I realize that, with rare exceptions, other adults are capable of managing their own lives" and "Codependents often attempt to convince others what to think, do, feel; in recovery I accept the thoughts, choices, and feelings of others, even though I may not be comfortable with them."
- For 7 Against 1 (Passes)  
Round Robin as follows:

- IMC member 1– do not want this to count as a vote against but unsure how to explain as a rationale as the motion
- IMC member 2 – count the votes cast. Abstain does not count. Is this specified in the bylaws? Percentages calculated on votes cast.
- IMC member 3: It is a Robert’s Rules guideline, but we use the Community method. Motion is to remove completely.
- IMC member 4: Responsibility is to cast a vote yes or no. If no info from group or HP. Then abstention should not be negative vote. Percentage issue.
- IMC member 5: Agree. Abstain is neutral. What is binding on the Board or not. Modify bylaws if necessary.
- IMC member 6: Used if confused or can’t take responsibility. Remember the importance of voting. Read the motion responsibility. Abstain does not count.
- IMC member 7: Will look for evidence to back up. What was the original intent of this anyway? What is history?
- IMC member 8: Don’t count as no.

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

Bylaws                       FSM P1                       FSM P2  
 FSM P3                       FSM P4                       FSM P5  
 Change of Responsibility  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Data Entry Use Only)**

**Motion result:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please email to [submitcsc@coda.org](mailto:submitcsc@coda.org)

(If you want assistance writing your motion, please send email to [Board@CoDA.org](mailto:Board@CoDA.org))