

Treatment Facilities Committee

September 10, 2007

The TFC has committed themselves to working on the goals listed below as taken from the General Service Treatment Facility Workbook and other service resources:

1. Make presentations to Treatment Facilities on what AA is and what AA is not, offer Temporary Contact services to assist clients leaving facilities and asking for assistance to become acquainted with AA in their home neighborhoods, and offer follow-up presentations to the facilities every four months or as requested by the facility.
2. Set up TF literature displays and videos at Treatment Facility presentations, Conventions, and Area Meetings. This is done in an effort to inform TF clients and staff, increase the volunteer base of the Temporary Contact List, and acquaint the fellowship with what MSCA and GSO services are available. In particular we want to show the Hope Video which does an excellent job in a first person narrative way describing What AA is and What AA is not, what open and closed meetings are, what a sponsor is, what AA's primary purpose is, and describes in both a specific and a general way about the AA program and fellowship.
3. Create a list of Treatment Facilities that would include Treatment Facilities in Area 9 Districts (23 of them), and list them by their District locations. To do this the TFC needs the help of all the districts in the MSCA to contribute their lists.
4. We have a TFC liaison to MSCA Committees to assist in our cooperation with their service efforts. These would include but not be excluded to: Correctional Facilities, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and Public Information Committees.
5. Create TF Presentation Service Pieces or Guides (based on the TF Workbook and local experience from other Treatment Facility Committees in MSCA and other Areas) for MSCA Districts to use in developing their TFC programs. We are seeking to develop web pages to be such a resource for District TFC's to develop a Temporary Contact lists and TF Presentations.
6. Develop and maintain Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap program in providing a link to the national network of Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap services. This would be done by maintaining and developing the list that is already in use.
7. Maintain a liaison relationship with the Hospitals and Institutions Intergroup (HIIG) Committee of Southern California. As the TFC Chair I have been attending the HIIG Committee meetings regularly and am seeking to continue a partnership in service. I feel it is important for MSCA to respond to HIIG's recent resolve to work with General Service. I am becoming familiar with their service history and commitment of this H & I outreach service, how they function, and how we can cooperate with their efforts.
8. Write to the General Service Office with additional suggestions as they have requested. The TFC is maintaining contact with GSO and BTG service officers. Recently the GSO TFC wrote describing their intentions to provide a pool of experience as a resource for Areas and Districts and encouraging TFC Service Committees to write and share what they're doing in their service work.

Within the MSCA TF Committee there are several job positions: Chair, Alternate Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Area Committee Liaison, Convention and Local Services Liaison, Web Page Development Liaison, and Temporary Contact Liaison. Please email, call, or show up to our next TFC meeting, we meet every month from 10:15 to 11:30 mornings at monthly Area 09 events (Assemblies and ASCs). As the above goals are being sought by the MSCA TFC it also wants to become a resource for all District Treatment Facility Committees in MSCA to assist them in their efforts to provide services to: present information to treatment facilities in their location, assist in setting up temporary contact arrangements when asked, and become a resource to the AA Groups in their neighborhoods.

We are looking to districts to provide a pragmatic, working approach to addressing the TFC services listed above. Three Districts are currently represented at the monthly Area TFC Committee meetings and are active in making contact with TFs in their neighborhoods. They have been able to approach and obtain invitations from Treatment facilities to arrange presentations. Districts have found that there is interest from both staff and clients of the Treatment Facilities contacted. It was reported that During presentations the presenters fielded questions and if the number of questions were a gauge of the staff and clients' interest, the presentations were well received. The district presenters have been often asked by the Treatment Facility if they could come on a monthly basis

A little personal experience: At PRAASA this TFC member learned much from the numbered and varied examples of what service work in Treatment Facility Committees would look like. AA was portrayed as a fellowship that is creative, energetic and pragmatic. The examples of how contacts were made and developed included many types of service configurations in Central Offices, Intergroups, Districts, Areas, BTG Committees, and Contact Upon Release Committees. It appears that his to be a good sign that Treatment Facilities Committees by any other name will continue to be of useful service.

The April 2006 the General Service Conference recommended that the scope of the Conference on Treatment Facilities read:

“The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments, and to set up means of ‘bridging the gap’ from the facility to the A.A. community.”

Come on down and join us, or should I say just visit us... and let us know what you're doing to reach out to the Treatment Facilities in your neighborhood, or come out to volunteer to be a Temporary Contact. Want to know more?

**Treatment Facilities Committee
Mid-Southern California Area 09**