

Narconon

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Narconon is an in-patient rehabilitation program for drug abusers in several dozen treatment centers worldwide, chiefly in the United States and western Europe. Each Narconon center is independently owned and operated under a license from ABLE International, a Scientology-related entity.^[1]

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Narconon

Formation	1966
Type	Scientology rehabilitation program
Headquarters	Hemet, California, USA
Chairman of Religious Technology Center	David Miscavige
Website	narconon.org

History

Narconon was established February 19, 1966 as a drug-rehabilitation program based on "The Fundamentals of Thought" by L. Ron Hubbard and delivered to drug abusers in the Arizona State Prisons. The name "Narconon" originally referred not to an organization but to the program. Its creator was William C. Benitez, a former inmate at Arizona State Prison who had served time for narcotics offenses.^[2] His work was supported by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, and in 1972 Hubbard sponsored the incorporation of Narconon as an organization.^[3] It was co-founded by Benitez and two Scientologists, Henning Heldt and Arthur Maren.

The Narconon website reports that from its inception the program promoted an approach to rehabilitation without recourse to alternative drugs. This early program did not, however, deal directly with withdrawal symptoms. In 1973, the Narconon program adopted procedures to include drug-free withdrawal, using vitamins and mineral supplements in tandem with training procedures adapted from basic courses in Scientology.^[3]

Narconon and Scientology

In December 1988, the president of the Church of Scientology, Heber Jentzsch, was arrested in Spain

after an investigation into Narconon revealed that he and the Church of Scientology were defrauding Spanish citizens and running its centers with unqualified staff.^[4] Spanish citizens began inundating the courthouse with phone calls complaining of being hoodwinked by Narconon. The judge in the case said at a news conference after the arrests that the only god of the church of Scientology is money, and he compared the church to a pyramid scheme in which members pay increasing sums of money. He said that Narconon swindled its clients and lured them into Scientology.^[5] By the end of 1991 that same court said there was no evidence to support prosecutors' allegations that drug rehabilitation and other programs sponsored by the Church of Scientology in Spain amounted to illicit gathering aimed at activities such as bilking people of money.^[6] In 1989, 75 Scientologists in Italy were arrested and an investigation showed that "parents of drug addicts were paying heavy monthly fees to Narconon, which advertised itself as a drug rehabilitation and cure center, but getting nothing in return."^[7]

Its affiliation with the controversial Church of Scientology has made Narconon itself a focus of controversy.^[8] The organization has never denied that many of its administrators are committed Scientologists or that its methods are based on the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard. In the early days, Narconon used unaltered Scientology materials in its courses, and Scientology executives were directly managing the organization (founders Heldt and Maren were high-ranking members of the Church's public-relations department known as the Guardian's Office.^[9]) However, as Narconon promoted its drug-treatment services to a variety of governmental jurisdictions within the US, the organization repeatedly found itself at the center of controversy when the Scientology connection was raised by journalists or politicians. Not only did the Church of Scientology have serious public-image problems, but the link with Scientology raised questions about the constitutional appropriateness of governmental bodies sponsoring a religiously affiliated organization (see *Lemon v. Kurtzman*). These problems were further intensified by claims that the treatment program was medically unsound and numerous allegations that the Narconon treatment program serves as a fundraising and recruitment program for the Church of Scientology.^{[10][11]} A March 1-5, 1998 *Boston Herald* series exposed how two Scientology-linked groups, Narconon and the World Literacy Crusade, have used anti-drug and learn-to-read programs to gain access to public schools without disclosing their Scientology ties.^{[12][13]} After the *Herald* report was published, Heber Jentzsch, president of the Church of Scientology International, confirmed that the church's Los Angeles law firm hired a private-investigative firm to look into the personal life of reporter Joseph Mallia, who wrote the series.^[13] The *Herald* noted numerous other instances over the years where reporters were harassed with "noisy investigations" after writing stories exposing the Church's misdeeds.^[13]

Narconon has developed its own secularized course materials in response to the concerns they operate as a marketing tool for the Church. These have evolved through several iterations to produce Narconon's current "New Life Program." While this program is very similar to pre-existing Scientology courses, Narconon insists that it is entirely "non-religious" in nature and rarely if ever mentions Scientology in its publications. At least one Narconon organization describes themselves as FSMs, a Scientology abbreviation for Field Service Ministers.^[14]

These changes have not silenced the controversy. In the early 1990s, Narconon opened a large treatment center near Newkirk, Oklahoma, resulting in a series of critical articles in a local newspaper.^[15] The Oklahoma Department of Health demanded that Narconon be licensed with the state,^[16] but the Board of Mental Health refused approval, stating "No scientifically well-controlled independent, long-term outcome studies were found that directly and clearly establish the effectiveness of the Narconon program for the treatment of chemical dependency and the more credible evidence establishes Narconon's program is not effective ... The Board concludes that the program offered by Narconon-Chilocco is not medically safe."^[17] Even the *New York Times* wrote a story detailing how the town's initial euphoria at the prospect of a drug treatment center has been replaced by distrust, frustration, and fear. Townspeople said that Narconon was not honest about its

affiliation with the Church of Scientology, its financing, its medical credentials, and its plans for the project. A Narconon spokesman quoted for the story said that all the appearances of deception reported by the townspeople, such as the group that praised Narconon at a public ceremony and presented it with a check for \$200,000 and turned out to itself be part of Narconon, were due to "false information being fed in there by somebody who's in favor of drug abuse ... They're either connected to selling drugs or they're using drugs."^[18] Narconon's Scientologist attorney Tim Bowles filed a series of lawsuits against Oklahoma institutions and officials and eventually obtained accreditation through the Arizona-based Commission on Accreditation and Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in 1992; Oklahoma officials then agreed to exempt Narconon from the state licensing requirement and the facility was allowed to operate.

In 1999, Scientologists from Clearwater, Florida tried to get a Narconon drug-education program installed into the Pinellas County, Florida school district. After a hearing on the matter, a school-district committee refused to allow students to participate in an anti-drug program based on the teachings of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, citing that teaching students about the "tone scale" and other trappings of Scientology was inappropriate for a drug-education program for their schools.^[19]

21st century

More recently, Narconon offered an anti-drug program to public schools in California, free of charge. A series of articles in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on June 9 and 10, 2004, resulted in California school officials investigating Narconon's claims. The study found that Narconon's program did not reflect medically and scientifically based practices and that it offered students misleading information about drug use and abuse.^[20] As a result of the investigation, on February 23, 2005, the state's superintendent of public instruction, Jack O'Connell, officially recommended that all schools in the state reject the Narconon program.^[21] O'Connell's secretary announced that the school systems in Los Angeles and San Francisco had dropped the program. The president of Narconon, Clark Carr, responded that the study presented only limited information about his organization's work, and that those efforts were "accurate and relevant to the current challenges children face with drugs."^[20]

While the effectiveness of their treatment program is a subject of dispute, a number of celebrities have publicly attested that it was helpful in their own lives. Musician Nicky Hopkins and actress Kirstie Alley^[22] both credit Narconon for their recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol. Alley has since become a public spokesperson for Narconon.

By the end of 2005, according to the International Association of Scientologists, Narconon was operating 183 rehabilitation centres around the world. New centres opened in that year included Hastings, UK, and Stone Hawk, in Battle Creek, Michigan.^[23]

On July 17, 2006, one Narconon center, Narconon Trois-Rivieres (Three-Rivers) based in Canada, opened up a website at <http://narcodex.ca>.^[4] Narcodex is wiki purporting to contain drug information. The domain name of Narcodex.ca is owned by ABLE Canada, another Scientology business entity. The funding for the website comes entirely from Narconon Trois-Rivieres, which also controls the content on the site. ^[5]

Narconon's treatment method

The "New Life Program" consists of two principal stages: "detoxification" and "rehabilitation." The "New Life Detoxification Program", adapted from Hubbard's *Purification Rundown*, involves a daily regimen of vitamins, oil and multi-minerals with special attention to the minerals magnesium and

calcium and high dosages of niacin,^[24] plus exercise and lengthy sessions in a sauna.

The remainder of the Narconon course uses "training routines" or "TRs" originally devised by Hubbard to teach communications skills to Scientologists.^[25] In the Narconon variant, these courses are designed to rehabilitate drug abusers. These training routines include TR 8, which involves the individual commanding an ashtray to "stand up" and "sit down", and thanking it for doing so, as loudly as they can.^{[26][27]} Former Scientologists say that the purpose of the drill is for the individual to "beam" their "intention" into the ashtray to make it move.^[28]

Patients spend an average of 3 to 4 months in the Narconon facilities in the United States, for a fee which is different at every Narconon Center. The price ranges from \$10,000 to about \$30,000.^[29]

Controversies

French woman Jocelyne Dorfmann died at age 34 in Grancey-sur-Ource (near Dijon) in 1984 from an uncured epilepsy crisis, when she was treated in a French Narconon-center. The assistant-director of that center was sentenced^[30] for lack of assistance to a person in danger and the Narconon-center was closed. In Italy, a 33-year-old Italian female patient of Narconon center in Torre dell'Orso died under similar conditions in 2002.^[31]

Methods

Since its establishment, Narconon has faced considerable controversy over the safety and effectiveness of its rehabilitation methods and the organization's links to the Church of Scientology. The medical profession has been sharply critical of Narconon's methods, which rely on theories of drug metabolism that are not widely supported.^{[10][32]} Particular criticism has been directed at the therapy's use of vitamins (including massive doses of niacin) and extended sauna sessions. Although Narconon claims a success rate of over 70%, no verifiable evidence for this appears to have been published by the organization, and independent researchers have found considerably lower rates — at least one website critical of Narconon claims that the rates were as low as 6.6% in the case of a Swedish research study.^[33]

ABLE

Narconon is part of the Association for Better Living and Education (ABLE). Narconon refers frequently to its connection to L. Ron Hubbard and its website acknowledges that Narconon's name and logo are trademarks and service marks owned by ABLE and are used with its permission. In return for license of the trademarks from ABLE, Narconon centers pay 10% of their gross income to Narconon International.^[1]

Plagiarism

In January 2001, Narconon came under fire when they appeared to copy the entire layout and site design of the webzine Urban75.com for their websites heroinaddiction.com and cocaineaddiction.com, among others.^[34] The editor of Urban75 posted up comparisons of the copying, showing that Narconon had not even removed Urban75s hidden javascript code, unique to Urban75.^[35] *The Register* noted the irony of this scandal, quoting a critic who wrote, "Scientology has sued countless individuals and organizations putatively for 'copyright violation' and the organization claims loudly that they're at the 'forefront of protecting proprietary information on the Internet'."^[36] After pressure from Urban75 readers, Narconon eventually removed the copied layout, but never responded to queries about the site nor admitted any copying.

Heroin possession

In March 2002, it was reported that a man was convicted of possession of heroin with intent to sell, arising from an incident where he was found with 31 packets of heroin during a police investigation of a disturbance at a store on September 9, 2000. The man worked at a Narconon facility in Georgia at the time. While the man was waiting to be sentenced, the judge allowed him to remain free on \$15,000 bail and return to his duties as a drug rehab counselor at Narconon, despite the objections from the prosecutor of the case.^[37]

State code violations

Narconon facilities in California were cited repeatedly for violations by state inspectors. Violations included administering medication without authorization, having alcohol on the facility, and not having proper bedding for clients. Narconon has also attempted to silence opposition, including sending letters to neighbors of a proposed facility in Leona Valley, California threatening legal action for criticism. Residents of the Leona Valley were concerned that Narconon would increase crime.^[38] The local town council recommended an eight foot security fence and independent security, which was objected to by Narconon officials.^[39]

Slatkin fraud

On November 8, 2006, the Associated Press reported that Narconon was one of the Scientology entities that would pay back 3.5 million dollars of illegal funds from EarthLink co founder Reed Slatkin:

"Slatkin, who was once an ordained Scientology minister, paid \$1.7 million from his scheme directly to Scientology groups, while millions of dollars more were funneled through other investors to groups affiliated with the church, bankruptcy trustee R. Todd Neilson said in court filings. Among the church groups to receive ill-gotten gains from Slatkin's scheme were Narconon|Narconon International, the Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre International and the Church of Scientology Western United States, the filings said. The \$3.5 million being returned by the church groups was the result of a negotiated compromise, Scientology attorney David Schindler and Alexander Pilmer, an attorney for Neilson, said." [6]

Narconon used in UK schools

The UK prisons ombudsman recommended to prison governors that Narconon rehabilitation programs not be used in prisons although some schools in the UK are using these programs; *The Sunday Times* said this was because schools are less aware of Narconon's links to the Church of Scientology.^[40]

Investigated in Russia

In April 2007, it was revealed that Moscow's South District office of public procurator had begun an investigation into Narconon's activities in Russia.^[41] The *Moskovsky Komsomolets* daily paper reported that legal proceedings were begun against the head of the clinic "Narconon-Standard", for violating practices forbidden in Russian medical practices.^[41] Russian law enforcement became interested after receiving many complaints from citizens about the high fees charged by Narconon.^[41] The Narconon office in Bolshaya Tulsкая St., Moscow was searched, and documents and unidentified medications were seized.^[41]

In April 2008, as part of an investigation in Ulyanovsk into the Church of Scientology, police

searched a Narconon office in the town of Dimitrovgrad.^[42]

See also

- Clear Body, Clear Mind
- Downtown Medical
- Purification Rundown

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External links

Church of Scientology supported sites

- Narconon International
- Purification Rundown site
- Websites related to Narconon, on the Open Directory Project

Others

- Narconon Drug Abuse Prevention Program Evaluation by the State of California.
- Narconon Exposed
- Operation Clambake Archive on Narconon (Operation Clambake)
- Stop Narconon (David S. Touretzky)

Retrieved from "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narconon>"

Categories: Scientology organizations | Addiction and substance abuse organizations | Religion and society

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Operation Clambake present:

Narconon

This letter was sent by the author to The California Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs in 2002.

Related information

- **Narconon Exposed**
Drug rehab or Scientology front?
- **Scientific And Medical Accuracy Of Narconon Program Questioned**
The Newkirk Herald Journal, 1989
- **Expert advice on Narconon**
Translation of expert advice on Narconon given to the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare
- **Niacin and Liver Damage**
by Tritium
- **Scientology associated deaths**
Mysterious deaths
- **L. Ron Hubbard and drugs**
Revealed as a drug addict
- **Narconon**
Drug reformers or Scientology front?
- **The Narconon Scam**
By Jeff Lee
- **NarCONon is Scientology!**
Narconon exposure site
- **Narconon**
Official site

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with the utmost urgency and importance that I write this letter to bring to your attention grave violations of individual liberty, health standards, medical practice and common decency taking place at what professes itself to be a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility in California and, unfortunately and alarmingly, is a facility licensed by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs in California.

The facility and program of which I speak is **Narconon Southern California**, located at 1810 W. Ocean Front, Newport Beach, Orange County, California. Operating with State sanction and approval by your Department, Narconon Southern California has long and claimed and still claims to be a reputable, successful, valid residential drug and alcohol treatment facility. My personal experience and that of many others with Narconon Southern California, however, points towards the Narconon organization and facility as being anything but what it claims to be.

Recommended reading

- **A World Without**
By Cheryl Sola
- **The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power**
Time Magazine feature article, May 1991
- **Bare-Faced Messiah**
The true story of L. Ron Hubbard, by Russell Miller

The Narconon program violates all traditional treatment methodologies and accepted medical and scientific practice in the field of drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation. Further, Narconon misleads and takes advantage of its clients and their families so as to pursue an aggressive and hidden agenda of exorbitant fundraising and religious recruitment. My intent behind this letter is to bring to the attention of those who have in their power and under their jurisdiction the ability to commence a thorough and long overdue investigation in to Narconon and prevent Narconon from continuing to take advantage of the citizens of California who are duped and misled in to placing their hopes for recovery in to this corrupt organization.

Get a clean text version of this letter [here](#) to send as e-mail to friends or local authorities.

I entered the Narconon Southern California facility in late June, 2000 in the hopes that through Narconon I would be able to address my own alcohol addiction. I graduated from the Narconon program exactly two months after enrolling.

Armed with Narconon's teachings and approaches to my addiction, I attempted to carry on living a productive and sober life. However, within a month of leaving Narconon I had fall right back in to a destructive and demoralizing cycle of alcohol abuse and the subsequent consequences. I returned to Narconon in December of 2000 intent on finding out why I had relapsed, recommitting myself to the program and hoping to learn whatever it was. I had failed to grasp my first time through the program that would help me stay sober for good. Upon returning to Narconon in December 2000, I was quickly made a staff member at the facility and became a contracted, full time employee of the organization. It is with that experience and background that I seek to bring to your attention the alarming practices I witnessed, experienced and participated in while at Narconon.

Violations of Laws and Regulations at Narconon Southern California

Firstly I seek to reveal the broad base of legal violations taking place at Narconon. While I was a client and then employee of Narconon, the facility was licensed by your Department to operate a 38-bed adult residential treatment facility. However, in March 2001 Narconon had enrolled in and living within the facility in excess of 40 patients. In addition to the number of patients that was already in excess of licensed limits, there were at any given time at least 4 and up to 10 staff members living in the same structure. Therefore, a building licensed to hold 38 would actually have up and over 50 residents, staff and clients included. The facility was overcrowded and Narconon continued to bring in more patients who were poorly supervised and lived in uncomfortable and disturbing conditions as a result of the overcrowding. In an attempt to relieve the crowding problems at the 1810 W. Ocean Front facility, Narconon SC rented out two small apartments located across the street from the main facility on Balboa Blvd. One of the apartments was a small one bedroom, the other one a small two bedroom apartment. In to these apartments were placed up to 6 and 10 Narconon patients, respectively. These two apartments had neither been inspected by the proper authorities nor approved for use as residential treatment quarters and facilities. Not only was the overcrowding at Narconon a violation of its own license, but also of county and state health and fire codes and regulations. Violations of the maximum resident licensing stipulation at Narconon also led to the admittance in March, 2001 of a 17 year old patient. Narconon Southern California is not licensed to house or treat juveniles. However, this 17 year old was hidden from state authorities and kept as an "unofficial" client living and receiving treatment at the facility.

Another area in which laws were violated at Narconon again concerns health codes. With a facility not designed to provide for and house over 40 patients and staff members. In order to accommodate for the overwhelming numbers of residents, the kitchen staff would defrost meat in whatever space was available. This included in the bathtubs of bathrooms that were simultaneously being used by the residents as restroom facilities.

The area in which I experienced and witnessed the greatest degree of illegality was in Narconon's hiring and employment practices. The information posters printed by the State of California outlining and displaying an employee's legal rights were nowhere to be found. Employees were kept in the dark as to their rights as workers in California. Staff members were required to work a minimum of 72 hours per week for a starting salary of \$50 per week. This translates in to an hourly wage of less than \$1.45/hour. Clearly, Narconon's payment methods violate minimum wage laws. Every US worker is entitled to a living wage according to California and US law.

Furthermore, there are no medical personnel on staff at the Narconon facility and staff members are not trained in first aid or addiction recovery. Narconon clients are transported in the uninsured personal cars of staff members. Automobiles owned and operated by Narconon Southern California are driven by non-commercial, uninsured drivers. The cars themselves are not insured for business purposes, placing staff and clients at risk whenever they travel with Narconon.

Deception, Lies and Unethical Conduct

Even more disturbing than Narconon Southern California's legal violations to the addict and alcoholic are their patterns of lies, deception and ethical misconduct. Narconon claims to have as evidenced on their website and literature an 80% success rate in rehabilitating addicts and getting them sober. This success rate is unfounded and untrue. It is based on 2 studies that were apparently conducted in Sweden and Spain around two decades ago.

According to Narconon:

- A. An independent 1981 Swedish study of 13 Narconon graduates showed that 76% of those that completed the Narconon Program were still drug free two years later.
- B. An independent Spanish study of 50 Narconon graduates was conducted in Mar/Apr 1987 by "Técnicos Asociados de Investigación y Marketing" (TAIM) for the Ministry of Health and

- Social Services and showed that 70% of the graduates were drug-free two years later. It was headed by Dr. Esquerdo (105); TAIM, PDAL, 28007, Madrid, Spain. TAIM's telephone number is, according to John Duff of Narconon International, +34 1 273-7400.

According to John Duff, Narconon commissioned the first two studies, so it seems to be slightly dishonest to claim that they are the product of "independent" research. It should also be noted that TAIM, the research organization mentioned in the second study, is not at the address given, and not listed in any current Spanish phone directories or commercial directories. The phone number given by John Duff seems also to be out of use, so TAIM has either ceased trading or moved from the Madrid area.

The name of the organization responsible for the Swedish study is not known. Another curious thing about the Swedish statistics is that with 13 subjects there is no way you can get "76%" (76.9% would be the correct figure).

The existence of the latter study has not been yet corroborated independently, but it seems odd that a program primarily intended to eliminate drug use should instead be evaluated on its education and disciplinary benefits.

Nothing is said about the source, duration or methodology used for any of the studies.

A "Swedish" and "Spanish" study is also quoted in the section on Narconon in the book "What is Scientology", giving amazingly accurate statistics for the programs effectiveness (84.6% and 78.37% and respectively). It is not clear whether this reference is to the same or to different studies. Scientology spokesman Andrew Milne (formerly at milne@crl.com) claims that these are the one-year statistics. Strangely, Narconon does not appear to have supplied Prof. Folke Sjoqvist with a copy of the supposed Swedish study when in November 1997 he wrote a report on Narconon for the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare.

Given the claims of studies showing high success rates, it is strange that when Narconon sought tax rebates in Stuttgart, Germany, they were unable to provide any evidence to support their claims of efficacy. The Stuttgart Verwaltungsgerichtshof (administrative appeals court) found that

"The papers filed by the petitioner offer no evidence of a successful drug withdrawal at the

petitioner."

(Decision of the VGH Stuttgart, 10 May 1993, Az: 1 S 3021/92)

In fact, California's own State Department of Health had the following to say about Narconon's self-professed success rate a report done on Narconon in 1974:

"a. Public Descriptions by Pamphlets, Notices, etc.: The 86% "cure rate" is totally unfounded. Narconon publishes a voluminous amount of paper for the purpose of public relations. The main Narconon rehabilitation program bulletin states that a high percentage of clients, approximately 75%, are rehabilitated within 3 months. The pamphlet further states that one supervisor can supervise 42 people a day in three 3-hour periods. Furthermore, one supervisor can train 14 new supervisors in three months. b. Misleading Claims: Narconon claims to have an 86% cure rate for narcotics addicts, which is simply not true. Mr. Greg Zerovnik, National Director - Narconon U.S., explained that the 86% figure came from a study of parolees from the Arizona State Prison who may or may not have been narcotics addicts. This sort of claim is, of course, misleading to both the prospective client and to public officials who are sincerely attempting to find ways to cope with the problem of drug abuse. Narconon also advertises detoxification with mega-vitamins and other non-medical procedures that may be hazardous and in some cases lethal. Attachment 19 is a Narconon letter to the East Valley Free Clinic advertising an extraordinarily expensive detoxification procedure. It furthermore claims a 68% two-year "success rate" for drug abstinence and for arrests "for anything related to drugs." It implies that these success ratios are applicable to heroin addicts and alcoholics. This claim is either misleading or miraculous. Without supporting data the evaluation team cannot but presume this document, however enticing, is a misleading claim. Narconon implies that it can raise I.Q.'s and generally increase communication skills for their clients. There is no scientific evidence that these alleged changes cause a cure in approximately 50% of cases seen as stated by Mark Jones [then Executive Director of Narconon - see "Is Narconon controlled by Scientology?"] in a Los Angeles Times article."

In the 8 months I spent at Narconon Southern California, I

witnessed about 60 clients enter the program. The vast majority of these clients relapsed either while enrolled at Narconon or soon after graduation. In fact, several of the staff members relapsed while working at Narconon and Narconon Southern California admitted for treatment numerous staff members from the Narconon facilities in Northern California and Oklahoma who had relapsed while working at those facilities. It is not only misleading but also extremely disturbing that Narconon would make such claims as to their success rate with no proof what so ever to back it up. In fact, overwhelming evidence exists to counter Narconon's claims evidence showing that their treatment program does not work. Narconon Southern California now advertises on their website a study they conducted over the last 3 years that further supports their unfounded claim of a 80% success rate. I can say with no uncertainty that this "study" of theirs is loaded with mistruths and lies. They claim numbers that are impossible to verify. This totally unscientific, biased, subjective study of theirs reflects no truth with regards to their claims of success. The numbers I witnessed in retention and relapse rates among Narconon clients at the Southern California facility while I was enrolled and employed there make their numerical claims completely impossible.

Narconon makes further dubious pronouncements concerning their program's coverage with insurance companies. Clients are required to pay the \$20,000 enrollment fee up front and promises are made that most insurance companies will reimburse the patient. Most insurance companies, however, do not cover Narconon because the insurance companies consider Narconon untraditional, unproven, and unsuccessful treatment. My insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield of California, personally never reimbursed me. Even though my bosses at Narconon were aware of this, I heard them promise other Blue Cross Blue Shield members on several occasions that BC/BS did in fact cover their program costs. These are lies that cost vulnerable and desperate families tens of thousands of dollars each.

Why is it that Narconon so aggressively pursues a policy and practice of deception, lies, and manipulation? Simply put, Narconon is no more than a fundraising and recruitment tool for the Church of Scientology. Narconon patients are heavily pressured in to become staff members upon graduation. The pressure comes in emotional, mental, and financial forms. When I returned to Narconon as a patient in December of 2000, I was immediately put to work at the Narconon facility as a "detoxification specialist". I had no medical training, was not at all familiar with how to care for and treat people detoxifying from drugs and alcohol, yet worked several hours a day performing such duties. I had added to my list of duties

computer work because of my background in the Internet. Working 12-hour shifts as both a detoxification specialist and online marketer for Narconon, I spent no time working on any of the methods Narconon claimed would help my rehabilitation. Concerned over this and the financial situation I was falling in to being unable to get a job or support myself, I was pressured by Narconon staff members to sign a contract to work for them. Already having worked 12 hours a day, 6 days a week for no reimbursement from Narconon and being told my work on their behalf was part of my "rehabilitation program", I had no money and my family was having trouble supporting me. Finally, Narconon staff members told me working long-term for them was the only solution and the only way I would get paid for the work I was doing. Hesitantly but succumbing to intense pressure from the staff at Narconon, I signed the 5-year employment and obligation contract so as to finally get reimbursed for the work I had already done for them. Furthermore, I was told that it was my duty to work for them. Narconon staff members told me I would relapse if I went to work anywhere else and tried to live life on my own. They told me I was indebted to them for my sobriety and therefore owed them at least several years of work. Such intense pressure tactics were commonplace in getting graduates of the program to sign on for long periods of employment with them.

Why would Narconon place such value in getting its graduates to work for them? For one, becoming a staff member for Narconon subjects one to the heavy scrutiny, oversight and control of the senior Narconon staff members. Staff members are distanced from their family members and friends, made to live either at the facility or in homes with other Narconon staff members, and constantly *under the watchful eye of senior staff members*. Narconon Southern California would rent out small apartments and place upwards of six to eight staff members in them to live. Graduates of the program who went on to work for Narconon and stayed sober did so only through fear of the severe repercussions of relapse. When a staff member of client of Narconon uses while at Narconon or uses after graduating and then returns to the program they are placed on a punishment program consisting of physical labor, indentured servitude, moral degradation, and heavy work.

The main reason Narconon goes to such lengths to get graduates to work for their program, however, is because that is the tool Narconon uses to funnel money and people in to the Church of Scientology. Staff members who wish to earn more than \$50/week must take "training courses" at the *local Church of Scientology facilities*. Rather than receiving training in drug and alcohol rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment or other such fields, Narconon staff members take regular Church of Scientology courses

for which Narconon pays thousands of dollars to the Church of Scientology. Staff members must buy textbooks and pay for Church of Scientology auditing courses, as well as the "e-meters" that are used in these auditing sessions. I refused to take these Church of Scientology courses and requested permission to take courses at a local community college instead. I received open and outright contempt and pressure for choosing to take non-Scientology courses because I did not play in to their financial schemes of raising money for Scientology. The financial records I had access to as a staff member made obvious and evident the fact that of the \$22,000 clients pay for so-called "treatment" at Narconon, more than half of that money goes to the Church of Scientology either directly, or through the Scientology-run Association for Better Living and Education (ABLE), which owns the trademark to Narconon. Notice that ABLE's official address is 6331 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028. The Church of Scientology headquarters' address is also 6331 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Narconon clients pay money for their "treatment", and these moneys are used to send staff members to the Church of Scientology for "training". The Church of Scientology wins on two fronts: hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in course fees as well as new recruits in the form of Narconon graduates turned staff members turned new Scientology church members.

Note the following, parts of which are courtesy of Chris Owen and his Critical Essays on Scientology:

The high degree of similarity between the practices of Scientology and Narconon has frequently attracted the attention of observers. The 1974 "Tennant Report" on Narconon commented on how Narconon was thoroughly permeated by Scientologists and Scientology doctrine, though it did not demonstrate a direct link between the two organizations:

"The organizational structure of the program, including program rules and procedures, criteria and training for staff, work assignments, educational course content, staff structure, organizational structure, and program philosophy are derived directly from a seven volume series entitled "The Organization Executive Course" by L. Ron Hubbard and published by the Church of Scientology ... [W]e must point out that any connection between Narconon and Scientology other than coincidental was usually vehemently denied. The interview data and our observations support a rehabilitation conception perhaps best termed a "corrective educational experience." Occuring in a stepwise fashion from rigidly simple rote

exercises through the more complex "auditing" process and (for those who can afford it) a multiplicity of "clear" and "Post-Clear" states promising total personal and environmental control. Theoretically it is a patchwork of Freudian, Gestalt, Pavlovian, science fiction and Eastern (reincarnation) ideas unequivocally sutured together with L. Ron Hubbard's terminology. Indeed, the initial exercises require in addition to a standard English dictionary, a special Narconon dictionary enabling the "student" to understand the Narconon/Scientology terminology ... The [Narconon] terminology is strikingly similar and presumably parallels, if not merging, the Scientology hierarchy. The latter presumption was underscored by a lengthy conversation with "members" - "employees" at the Scientology/ Westwood office where it was stated that Narconon was simply the application of Scientology "technology" to the problem of drug addiction. Additionally two patients interviewed on a local methadone program reported that their unsuccessful treatment for heroin use at Narconon was by the application of Scientology techniques and was essentially directed at eventually attaining a "clear" state. Again, any connection with Scientology other than coincidental was vigorously denied by Dr. Gibson and his principal assistants ... [T]here is little doubt that the religion of Scientology is advocated, openly discussed, and encouraged within Narconon. Since the Church of Scientology is a religion it appears that State money is being directly used to support a church. There appears to be little difference between Narconon and the Church of Scientology. For example, there was one book entitled "The Problem of Work" by L. Ron Hubbard and on the inside cover of the book was a statement "For religious use only." The evaluation team was also given a demonstration of the use of the E-meter. All of the literature and books are directly derived from Scientology and most staff are already or are becoming Scientologists. It would appear that Narconon is receiving state funds for treating "addicts" and is using primarily methods or "technology" of the Church of Scientology."

[Outline for recovery, House Evaluation ("Tennant Report") - by Forrest S. Tennant, Jr., M.D., Dr.P.H., Jane Thomas, R.N., Mike Reilly, and Joseph Shannon, M.D., M.P.H. Submitted to Don Z. Miller, Deputy Director, Health Treatment System, State Department of Health, Sacramento, CA, on 31 Oct 1974.]

Behind the scenes at Narconon

Lt Col Mark Jones was Narconon's first Director, serving in that position through the 1970s until the organisation was restructured around 1983. In 1995 he submitted an extraordinary sworn declaration, supported by documentation, that (at least until the early 1980s) Narconon was wholly controlled by the Church of Scientology. He states:

In or about 1971 I was approached by Arthur Maren who was the Assistant Guardian for Public Relations in the United States branch of the Guardian's Office of the Church of Scientology. Maren asked if I was willing to set up a Narconon office and establish programs under the direction of the Guardian Office ...

Throughout my period as director of Narconon, I reported to the Guardian's Office. Meetings were held at regular intervals at which the executives of the Guardian's Office determined the affairs of Narconon. All Narconon activities including the disposition of Narconon finances were approved by the Church of Scientology Assistant Guardian for Public Relations and the Assistant Guardian for Finance, Henning Heldt. From the time I became involved until I ultimately resigned, the Guardian Office controlled all directorships of Narconon, although Narconon was held out to be independent of the Church of Scientology.

Although it was publicly admitted that Narconon used the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard, and was sponsored by the Church of Scientology, its true relationship - i.e. that it was wholly controlled by the Church of Scientology, was never publicly admitted. (Declaration of Lt Col Mark Jones, USMC (Rtd), 10 February 1995)

Arthur Maren's involvement with Narconon is corroborated by a Scientology disciplinary report on him, WISE INT Ethics Order 1501 of 6 December 1989. In mitigation for a long list of "crimes", "high crimes" and "misdemeanors", it states: "The Committee found that Arte [Arthur] has made major contributions to the expansion of the Church and Narconon during his 26 years as a Scientologist."

But what advantage would Scientology gain from covertly running a drug rehabilitation agency? A possible answer appears to lie in a briefing document issued by the Guardian's Office on 15 February 1982. It states:

"Part of the original [Overwhelming Public Popularity Campaign] idea was to really move out into society with the Purification Rundown and use it to bridge masses of people into

Scientology ... Now the Guardian's Office has its target of \$50 million Purif sales to be made by 1 July ... we are looking at expanding our purpose and areas of operation so that we really are taking over the handling of the field of mental health. It is the job of PRs to make the Purif the thing to do - to create a craze greater than jogging."

(Internal GO briefing document, "Briefing - Purification Campaign - The Vital Role of PR", 15 February 1982)

This relates directly to L. Ron Hubbard's campaign against psychiatry and psychology, which continues to be waged by the Church of Scientology. In a confidential minute which he wrote in 1969 and which related experience suggests may still be in force, he laid down the following goal for Scientology:

"Our war has been forced to become 'To take over absolutely the field of mental healing on this planet in all forms' ... Our total victory will come when we run [the enemy's] organizations, perform his functions and obtain his financing and appropriations."

(L. Ron Hubbard, "Intelligence Actions - Covert Intelligence - Data Collection", 2 December 1969. See also the "Scientology's Secret Service" pages for more on Scientology's covert war against the mental health profession and governments worldwide.)

In the light of this statement, it is possible to interpret Narconon as representing an attempt to wrest control of health care funding from the "psychs" whom Hubbard so reviled.

The Church of Scientology went to extraordinary lengths to hide its control over Narconon. In 1977, the FBI raided the Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles headquarters of Scientology, seizing over 33,000 documents. The documents showed that Narconon and other supposedly independent bodies such as Applied Scholastics and the Citizens Commission on Human Rights were run through the Guardian's Office's Bureau 6, also known as "B6" or "Social Coordination". One document in particular, itemised by the FBI as item 104 in Box C16, orders the use of codes to obscure Scientology's control of "B6 groups":

"SC [Social Coordination] headings for data needing coding ... 4. Anything that gives specific and actual evidence that Scientology is in legal control of B6 type groups. These are groups that are separate legal entities to the C of S."

(Undated document seized by the FBI in July 1977)

On the next page, the document lists a number of "B6 type groups" to whom corporate links are to be concealed; Narconon is second on the list.

Despite its outward denial of corporate links to Narconon, Scientology made no secret of those links to those on the inside. On 18 August 1982, the Church of Scientology of California's United States Guardian Office (USGO) issued a commendation to Jones for his Narconon work. The citation states:

**"FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF THE
GUARDIAN OFFICE AND VALUABLE BACK
UP OF ORG DELIVERY ON AN
INTERNATIONAL BASIS. THE MATERIAL
THIS CELEBRITY PROVIDED IS GREATLY
ASSISTING IN BRINGING ABOUT
WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCES OF
SCIENTOLOGY AND OVERWHELMING
PUBLIC POPULARITY OF THE
TECHNOLOGY OF L. RON HUBBARD. THE
SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU,
TOM WHITTLE,
USGO MISSIONAIRE"**

(Commendation issued by Church of Scientology of California, 18 August 1982)

Similarly, Jones' Narconon work was rewarded by the Church of Scientology by awards of Scientology training levels. An Executive Directive from L. Ron Hubbard, dated 2 June 1972 and annotated by David Gaiman, then a leading member of the UK Guardian's Office, states:

**"Mark Jones is awarded his next training level,
Class IX, for the excellent work he has done on
the Narconon Programme."**

(LRH ED 8 Int, 2 June 1972)

Class IX, "Hubbard Advanced Technical Specialist", is defined in the Dianetics and Scientology Technical Dictionary (Bridge Publications, 1974) as being "taught at Saint Hill organizations and contains data concerning advanced procedures and developments since Class VIII". This is clearly full-blown Scientology, rather than the supposedly separate and secular Narconon "technology".

Is Narconon still controlled by Scientology?

There are no known "smoking guns" along the lines of Lt Col Jones' testimony and supporting documentation, or the documents seized by the FBI in 1977, to corroborate the continued corporate control of Narconon by the Church of

Scientology. However, there are two interesting pieces of evidence which suggest close links at the very least.

The first comes from the Church of Scientology Flag Service Organization's Flag FSM Newsletter, distributed to Scientology "Field Staff Members" (Scientologists who act as salemen, disseminating Scientology in return for a 10% cut of the recruit's fees - by which means considerable sums can be earned for the FSM). In Volume XIX, number XVII of the newsletter (published 1992), a list of "International Top Ten FSMs" appears. This is subdivided into "Individuals" and "Orgs, Missions and Groups". Narconon Los Molinos appears in the latter category as having raised \$2661 for Scientology (see below). Why is Narconon in this list if it is independent of Scientology?

The other piece of evidence is an 8-page Executive Directive from Narconon International, entitled "Narconon UK Non-Existence Program" and dated 23 May 1995. It states:

"INFORMATION:

While Narconon has been incorporated in UK for several years, it has in fact been forming up over the last few months, getting new premises and getting its drug and alcohol rehabilitation license which however allows for only three students.

This program is designed to assist Narconon U.K. to successfully get out of Non Existence and to put in the basics it needs so it can expand.

Drug education services will also be delivered to immediately expand Narconon UK's reach.

PURPOSE:

NARCONON EXPANDED AND GOTTEN OUT OF NON-EXISTENCE IN THE UK SO THAT A ROUTE OUT OF THE TRAP OF DRUGS IS ESTABLISHED IN THAT COUNTRY."

(Narconon International Executive Directive of 23 May 1995, "Narconon UK Non-Existence Program")

The "Non-Existence Formula" is taken from L. Ron Hubbard's "management technology"; essentially, a person or organisation in a state of "Non Existence" is someone who is not known to anyone in the vicinity and has made no impact, hence is not existing. This is certainly a fair summation of Narconon UK, which cannot be said to have made much of a splash; although it is recognised as a

charity (the only Scientology-related entity in the United Kingdom to enjoy this status, in fact), it has been quiescent for many years.

The document goes on to list a series of "Major Targets", "Primary Targets" "Vital Targets" and "Operating Targets" in the usual quasi-military style dictated by "management technology". A number of these targets are of considerable interest. Primary Target 4 instructs the Executive Director of Narconon UK to "report on the program to ED NN [Narconon] Int[ernational], info ED ABLE UK." ABLE, the Association for Better Living and Education, is an umbrella organisation which licenses the use of L. Ron Hubbard's educational and social works (adapted chiefly from Scientology versions). In April 1990, ABLE announced that it was giving \$200,000 to Narconon's Chilocco centre in recognition of the latter's "remarkable success in treating addicts". It did not mention any corporate links with Narconon, but it subsequently emerged that Narconon was a subsidiary of ABLE. The "Narconon UK Non-Existence Program" recognises this relationship in Operating Target 8: "Alert ABLE UK that you are now ready for a new inspection to a pass and ask that the inspection be done." Clearly, ABLE sets a stringent set of criteria for endorsement of Narconon organisations. In a very real sense, it appears that ABLE controls the establishment and possibly the operation of the organisations to whom it licenses Hubbard materials.

The chain of control demonstrably leads back to the Religious Technology Center, the body which owns Hubbard's copyrights and sits at the top of Scientology's convoluted corporate structure. Only bodies "in good standing" with the RTC can make use of Hubbard's works, albeit for a generous fee; the RTC reserves the right to withdraw licenses without notice. As the Californian courts have ruled, this enables the RTC to exercise de facto control of supposedly independent entities such as Narconon. The RTC itself acknowledged this control in the agreement which it reached with the US Internal Revenue Service on 1 October 1993. In section VIII.C.4, Narconon International is described as a "Scientology-related entity". Its unpaid tax dues, along with those of the Church of Scientology and various other related entities, were covered by a single payment of \$12.5 million made by the Church of Scientology International.

More interesting targets appear further on in the "Narconon UK Non-Existence Program". Operating Targets 27, 37, 47 and 48 are highly significant in that they appear to show a direct link to the Church of Scientology. The targets state:

"27. On OK, get the contracts for the house verified and approved by OSA."

37. Brief ED ABLE UK, PR OSA UK and LRH... PPRO UK on creating a Science and Advisory Board for Narconon UK, with respected high level professionals who can use their expertise to communicate the value of the Narconon tech in the country.

47. Get the filing verified by OSA.

48. On OSA's OK, get the extension to your license filed."

(Narconon International Executive Directive of 23 May 1995, "Narconon UK Non-Existence Program")

The significance of this is that OSA - the Office of Special Affairs - is the department of the Church of Scientology responsible for legal, public relations and intelligence matters: it is a combination of press agency, legal consultancy and secret intelligence service. It is also the direct successor to the old Guardian's Office, which - as already discussed - apparently exercised strong behind-the-scenes control over Narconon. The reference to "LRH PPRO UK" is also significant. The purpose of the "L. Ron Hubbard Personal Public Relations Officer" is defined as follows:

"The post purpose is to get LRH's technologies utilized by the external publics internationally. Ron's external publics are those publics outside of Scientology - governments, media, social reform, education, the arts, business, specialist activities are all included in Ron's external publics."

(Modern Management Technology Defined, Bridge Publications, 1982)

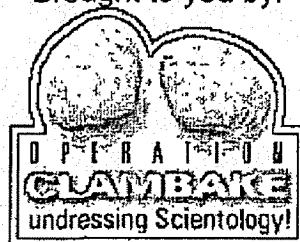
If Narconon is indeed independent of the Church of Scientology, then why is its UK Executive Director liaising so closely with departments of the Church dedicated to the promotion of Scientology?

Where the Burden Now Lies

Beyond any doubt it is clear through Narconon's practices, records, policies as well as the honest personal experiences of anyone who has been through or works for the Narconon program that this self-professed "drug and alcohol rehabilitation program" exists to serve no other purpose than to raise money and membership for the Church of Scientology, as well as spread Scientology doctrine in California, the United States, and the world. Whether or not the State of California wishes to take action against Narconon on this front, it is vital that action be taken nonetheless to prevent Narconon from continuing to violate laws with respect to health codes, its own license,

fire codes, employment laws, and financial practices regardless of any alleged religious affiliations. The fact of the matter is that decent citizens of California and this nation driven to excessive states of vulnerability and desperation by the severity of their addictions are taken advantage of by Narconon, lied to, misled, deceived and defrauded. The abuse of drugs and alcohol tears at the very fabric of the Californian's way of life. It tears apart entire families and communities. Drug and alcohol abuse threatens the right of every Californian to be prosperous, secure, and comfortable while also having respect for self and others. The citizens of California reiterated this fact when they voted to pass and implement Proposition 36 and established rehabilitation as our greatest weapon to combat addiction and the social maladies that result from it. In this environment and within these settings exists a parasite on society and the good people of California who seek to fight drug and alcohol addiction and all of its ill effects. This parasite operates with the sanction of license from - and in defiance of the policies, laws and regulations of - the State of California and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs has been tasked to enforce and implement the laws and high standards of practice Californians have deemed necessary to combat drug and alcohol addiction in our state. With that burden shouldered and responsibility assumed, I urge you to do whatever is in your power to investigate, expose and take the appropriate action to make sure that Narconon no longer tears apart families, contaminates societies, manipulates people and ultimately ruins the lives of honest, decent human beings. After all, social implications aside, this is about people and the rights of the citizenry of this State and Nation. I implore you to do all you can to prevent Narconon from continuing to ruin the lives of people unfortunate enough to look towards Narconon for assistance in battling their addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Brought to you by:



Getting Your Money Back from Narconon

Narconon franchises charge between \$25,000 and \$30,000, require payment in advance, and claim to have a "no refunds" policy. By the time customers realize they've been scammed, they feel Narconon already has their money and there's nothing they can do about it. That's what Narconon wants them to think; Narconon certainly isn't interested in discussing the return of any cash. But they have given refunds to people who were persistent about it. Here is how to get your money back from Narconon.

Stopping Or Reversing Payment

If you paid by check, *immediately* call your bank and stop payment. If you paid by credit card, call the credit card company and tell them you are disputing the charges. Other forms of payment may also be reversible; contact whatever financial institution you used to transfer the funds. You may be asked to explain the reason you are disputing the charges or seeking to reverse the payment. One reason you could give is that the money was obtained through fraud; see the next section.

Ways in Which Narconon May Have Defrauded You

1. Were you informed that Narconon is affiliated with the Church of Scientology and is organized on Scientology principles? Narconon always denies this when asked; they are lying.
2. Did the Narconon franchise claim a 70% or better success rate? These claims are false.
3. Were you told that any of Narconon's staff were certified chemical dependency counselors?
4. Did Narconon claim to have in-house medical staff, and were there in fact physicians or registered nurses working fulltime at the facility?
5. Many Narconon clients arrive with medication needs, ranging from antibiotics for an infected tooth, to antidepressants. Did Narconon dispense all required medications per your physician's instructions?
6. If you required medical attention due to illness or injury, was appropriate care promptly provided?
7. Was the facility clean and in good repair, or did conditions differ considerably from what you were led to expect?
8. Were you promised recreational opportunities such as boating or volleyball, and were they in fact available?
9. Were you promised ready access to the church of your choice, and was that access provided?

If the answer to any of the above questions is "no", you may have grounds for asserting that Narconon defrauded you and thus is not entitled to keep your money.

Is There a Valid Contract?

1. Who signed the contract with Narconon? Was this person impaired by drugs or alcohol at the time? If so, the contract may not be valid.
2. Was the contract signed under duress? For example, if it was signed only after the person was admitted to the facility under emergency circumstances, some parts of it may not be binding.
3. Who provided the money to pay Narconon's fees? If the payer did not personally sign the contract, they may not be bound by Narconon's "no refund" policy.
4. Were you provided legible copies of all documents at the time of signing? If not, there may be some dispute about what it was you actually signed, or whether you were fully informed of the terms of the agreement at the time of signing. (If you weren't informed, the contract may not be binding.)

How To Demand Repayment

(coming soon)

[Back to the Stop-Narconon.org front door](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dst/Stop-Narconon.org)

Last modified: Sat Aug 2 19:05:01 EDT 2008



These pages contain, among other things, critical information and government findings of fact pertaining to Narconon, the drug rehabilitation program run by the "Church" of Scientology.

This site is not affiliated with the Church of Scientology.

Narconon is a drug-rehabilitation program run by the Church of Scientology. Its methods are, to say the least, unconventional, and have been roundly criticized by doctors and other scientists as *potentially lethal*.

When one facility was being examined for certification, Narconon's spokesperson, Kirstie Alley, advised board members not to worry about details and to certify Narconon "because the treatment works". Several studies and reports, however, show that Narconon can be dangerous to a patient's physical and mental well-being, and that Narconon is used to recruit new members into the Church of Scientology.

Quick Menu:

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Document Descriptions:

Narconon Skeptics' FAQ

A document answering many of the common questions -- and rebutting most of the commonly made public-relations claims -- about Narconon. Written by Gisle Hannemyr.

1974 Report to the California Department of Health

This report, which still contains a good deal of pertinent information on the way Narconon operates, was the result of an evaluation of Narconon New Life of Los Angeles, conducted at the request of the California State Department of Health. It does *not* reflect very well upon Narconon.

1992 Findings of the Oklahoma Board of Mental Health

This document reveals the Findings of Fact presented upon review of Narconon Chilocco's application for certification by the Board of Mental Health in the State of Oklahoma. Like the above document, it details Narconon's rather less-than-admirable treatment methods, and shows that they haven't changed much in nearly twenty years.

Summary of articles on Narconon Chilocco, 1989-1993

A brief synopsis of the circumstances surrounding the Narconon Chilocco facility -- a tale of

Narconon's lies, changing stories and unpaid bills. Compiled by Tilman Hausherr from the FACTNet archive of newspaper stories concerning the facility.

Incorporation records of many Narconon facilities

Brett Achorn did a search for state incorporation records pertaining to Narconon. Out of twenty-seven hits, only **nine** were listed as active and in good standing. The rest, presented in this document, are listed as having their incorporations suspended, revoked, dissolved, forfeited, etc.

JAMA article concerning niacin

One part of Narconon's regimen involves taking large doses of niacin. Here's a report printed in the Journal of the American Medical Association warning of certain potential dangers of this substance. *(But wait, I thought that Narconon was supposed to be a "totally drug-free program"!)*

This page is maintained by Jeff Lee <godfrey@shipbrook.com>

[[Main Scientology index](#)]

**SCIENTOLOGY****The Narconon Scam**

These pages contain, among other things, critical information and government findings of fact pertaining to Narconon, the drug rehabilitation program run by the "Church" of Scientology.

This site is not affiliated with the Church of Scientology.

1974 report on Narconon

From Diane Richardson <referen@ibm.net>

This is an old report, but I think the data it contains can still shed a lot of light on how Narconon works. A brief explanation of the report's provenance is in order.

Back in 1974, Narconon New Life of Los Angeles was receiving California state funds through what was known as the Short Doyle act, which allocated money to alternative drug treatment programs -- recovery houses, therapeutic communities, and the like. This evaluation was conducted at the request of the California State Department of Health by a team composed of Forest S. Tennant, Jr., M.D., Dr.P.H., Jane Thomas, R.N., Mike Reilly, and Joseph Shannon, M.D., M.P.H. It was submitted to Don Z. Miller, Deputy Director, Health Treatment System, State Department of Health, Sacramento, CA, on 31 Oct 1974.

OUTLINE FOR RECOVERY HOUSE EVALUATION

NARCONON NEW LIFE

827 Beacon Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90017

(213) 487-0986

Ben Gibson - Director, Narconon New Life;

Greg Zerovnik - National Director, Narconon U.S.

1. HISTORY OF PROGRAM

a. Length of Existence: Narconon New Life began in June, 1972 as an office that dealt with out-patients. There was no official funding at that time. It received its first *[Senate Bill] 714* funding in November, 1973.

b. Pattern of Evolution: Narconon is derived etymologically from Greek and essentially means "not stuporous." As used by the organization Narconon, it signifies an aversion or antagonism towards the use of drugs that depress the central nervous system.

The organization "Narconon" was founded in 1966 by William Benitez, an inmate in Arizona State Prison who had read and subsequently ascribed to the writings and doctrines of L. Ron Hubbard. In 1972, out of an apparent need to place released prisoners, a halfway house was organized. With the work of residents and a pooling of funds the recovery house, now called Narconon New Life, soon became formally established and functioning.

The Director of Narconon New Life halfway house is a Mr. Ben Gibson. Mr. Gibson's actual experiential involvement in the "drug culture" is minimal. By his own testimony he had tried "pot" approximately five times and LSD once. He apparently was familiar with the effects of opiate addiction in New York but his stated real motivating experience for devoting his energies to "treatment" and prevention of drug abuse was his

witnessing of a dramatic suicide attempt. His vocational background was principally in the fringe arts (handicrafts). Although he did not obtain an undergraduate degree he is obviously an articulate, disciplined, and ambitious man. He states that he received an honorary L.L.D. from the California College of Law. Hence the title "Dr." Gibson.

An apparently important figure in the development of Narconon in California is a Mr. Greg Zerovnik. Mr. Zerovnik is presently National Director of Narconon-United States and is based in Los Angeles. His academic background includes a B.A. in Fine Arts. His experiential relationship to the "drug scene" includes, by his own testimony, a two and one-half to three year history of "dealing drugs" in the Bay area. Whether or not he was ever a "user" is ambiguous. In any case he is also articulate, disciplined and ambitious. He, as well as Mr. Gibson, are "ministers" in the Church of Scientology.

2. CONTRACT DATA

a. Number: This information was not available to us.

b. Date: The first SB 714 contract was awarded November 7, 1973. The current SB 714 contract was awarded July 1, 1974.

c. Number of Beds (Contract and Non-Contract): There were eight beds available for a duration of treatment of 120 days.

d. Amount of Money: The amount of money received was \$44,000 plus \$1320 in patient fees. The money is paid at the rate of \$15.00 per patient per day.

e. Non-Contract Money -- Sources and Amount: Narconon has a California Youth Authority contract for \$300 per month per patient. There is no limit on the number of subjects that can be taken. Most additional monies appear to be raised by the selling of educational courses to residents and clients attending on an outpatient basis.

3. FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR SHORT-DOYLE

The first proposal that was submitted for 714 funding was to L.A. County through the Echo Parks - Sierra Lake Coalition (now Central Drug Coalition) for slightly over \$330,000. There was not a copy of this proposal on the premises and we were told that all the copies were submitted to the County and therefore they had no copies.

A second proposal was submitted in 1974 for approximately \$497,000. This proposal is attached. Almost the entire proposal is dedicated to testimonies and statements of the effectiveness of Narconon. There is no mention in the proposal about Scientology. There is no mention about the population to be served, the objectives, staff pattern, community coordination, evaluation, and very little about the treatment process. There is a statement in the proposal about non-medical detoxification which states that Narconon's detoxification procedure enables the addict to get off heroin without using any substitute drug or suffering heavy withdrawal pains. In the budget there are slots for six detoxification specialists. These specialists are non-medical and trained within Narconon itself.

4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

a. Profit or Non-Profit Corporation: Narconon has been a non-profit corporation under the state of California since May 1, 1970.

b. Members: There are three members of the Board of Directors: 1) William C. Benitez, 2) Henning Heldt; 3) Arthur J. Maren. All three members are Scientologists and Heldt and Maren are employed full time in the Church of Scientology. This documentation of board members of Narconon lends direct support to the supposition that Narconon is closely aligned with the Church of Scientology.

c. How Often Do They Meet: The Articles of Incorporation state the Board will meet once per year although they may have special meetings.

d. Financial and Other Reports for Board: According to the Narconon staff reports are sent monthly to Director of Narconon U.S. (Zerovnik) who, in turn, keeps the Board informed.

5. FACILITY

a. License for Facility: The facility does not have a board and care license. During the past month they were visited by representatives of L.A. County concerning this license. However, there is apparently no active movement underway to acquire the board and care license.

b. Square Footage Per Patient: This is difficult to determine since we were not able to ascertain exactly the number of patients that reside in the facility.

c. General Appearance; Hygiene; and Safety: The recovery house was clean and had fire extinguishers. There appeared to be ample space in rooms for patients. There were ten client beds although some patients apparently live in another facility on Westmoreland Avenue.

d. Kitchen Facilities and Nutrition: These appeared to be in good clean condition. The garbage collection was adequate and appeared sanitary.

6. STAFFING

a. Number: Currently, the Recovery House has twenty-nine full time staff members ranging in age from eighteen to thirty.

b. Full-Time; Part Time; Sex; Ethnic Breakdown: The staff is about 60% male and 40% female. The ethnic breakdown for staff, according to the director, is 80% Caucasian, 10% Chicano, and 10% Black.

c. Educational Background: The Director told the evaluation team that in actual practice, seven senior staff members make decisions and, in effect, run the program. All staff members are graduates of the Narconon training course and all senior staff members are concurrently members of the Church of Scientology.

d. Criteria for Hiring: The criteria for the hiring of the staff includes completion of the Narconon Training Course (three weeks minimum) and high motivation.

e. Training: There is a seven week provisional period for staff after course completion during which they work and receive additional training before they begin getting paid. According to the director of Narconon New Life and director of Narconon U.S. an additional requirement for Narconon staff members responsible for using an E-meter to audit student progress, is that they be a recognized minister in the Church of Scientology.

f. Staff Coverage: There are obviously more than enough staff to provide adequate house coverage. Nine of the senior staff reside in the upstairs portion of the administrative house next door to the Recovery House residence. Since the residential client population averages 20 to 25, it would seem as though staff outnumber clients. However, many of the staff are assigned to do introductory courses, community relations, solicitation of new members and clients, and various other program functions. Additionally, day and evening classes are offered on an outpatient basis not only for drug dependent individuals, but for probation officers, teachers and members of the general public as well.

g. Turnover: When asked about staff turnover, the Director estimated that the program loses one staff member approximately every six months. If this figure is accurate, that would represent a very low turnover rate in comparison to most other drug treatment programs. The team had no way to corroborate this statement.

h. Organizational Structure: The organizational structure of the program, including program rules and procedures, criteria and training for staff, work assignments, educational course content, staff structure, organizational structure, and program philosophy are derived directly from a seven volume series entitled "The Organization Executive Course" by L. Ron Hubbard and published by the Church of Scientology. Since this material was not originally intended for use by a drug abuse treatment program some additional procedures and directives have been developed by Narconon U.S. specifically focused on dealing with a drug abusing population. The Director of Narconon U.S. assured the evaluation team that policies developed within Narconon in no way contradicted the basic principles set forth by Hubbard in his seven volume series, but instead, were intended to augment them.

The program organizational structure alone, taken directly from Hubbard's works, is a highly complex and rigidly structured system that provides for exact assignment of work roles, precise supervisory monitoring of quality and amount of work completed, defined training requirements for each work assignment within the organization, and processes for discipline of staff who have violated the rules or policies of the program.

The various offenses that staff may be disciplined for are characterized as high crimes, felonies, misdemeanors or errors. One section of the "Organization Executive Course" specifies that staff "convicted" of "high crimes" in addition to having all training certificates revoked and being banned from the organization, will further be labeled as "fair game." A later directive from Hubbard instructs that the term "fair game" not be used any longer as it is potentially harmful for public relations.

The evaluation team was unable to ascertain to what extent these staff disciplinary practices are actually utilized within the program. One staff member interviewed indicated that one of his responsibilities was staff auditor, which within the organization means that he would administer E-meter or "truth detector" tests to other staff members. The circumstances under which these tests would take place was not explained.

i. Lines of Communication: Narconon U.S. manages all the Narconon offices by "remote management." This means that they keep track of all data including admissions, discharges, income, expenses, etc. The organizational structures and lines of communication appear to be more rigid than what one might expect to find in a military organization.

The lines of communication between the staff are again specified and consist apparently of regular weekly meetings at various levels of the program organizational structure. A

network of reports are prepared on a regular basis within the organization. It would be fair to say that virtually all of the staff have a remarkably similar understanding of the program and its purposes, and in that sense, internal communication is quite good.

In summary, it is important to qualify the foregoing explanation of staffing and organizational structure as a mere surface description of the tip of the iceberg. In order to really understand the machinations of this program, one would probably need to read the thousands of pages of Hubbard's writings and even then, have to be personally involved in the organization for a number of years. The brief time the evaluation team had to spend on these issues served to raise a good many more questions than they answered.

7. PATIENT DATA

a. Demographic Characteristics: The printed information made available to us and the various interviews indicated that the Narconon Halfway House would accept any individual from anywhere who was assessed by the Narconon organization as being eligible for their "treatment" procedure. The two clients interviewed were from Los Angeles and Cleveland, respectively. There was no evidence in the Narconon literature or in the interviews with the Narconon staff that Narconon was attempting to or interested in providing services to any particular area or locale within Los Angeles County.

b. Drug Problem: Narconon literature clearly emphasizes its interest in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and drug related problems. The interviews with staff, however, quite clearly established that drug use was largely incidental to their program and that their real efforts are directed at instilling in the "students" a mastery system in which personal and environmental problems are eradicated by the exercise of a programmed or conditioned willpower.

8. PATIENT RECORDS

We were initially told that we would have access to patient records. However, when we came to that part of our review which required a sampling of patient records, access was insistently denied on the basis of "students" (patients) privileged information. "Students'" records are kept under lock and key at Central Files (C.F.) to which only the director "Doctor" Gibson and his wife Cora allegedly have access. Mr. Gibson's assistant, Sandy, did show me three documents demonstrating a "student's" substantial improvement in personality adjustment and I.Q. The former (a personality profile) is termed American Personality Analysis (see attached) and copyrighted by Julia Lewis Salmen. I was told that exclusive rights were held by either L. Ron Hubbard or the Church of Scientology, or both. The second two documents were before and after I.Q. measurements on the same "student" and demonstrated a 36 point improvement on the second measurement. The I.Q. test forms are a standardized California test (California Capacity Questionnaire) and are available for general public use. No other patient or "student" record material was made available but conversations indicated that patient records were of a confessional type which could be embarrassing or perhaps incriminating if known to anyone other than specified Narconon "officers."

Standardized forms that go into the making of a "student's" personal file were given to us (see attached forms termed A, A1, A2, A3, A4 Codes). The preceding letter-numbered coded forms tabulate general "student" information such as age, sex, etc., as well as documenting a variety of Narconon courses completed. Additionally the forms emphasize I.Q. testing, drug use data, fiscal information and correctional institution

history. Again it was implied that some sort of progree notes were included but confidentiality precluded inspection even with the names or other identifying information blocked out.

9: FISCAL RECORDS

a. Working Budget: Narconon did not have a program budget nor did they have a copy of the line item budget submitted to the county for the Short Doyle Contract. The staff reported that the county had lost the original budget and that Narconon had sent the county its last copy to replace it.

The fiscal records kept by the program seem detailed and complete. Income, expenditures and assets are accounted for on a monthly basis. As of June 27, 1974, Narconon had a balance of \$13,039.33 in its reserve account.

b. Program Expenses: Monthly program expenses are allocated according to a percentage formula derived from "The Organization Executive Course" by L. Ron Hubbard. Under this rather complex system, in any given month 31% of total income is allocated to salaries; 5% to training; 54% to operational expenses; and 10% to general reserves. The allocation to operational expenses includes 10% of total income which is paid monthly to Narconon U.S. from all Narconon field programs. This payment is for research, and for the development of training and student course materials.

If the percentage amount of income is greater than actual expenses for a given month, the average will go into a reserve account for that particular category. If the percentage amount of income is less than actual expenses for a given month, then it is up to the program to either cut expenses or generate more client revenue.

This method of allocating income provides particular incentives for program staff to solicit new clients because, as total income increases, there is a proportionate increase in individual staff salaries.

The amount paid each staff member in a given month is calculated from yet another Hubbard formula. Each position is assigned a given number of units, based on level of responsibility within the organization. (i.e., Executive Director position is assigned 200 units monthly.) Additionally, there are opportunities listed for earning bonus units. Some bonus units are allowed for time in service. Production bonus units are allocated for prison work and recruitment of new members. At the end of each month, units are computed for each staff member. The total units earned by staff are divided into the total salary allocation for that month in order to compute the worth of a single work unit. Each staff member then is paid the total of a single work unit multiplied by the total number of units he has earned during the month. In this manner, staff salaries vary from month to month and depend solely on the amount of client revenue that can be generated for the program.

c. Billings: Under the Short Doyle contract, Narconon has been reimbursed at a provisional billing rate of fifteen dollars a day per Short-Doyle client from March 1974. From November 1973 through February 1974, the program was reimbursed for actual cost of operating expenses. The reimbursement for actual cost in the period from November 1973 to February 1974 resulted in payments of \$1918 more than the program would have gotten had they billed at the \$15 per diem rate for the same time period. Given the process the program uses to calculate salaries, it is difficult to understand how they could define the actual cost of program operation for billing purposes. If the actual program cost depends on how much income you receive, how can you bill for

reimbursement based on a program cost that can't be calculated until after the reimbursement billing is received? If these kinds of questions seem somewhat confusing to the reader, they have created similar problems for the evaluation team.

At any rate, the billings seemed detailed and corresponded with recorded client days in treatment. The program staff seems to understand the process they use and the county seems satisfied to pay. The evaluation team did not ask to see source documents supporting bookkeeping entries, preferring rather to retreat to firmer ground.

e. Yearly Audit Done: Under the County Short Doyle contract from November 1973 through June 1974, Narconon was required to have an independent audit conducted for the county within 90 days. They failed to do so and were advised by the evaluation team that this needed to be done.

10. TREATMENT PROCESS

Introductory Note: Aside from the initial detoxification, "bullbaiting," and the later "auditing" process described below, and orthodox definition of the word treatment is not applicable to Narconon as we saw it and as it was described to us. The traditional labels of "patient" or "client" are, by Narconon, identified as "students" or occasionally "PC's" (presumably meaning Pre-Clears in the scientological lexicon). In reference to the latter, we must point out that any connection between Narconon and Scientology other than coincidental was usually vehemently denied. The interview data and our observations support a rehabilitation conception perhaps best termed a "corrective educational experience." Occuring in a stepwise fashion from rigidly simple rote exercises through the more complex "auditing" process and (for those who can afford it) a multiplicity of "clear" and "Post-Clear" states promising total personal and environmental control. Theoretically it is a patchwork of Freudian, Gestalt, Pavlovian, science fiction and Eastern (reincarnation) ideas unequivocally sutured together with L. Ron Hubbard's terminology. Indeed, the initial exercises require in addition to a standard English dictionary, a special Narconon dictionary enabling the "student" to understand the Narconon/Scientology terminology.

a. Criteria for Admission: From our review of Narconon publications and from our interview data gathered from staff and students we must assume that there are no established drug use criteria for residents at the Narconon New Life Halfway House. The verbal statements of having used marijuana or some other illicit drug **may** be a drug abuse requirement for admission but it was not so stated. The one requirement specified verbally was that a potential student must pass the motivation assessment interview conducted in a room termed Department 6 and thereafter be given the final acceptance notice by "Doctor" Gibson's wife Cora at Division 1. Thus it seems that the single admission criteria is Narconon's assessment of motivation.

b. Patient Evaluation: Narconon "student" evaluation is done by a staff officer's subjective evaluation of student motivation subsequent to which a routine routing format follows. The latter includes a coded data collection system geared to tracking the individual within the Narconon network of programs. There is a section on Form A2 entitled "drug history" that records and codes drugs used. The latter is a recording of the student's verbal statements concerning drug use, past and present, and is not verified by objective physical or laboratory data. The Narconon written documents and interview data indicated that medical examinations were not a routine procedure and we were unable to determine as to whether or not any medical information per se (a previous medical history and physical examination) were part of the student's confidential file. As noted previously a "personality analysis" and a before and after I.Q. recording are

standard Narconon procedures.

c. Psychotherapy: Although the term "psychotherapy" is antithetical to Narconon officialdom the "bullbaiting" and the subsequent "auditing" procedures are adaptations from "encounter" therapy and Freudian psychoanalytic treatment models. Noting Narconon's aversion to traditional psychology's terminology the description of the Narconon rehabilitation process hereafter will be termed "instruction exercises" or "training routines" in an attempt to minimize confusion.

Upon acceptance into the Narconon New Life Halfway House the student either promptly begins the basic Narconon Communication Course or if drug dependent promptly taken to the detoxification room for drug withdrawal. The latter is describe elsewhere. Subsequent to processing through Department 6, a final acceptance by the Director's wife, Cora Gibson, at Division 1 and receiving the course instruction materials (including standard English and Narconon dictionaries), and "Coach" assignment at Division 2, a student begins the two or four week basic Narconon Communication Course. The Communication Course involves a rigid series of training routines termed TR's subnumbered 0-9. Each TR is an individually prescribed entity which must be mastered before proceeding on an upward "gradient" to the next TR. TR0 involves three exercises specified as "eyes closed," "eyes opened," and "bullbaiting." The premise seems to involve the exercise of trust in "eyes closed," the exercise of direct eye contact tolerance (staring into the coach's eyes) in "eyes open," and the seeking of an emotional weak spot or "button" and a corresponding emotional response to it in the bullbaiting routine. The bullbaiting exercise seems to involve principally physical characteristics that may be used to embarrass or humiliate an individual and condition him to accept and control is responses to these verbal threats to his body image. For example, one might poke fun at a poor complexion, a crooked nose, and etc. Bullbaiting appears to be a crude forerunner of the more polished auditing procedure and is accomplished without the use of the so-called E-meter. Additionally it appears to be the primary part of TR0 or the initial exercise routine.

TR1 through 9 involves mastering written course materials obviously adapted from L. Ron Hubbard's works and incorporated into the Narconon Communication Course. They primarily involve the "proper" understanding of key words and phrases that must be looked up in the Narconon dictionary and then demonstrated in each exercise routine. TR1 teaches students to "clearly communicate"; TR2 -- how to "acknowledge" properly; TR3 -- how to get an answer to a question without "variation" and TR4 -- how to handle "origination" -- to accept a pain or discomfort and find out where it originated.

The first five TR's (0-4) must be mastered in their entirety three times before proceeding to TR6. (We were informed that no TR5 existed.) TR6 involves "good and effective control over an individual or group" TR7 -- the same as TR6 but on a higher "gradient" which presumably means physical control over a threatening or disturbed individual. TR8 involves "intention without reservation" -- to totally clarify ones intentions (which may be nonverbal). TR9 is a culmination of previous TR's and stresses particularly the thorough mastery of four conceptions, i.e. "exact intention," "exact strength needed," "exact force necessary," and "exact intention without reservation or limit." The student now goes backwards through this routine and if successful is given a certificate of completion for the basic Narconon Communication Course. Upon completion of the basic Communication Course the student is apparently free to choose any number of more "advanced" course study programs, most of which appear to be stepping stones towards the attainment of HQS (Hubbard Qualified Scientologist) status. We were told that approximately 90 percent of the students go on into the various courses available. A Mr. John Powers, who stated he is the new staff auditor for Narconon New Life, states

... that he hoped all graduates of the basic Narconon Communications Course would take ... courses leading to HQS.

It was very ambiguous to us, due to conflicting statements, exactly how the E-meter auditing and the Post-Basic Narconon courses related. It seemed clear enough, however, that the E-meter was routinely used in many if not all of the courses and it was implied that this device was used at least occasionally in the Basic Narconon Communication Course.

d. Techniques:

1) I.Q. Raising -- It was implied and in material from a case file "demonstrated" that the Narconon Communication Course promised a substantial elevation of the student's I.Q.

2) E-Meter -- The E-meter is a fairly crude lie detector-like device that allegedly indicates areas of mental conflict, fixations, conscious and unconscious lying, and various other psychic phenomenon based on Hubbard's "engram" theory. The latter is roughly equivalent to popularized Freudian conceptions of mental fixations or Jungian psychic "complexes" but dramatized by an electronic galvanometric device and its association with the scientological "technology."

e. Discipline: Our interviewed data indicated that the Narconon disciplinary approach was based on the "Student's Guide to Ethical Behavior." We were not able to get a copy of the latter document. We were told that infractions were "routed" to the "Ethics Officer" who taught the infractors where they went wrong. We were unable to obtain any precise information as to what infractions were other than the drinking of alcohol 24 hours prior to a course. All medication use or abuse is considered deviant or aberrant behavior but the rules or regulations determining policy actions were simply unstated. One of the "supervisors" interviewed stated that a student using Dilantin, phenobarbital, and Tedral was expelled from Narconon New Life Halfway House. Presumably the latter individual was epileptic and asthmatic and his medication use precluded participation in the Narconon rehabilitation program.

f. Phases of Treatment: There are apparently no stated phases of treatment but rather a continual upward flow of course completions leading to the attainment, if successful, of control over oneself and one's environment. This flow is termed a "gradient" by the Narconon staff. The terminology is strikingly similar and presumably parallels, if not merging, the Scientology hierarchy. The latter presumption was underscored by a lengthy conversation with "members" - "employees" at the Scientology/ Westwood office where it was stated that Narconon was simply the application of Scientology "technology" to the problem of drug addiction. Additionally two patients interviewed on a local methadone program reported that their unsuccessful treatment for heroin use at Narconon was by the application of Scientology techniques and was essentially directed at eventually attaining a "clear" state. Again, any connection with Scientology other than coincidental was vigorously denied by Dr. Gibson and his principal assistants.

Re-entry in to Narconon Rehabilitation Process is encouraged for drop-outs and apparently implies faster progression through the course materials and has a lower financial burden for the individual during his second matriculation.

g. Urine Testing: No urine testing is done by Narconon New Life Halfway House. However, students on parole may get urine testing at their parole officers. It was not

... stated whether or not records were kept of urinalysis results but it appeared clear that communication between Narconon and the parole officials was maintained.

h. Vocational/Educational: Narconon is a continually expanding self-contained or closed ended organization. Students must pay either in money or in work for the Narconon courses and are encouraged to proceed through the course work system to a promotion to staff status where they can share in monies derived from various sources for their Narconon work and additionally pay for ones own "auditing." (This system is analogous to a Psychoanalytic Institute where analysts in training treat clinic patients for a moderate fee to help pay for their own continuing analysis by Training Analysts and as well support the costs of maintaining the institute.) "Moonlighting" is encouraged if it doesn't interfere with course work as it provide additional monies for a faster personal "auditing" process. An interviewed supervisor stated that it will take him approximately five years to attain the "clear" state whereas if he had sufficient funds of his own he could reach this much coveted status within one year. In short, Narconon appeared to be an inwardly oriented organization where vocational interests are subordinated to promoting an individual's progression through the Narconon/Scientology hierarchy.

i. Recreation: Narconon has no formalized recreational activities. We were assured, however, that touch football and various other recreational activities occurred on a fairly regular basis.

j. Drop Development Placement: See "h." above.

k. Detoxification: Narconon New Life Halfway House has one room specified as the detoxification room. The detoxification procedure is monitored 24 hours daily by a Narconon trained detoxification specialist. The procedure consists of "touching," "extroverting" the subject's attention from his body, and approximately a half handful of enteric coated vitamins every six hours. The detoxification procedure usually does not exceed 72 hours and is described as comfortable. The subject is said to sleep well. A single page communique from Mark Jones (former Executive Director-Narconon U.S.) explicitly states that only heroin addicts should be detoxified by the Narconon process. This information is either unknown or unheeded by the staff members interviewed at Narconon New Life Halfway House. Mr. John Powers states that he had seen a "convulsion" stopped immediately by the Narconon procedure but was unable to describe in even layman's terms what this convulsive episode consisted of. What he did describe was similar to a hysterical outburst which could quite easily be relieved by a calm, soothing and attentive companion.

l. Informed Consent: Narconon uses several consent or agreement forms with various titles. The most interesting form is entitled "Legal Contract for Narconon Rehabilitation Program." (See attachment.) Among other things this document specifies that the Narconon service "is spiritual guidance not intended to diagnose or treat human ailments of body or mind by other than spiritual means." It additionally specifies that the "service which is subject to this agreement is open to anyone who: a. does not have a purely medical illness which would be curable within the skills of a physical practitioner; b. does not have a history or record of institutionalization in an insane asylum or similar place; c. is not connected with any person or group of known antagonism towards Narconon; d. enrolls on his own determinism and not on orders of any other group or person; e. will use the knowledge gained to help others in the understanding that one has to help others to help himself; f. is willing to abide by the rules governing the program as such may be made known to him in HCO (HCO presumably means Hubbard Communication Office) Policy letters and other authorized publications; g. is not using this service to try to cure an illness."

Item 7 and 9 of the preceding agreement essentially relieves Narconon of any actual or potential legal claim of any sort under any circumstances and in perpetuity. Item 11 "expressly waives the prohibitions of Section 1542 of the Civil Code of California," i.e., certain claims not affected by general release.

There is a specific detoxification agreement (see attachment) that simply provides a signed agreement that the detoxification subject will remain in the detoxification unit 72 hours or until complete detoxification and is willing to accept a no refund provision.

We were not provided with and must presume that there is **no** informed consent document specifying the **risks** involved in withdrawal from hypnotics/tranquilizer medications such as convulsive episodes during barbiturate withdrawal. There are two inherently logical conclusions for omitting this type of informed consent document: 1. the legal contract described above apparently relieves Narconon of any legal responsibilities for any such risk; 2. Mark Jones's memorandum excluding detoxification from any drug excepting heroin in which serious withdrawal complications are minimal. Nevertheless, our information indicates that the letter directive is either unknown or unused at Narconon New Life Halfway House.

11. INTERVIEW OF PATIENTS

a. General Appearance: The residents appeared to be well dressed and well nourished.

b. Attitude: The patients had a positive attitude. Most of them wanted to become qualified Scientologists.

c. Interviews with Patients: We were allowed to interview two "students" selected personally by Mr. Ben Gibson.

The first interviewee was X, who has resided at the Narconon New Life Halfway House for approximately three months. She was "referred" by her brother, the director Mr. Ben Gibson. She stated that she had never really been into drugs but had used "pot" and feels that she would have become "strung out" on heroin had she not come to Los Angeles from Cleveland and participated in the Narconon rehabilitation program. She was uncertain as to whether or not she would pursue the more advanced Narconon courses and become a Scientologist.

The second interviewee, W, is presently a "supervisor" and is a former "student" of Narconon's rehabilitation program. W is a 20-year-old male who describes himself as having been a bastard (illegitimate). His drug problem consisted to using methadone intravenously three to four times and some use of Seconal but "never addicted or really into them." His stated main concern was that of "pot," not particularly because of the health implications but because it was against the law. His first association with Narconon was in 1973 and lasted two to three months. He left to get married and returned approximately five months ago and has remained with Narconon since as has his wife who is also employed by Narconon. His present function is that of a "supervisor" for the initial introductory exercise or what is termed the Narconon Communication Course. He obtains a subsistence remuneration for his work and is definitely goal oriented in terms of reaching a "clear" state through the "auditing" process over a period of approximately five years. If he could afford the fees he feels he could obtain this much coveted state within one year. Since he hasn't the funds he'll "moonlight" to pay for the "auditing" process during the coming years. W initially stated he was a Scientologist then retracted and stated he was a dues paying member of the Church of Scientology. W again retracted his dues paying status and stated that he

donated money to the Church of Scientology and was uncertain as to whether or not he could be rightfully termed a member of the Church. W. was an enthusiastic young man who whatever his affiliation with Scientology was certainly a "true believer."

A third student interviewed at Narconon claims that she arrived "strung out" from heroin, methadone and 45 reds a day. She said she was not taken to detoxification but stayed up for 2-3 days with someone before being assigned to classes. Her claim was that she was "shaky," couldn't sleep and felt sick. There was no physician to see her at this time. This patient was referred to Narconon by her husband and a priest at CRC.

12. OUTCOME OF TREATMENT

There was no hard data available. The claims of 86% recovery is misleading as explained below.

13. ADVERTISEMENTS AND CLAIMS

a. Public Descriptions by Pamphlets, Notices, etc.: The 86% "cure rate" is totally unfounded. Narconon publishes a voluminous amount of paper for the purpose of public relations. The main Narconon rehabilitation program bulletin states that a high percentage of clients, approximately 75%, are rehabilitated within 3 months. The pamphlet further states that one supervisor can supervise 42 people a day in three 3-hour periods. Furthermore, one supervisor can train 14 new supervisors in three months.

b. Misleading Claims: Narconon claims to have an 86% cure rate for narcotics addicts which is simply not true. Mr. Greg Zerovnik, National Director - Narconon U.S., explained that the 86% figure came from a study of parolees from the Arizona State Prison who may or may not have been narcotics addicts. This sort of claim is, of course, misleading to both the prospective client and to public officials who are sincerely attempting to find ways to cope with the problem of drug abuse.

Narconon also advertises detoxification with mega-vitamins and other non-medical procedures that may be hazardous and in some cases lethal. Attachment 19 is a Narconon letter to the East Valley Free Clinic advertising an extraordinarily expensive detoxification procedure. It furthermore claims a 68% two year "success rate" for drug abstinence and for arrests "for anything related to drugs." It implies that these success ratios are applicable to heroin addicts and alcoholics. This claim is either misleading or miraculous. Without supporting data the evaluation team cannot but presume this document, however enticing, is a misleading claim.

Narconon implies that it can raise I.Q.'s and generally increase communication skills for their clients. There is no scientific evidence that these alleged changes cause a cure in approximately 50% of cases seen as stated by Mark Jones in a Los Angeles Times article.

One gathers, after visiting their facility and reading the rehabilitation program pamphlet, that there is as much effort being directed towards obtaining new supervisors and training other supervisors for the purpose of selling education courses as is being directed toward the treatment/rehabilitation of drug abusers.

14. COMPLIANCE WITH N.I.D.A. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR RECOVERY HOUSES

In assessing the existing program operation to compare current program practices with

the Federal Funding Criteria for Treatment Services, there arose a serious question as to whether Narconon was in compliance with even its existing county Short-Doyle contract requirements.

The County defines a recovery house as "a place where persons seeking to recover from **narcotic addiction** reside and endeavor to aid one another and receive aid from others in recovering from such addiction. . . ."

While the County contract specifies narcotic addiction as a requirement for treatment in recovery houses, the evaluation team found no evidence to indicate that this was a requirement for acceptance within the Narconon program. On the contrary, in interviewing three residents, one had apparently used heroin, methadone and reds, another claimed to have used intravenous methadrine several times but had not used heroin. The third had used "pot" several times and have never used "harder" drugs. By any stretching of definitions it would be difficult to classify two of the three clients interviewed as "narcotic addicts." Since these funds were appropriated for the treatment of a specified client population, it would seem that using them for the treatment of a different client population constitutes a violation of contract terms and a misuse of treatment monies.

Narconon is not currently operating in a manner that would comply with many NIDA guidelines, but program staff expressed a willingness to make necessary program changes if money was made available and if they were required to do so as a condition of funding.

15. UTILIZATION OF STATE MONEY

a. Does Recovery House Use State Money To Entice Patient To Pay Money For Other Purposes?

Is is the opinion of the evaluating team that some Narconon clients are initially funded under 714 only to be sold basic communication courses that may or may not be directly related to Scientology.

b. Does Recovery House Use State Money For Purposes Other Than Drug Treatment?

In the opinion of the evaluation team there was little evidence that a significant number of the clients treated at Narconon were drug dependent individuals. Additionally there is little doubt that the religion of Scientology is advocated, openly discussed, and encouraged within Narconon. Since the Church of Scientology is a religion it appears that State money is being directly used to support a church. There appears to be little difference between Narconon and the Church of Scientology. For example, there was one book entitled "The Problem of Work" by L. Ron Hubbard and on the inside cover of the book was a statement "For religious use only." The evaluation team was also given a demonstration of the use of the E-meter.

All of the literature and books are directly derived from Scientology and most staff are already or are becoming Scientologists. It would appear that Narconon is receiving state funds for treating "addicts" and is using primarily methods or "technology" of the Church of Scientology.

16. RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED STATE FUNDING

- a. Detoxification procedures should be stopped on the premises since their procedures are without proper medical supervision and may be dangerous.
- b. Three evaluation team members recommend cessations of State funding.
- c. One evaluation team member recommends continued funding if the following conditions are met:
 - 1) Program must operate a facility that specifically and exclusively deals with the rehabilitation of **narcotic addicted** persons as required by their contract. Such condition should be documented in each client to the satisfaction of county authorities.
 - 2) Program must cease all practices that have been found to be specifically practices of the Church of Scientology and which may only be practiced by a recognized minister of the Church of Scientology. (example - use of E-meter in student auditing, use of training materials copyrighted by the Church of Scientology).
 - 3) Program must eliminate all restrictive admission policies listed in the legal contract for Narconon Rehabilitation Program that are not in accordance with standard admission policies for Short-Doyle clients receiving mental health services.

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These pages contain, among other things, critical information and government findings of fact pertaining to **Narconon**, the drug rehabilitation program run by the "Church" of Scientology.

This site is not affiliated with the Church of Scientology.

Findings of Fact
regarding the
Narconon-Chilocco Application For Certification
by the Board of Mental Health, State of Oklahoma
13 December 1991

Applicant has filed an application with the proper fees attached thereto for certification as a drug and treatment facility proposing to use a drug free non-medical detoxification modality.

The application requests certification for services to a 75-bed residential drug and alcohol center.

The application and supporting documents have been reviewed under applicable law and departmental rules and regulations.

In considering the application for certification the Board has carefully considered the evidence presented at the hearings of October 18, 1991 and December 13, 1991 on the application for certification of Narconon International, including the testimony of the witnesses and the exhibits presented and received in evidence.

The Board considered the credibility, demeanor, bias, motive and interest of all witnesses in reaching these findings of fact.

The proposed site of the program is located on federal land belonging to five tribes and operated by the Chilocco Development Authority.

A long-term lease between Applicant and the Chilocco Development Authority is in effect.

The Development authority and the Applicant have entered into a long-term lease agreement wherein the Applicant agrees to comply with all the state and federal law including but not limited to certification by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

In reviewing the application and determining the merits of the application the Board on the October 18, 1991 and December 13, 1991 hearings heard evidence and considered the issues of safety and effectiveness of the treatment modality utilized by the Applicant.

Most drugs of abuse are removed from the body by detoxification and excretion through the liver, kidneys, and the lungs. Although minute quantities of some drugs may be found in sweat the amount represents a small fraction of drug elimination.

The Narconon drug treatment modality treats all drug addictions the same. No scientific evidence was produced to show that all drug addictions are properly treated in the same manner.

The terms *patient*, *student* and *client* are used interchangeably in these Findings.

The Narconon Program exposes its patients to the risk of delayed withdrawal phenomena such as seizures, delirium and/or hallucinations.

The Board has not considered any evidence of the beliefs or opinions of any witness on matters of

religion in making its findings of fact. To the extent there may be some affiliation between Narconon and any religion such affiliation has been totally disregarded by the Board. The Board has not made its decision on certification based upon any consideration of religion or religious affiliation.

The Board concludes that the Applicant, Narconon International, has the burden of proving that its program meets all requirements for certification and specifically the burden of proving its program is both safe and effective. Narconon has not sustained its burden of proving its program is either safe or effective. However, regardless of whether Narconon International has the burden of proof the Board concludes there is substantial credible evidence, as found by the Board, that the Narconon Program is unsafe and ineffective.

The Narconon program requires its patients to sweat up to five hours per day, seven days a week, for approximately thirty days. The rationale, according to Narconon for the sweat-out is to rid the body of fat-stored drugs and chemicals through sweat. However, there is no scientific basis for the technique. Most drugs of abuse are removed from the body by detoxification and excretion through the liver, kidneys and (in some instances) through the lungs. Although minute quantities of some drugs may be found in sweat, the amount represents such a small fraction of drug elimination that no matter how much an individual sweated through exercise or saunas, the clearance of most drugs of abuse would not be significantly increased.

The Narconon program includes the administration of high doses of vitamins and minerals to the Narconon patient as part of their treatment. The use of high amounts of vitamins and minerals in the amounts described administered by Narconon can be potentially dangerous to the patients of Narconon according to the more credible medical evidence.

The relationship between drug-abuse and psychiatric disorders is well established. Most drug abusers who enter residential drug treatment facilities have high levels of anxiety, depression, hostility or apathy. Further, a chemical dependency disorder may co-exist with--or be secondary to--a specific psychiatric illness, such as schizophrenia or major depression, which should be treated by established psychiatric procedures.

The Narconon program presents a potential risk to the patients of the Narconon program that delayed withdrawal phenomena such as seizures, delirium or hallucination that are occasionally seen several days after cessation of drugs such as benzodiazepines, may be misinterpreted by Narconon's non-medical staff as the effect of mobilizing the drug from fat during the sauna sweat-out procedure period. There is also a potential risk that the reported re-experience of the abused drugs' effect during the sauna sweat-out program may be the result of misinterpreted symptoms of hyperthermia or electrolyte imbalance since vital signs and serum electrolyte levels have not been consistently monitored during the sweat-out procedures or when a student is reporting the phenomena.

The progress notes for the patients at Narconon do not consistently evidence that vital signs are recorded every six hours in the detoxification process; nor do the progress notes record fluid intake for detoxification clients.

Discharge summaries of patients at Narconon were not routinely completed within fifteen days of the patient's discharge.

The clinical records of patients at Narconon do not consistently reflect the recording of vital signs every six hours for clients as required under non-medical detoxification standards of the Department.

There is credible evidence by way of witness testimony and review of Narconon charts which reflect that there were patients who had psychiatric problems who were taken off of their previously prescribed psychiatric medication who did not do well and subsequently developed psychiatric problems. This evidence indicates a lack of safety and effectiveness in connection with the program.

Clients of Narconon suffering from psychiatric illness, when taken off their prescribed medications, did poorly in the Narconon program and were placed in a segregated facility called destem. This practice endangers the safety, health and/or the physical and mental well being of Narconon's clients.

Narconon's program lacks any acceptable degree of quality control of the sauna temperatures and treatment. Such a lack of control endangers the safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being of its clients.

Narconon hires former students to work at Narconon-Chilocco immediately upon graduation and the former students work directly with the present students. While former patients of drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinics can be employed in such clinics after graduation, the former patient's recovery from his addiction should be established with more passage of time to ensure sobriety and to avoid putting patients in contact with addicts who are not fully recovered. This practice could negatively impact the safety and effectiveness of the program.

Narconon does not maintain a sufficient level of follow-up of its students after graduation, which impacts the effectiveness of the program allowing for relapses and lack of recovery.

During an on-site visit in November 1991 a student was found with a potentially dangerous low level of potassium which could lead to cramps, (muscular, skeletal problems) and cardiac arrhythmia.

The vast majority of time spent in the Narconon treatment plan and course work does not in any way relate to or involve education about drug and alcohol abuse treatment, issues, and/or addiction. The Narconon treatment plan thus has deficiencies which render it ineffective. The Narconon treatment plan is general in nature, applies categorically to all students and is not individualized. The treatment plan also lacks measurable individualized objectives which the students should seek to achieve in the program. For instance, the treatment plan sets a patient's objective as follows: To have a clear mind. This objective is essentially meaningless. In order for a bonafide drug treatment plan to be effective it is essential to have individualized measured objectives which Narconon's treatment plan lacks.

Part of the Narconon treatment program involves *touch assists* between patients. Touch assists involve massages between patients in rooms by themselves. Narconon has both male and female patients who are involved in the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. This practice of touch assists could likely lead to improper sexual contact between drug addicts or alcoholics in the process of recovery. An accepted standard in such programs is for the patients to keep their hands to themselves. The practice of touch assists between male and female patients who are recovering drug addicts or alcoholics in private rooms renders the program unsafe in this respect.

The discharge planning is not adequate and commences only very shortly prior to discharge. This lack of discharge planning renders Narconon's program ineffective.

Narconon clients are counseled by Narconon staff that it is acceptable for the client to drink alcohol after being discharged from the Narconon program and if the client is incapable of being able to drink alcohol, then this fact evidences the client's need for further treatment. Such counseling endangers the client's safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being, and is not in accord with acceptable drug and alcohol counseling and treatment.

Narconon employs staff inadequately educated and trained in the care and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse clients. Such a practice endangers the safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being of the clients of Narconon.

Narconon permits clients under treatment for drug and alcohol abuse to handle and provide medications to fellow Narconon clients, to supervise the sauna treatment of fellow Narconon clients, and to supervise Narconon clients with psychiatric disorders. Such practices endanger the client's

health and safety and are not in accord with acceptable drug and alcohol treatment.

There is substantial medical literature which indicates that sauna therapy may pose significant health risks to intravenous heroin addicts, which is likely to be treated at Narconon, because such drug use may impair normal physiological response and problems associated with high temperature saunas which could be detected.

The Narconon Program includes running to stimulate circulation followed by prescribed periods in a sauna for up to 5 hours at extremely high temperatures (i.e. 135 to 200 F) and as such endangers the safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being of its clients. Such a procedure exposes the client to the health hazards of dehydration and heat injury. This sauna regime also creates a risk of hyperthermia and electrolyte imbalance.

Narconon restricts access by Narconon clients to their personal physicians, family, attorneys, clergy and others by not permitting communications except at limited and designated hours. Such a practice may endanger the physical or mental well being of Narconon's clients.

The Narconon program fails to provide adequate follow-up and treatment for Narconon clients demonstrating abnormal lab tests and other medical problems.

Such failures endanger the safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being of the Narconon clients and is not in accord with acceptable drug and alcohol care and treatment.

There was no evidence that the Narconon staff inventoried and verified the medications brought on to the campus by Narconon clients. Such a failure endangers the safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being of Narconon's clients.

The Board recognizes that Narconon has in the past few weeks adopted many new policies. The evidence did not disclose adherence to many if not all of these policies. There was no measurable and identifiable compliance by Narconon to its newly adopted policies in the areas of taking and recordation of vital signs, drug and alcohol instructions to clients, handling of medications, withdrawal and discharge procedures, lab testing, procedures for emergency medical supplies and others.

Narconon clients are routinely administered clonidine. Narconon fails to provide adequate supervision for clients prescribed this medication given this drug's risks and potential for adverse consequences. Such failure to adequately supervise endangers the safety, health and/or the physical or mental well being of the Narconon clients.

The vast majority of Narconon's course materials in its drug and alcohol abuse program are not designed to educate and/or treat clients in the area of drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, there was only evidence of occasional lectures to Narconon clients in areas of drug and alcohol abuse. As such, Narconon's program lacks sufficient instruction and education in the area of drug and alcohol abuse.

There is no credible scientific evidence that the Narconon program is effective in the treatment of chemical dependency.

There is no credible scientific evidence that exercise speeds up the detoxification process.

Large doses of niacin are administered to patients during the Narconon program to rid the body of radiation. There is no credible scientific evidence that niacin in any way gets radiation out of the patient's body. Rather, the more credible medical evidence supports the existence of potential medical risks to persons receiving high doses of niacin.

There is no credible evidence establishing the safety of the Narconon program to its patients.

There is no credible evidence establishing the effectiveness of the Narconon program to its patients.

Conclusions Of Law

Any finding of fact which should be included in the conclusion of law such matters are included hereby by reference.

In order for the Application to be granted by the Board it must be shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the program is safe and effective for the non-medical residential treatment of alcohol and drug abuse.

The purpose of Mental health law in the State of Oklahoma is to provide humane care and treatment of persons who require treatment for drugs or alcohol abuse. Residents of the State of Oklahoma are entitled to medical care and treatment in accordance with the highest standards accepted in medical practice. 43A O.S. Supp. 1990, 1-102

The Narconon Chilocco program does not conform to the principles of traditional chemical dependency treatment. The Board's conclusion that the Narconon Chilocco program is non-traditional does not form the basis, in any respect, for the Board's decision on the Narconon application for certification.

No scientifically well-controlled studies were found that documented the safety of the Narconon program. There are potential dangers from the use of non-medical staff who may be unable to interpret the possibility of seizures, delirious, cardiac arrhythmia, or hallucinations that are phenomena associated with the cessation of drugs. There is also a potential risk of the reported reexperience of the abused drug effect during the sauna sweat out program may be the result of misinterpreted symptoms of hyperthermia or electrolyte imbalance. Moreover, the multiple findings of fact heretofore entered by the Board establish that Narconon's program is not safe.

Drug treatment program offered by Narconon-Chilocco is an experimental treatment and not proven safe or effective and is not in accord with the highest standards accepted in medical practice as required by statute. No scientifically well-controlled independent, long-term outcome studies were found that directly and clearly establish the effectiveness of the Narconon program for the treatment of chemical dependency and the more credible evidence establishes Narconon's program is not effective. The Board determines that the Narconon Program is not effective in the treatment of chemical dependency.

The Board concludes that the program offered by Narconon-Chilocco is not medically safe.

The Board has reviewed the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law submitted by the Department and Narconon. Any proposed finding of fact and/or conclusion of law inconsistent with those entered by the Board is denied.

Certification is denied.

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