

Round Table Topic: Bridging the Gap (BTG)

Date: 2 March 2019

Moderator: Not identified **Secretary:** Cindy A

Identified Topics:

1. **Orientation workshop:** Go through your Area to find out where yours would be. Lynn with Area 09 is the Area and District Chair. They formed a treatment facilities committee. They use BTG pamphlet for baseline information for their website. They get people to join the committee to develop a pool of people, starting with an orientation. BTGWW.org has a wealth of information. Area 06 is small, with maybe six blue cards per year, and they meet with them. Area 07 has a workbook copied from Coastal CNCA, Area 06, which they used as a template for orientation.

2. **Is BTG for Treatment Centers or is it also for Corrections and jails?** We would take meetings into rehabs and would leave with sponsees. These visits are very different than going into jails, as you cannot leave with contact information, so you would leave contacts up to the patient. If they want to be their first contact, it is up to them. It's up to the Area and the facility to establish an understanding that's been established. Both sides need to know the rules. H & I takes care of jails and clearances. For BTG, it's in the early stages. So, in Area 09, in Orange County we're dealing with treatment facilities because there are a lot of them. Many groups don't know about BTG, having never heard of it. We need to talk more about BTG. People need to learn what it is and need to communicate to Groups and Districts. We need to get the message out, how to volunteer, and in Spanish.

3. **How do you get your program started at the Area level?** You need a pool of 100 people before you offer this. Matt from Santa Cruz had many blue cards and a few contacts followed up. You need fewer people than you may think. Districts tag onto H & I meetings and give presentations at the end of the H & I presentation. The BTG Chair at the Area level is a liaison for the District BTG Chairs. The Districts give presentations. It is important to have each District have a BTG Chair to encourage BTG involvement at the Group level. People who are former inmates are good candidates for BTG. Scott, 20 years in AA, shared that H & I knows who is coming out. They would provide the Group with the inmate's number who would then call the person.

4. **How can we get inmate services or recovery centers to call us back?** Some have gone through H & I and talked to professionals about bringing BTG into their facilities and never received returned calls. There is a huge gap. They say they want BTG in their jails but do not respond. Area 06 lost a few facilities that do not want AA to come back to their facilities. They performed an audit and found that members were not showing up at the facilities, that they were not doing what they said they would do. Another person shared they were a liaison with H & I, with a warm referral to see if they could establish a relationship.