

January Berkshire Institutions Meeting held on 1/17

Chaula here, your 2018 Chair. In absence of a co-chair or secretary, all of the correspondence must be managed by your's truly. Hence, I do not have a verbatim of last month's meeting. And tomorrow night, I find I will be attending the February meeting in Holyoke, so let me just bring you up to speed.

Liaisons

We still have no committee liaison's to McGee Detox or Berkshire County House of Correction. I am currently communicating with all the McGee meeting sponsors and reconfirming who or what groups are sponsoring which meetings and exactly who are the current contacts for those groups. We have had 2 no shows and one mix up where a CSS substitute ended up at McGee on a tuesday night instead of CSS and the McGee sponsor and co-sponsor went home. CSS had no meeting that nite. And the facilities are creating signage to try to circumvent that from occurring again.

We still have no BCHC liaison, but our main staff contact at the facility has retired and another AA member/staff, known to this writer, is now providing some of the coordination which we have been lacking. We are scheduled to meet in the coming week. We plan to initiate a drive to create an AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST that meeting sponsors can utilize to bring a wider variety of speakers in to the facility. To do this, the committee will facilitate local AA members to complete CORI checks and get available, CORI'd speakers on a call list that will be made available to the sponsors. We also will address institution of a Bridging the Gap program at the facility.

We are also seeking a Jones II Behavioral Health Liaison.

Open Meetings in need of sponsors:

Jones II Behavioral Health Unit BMC 2nd Floor Warriner Pavillion:
11 am on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th Saturdays are all open
3rd and 4th Sundays at 10 am are open

Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to take single meetings. the Sub and Fill in List is invaluable to our filling these open commitments!

McGee Detox

There are several groups struggling to cover commitments, especially on the weekends (Saturday night and sunday 11 am). If your group wants a McGee commitment, we can get you one.

Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) 1st Floor Warriner BMC
4th Tuesday 7pm Open

Tymerlyn Heights Skilled Nursing in Great Barrington, time negotiable

Literature

Please remind your home group members that monies donated to the Area 31 Institutions Committee by your group treasurer come back to us in the form of literature provided by the committee to all the facilities in Berkshire County. It is not a dollar for dollar match. But when we need literature and area 31 where and whens we usually can get it from the area.

We still welcome donations of literature directly to facilities from individuals and groups. the committee would like to thank the Egremont Group for their generous donation of a box of big books to the McGee Detox. Also would like to acknowledge the Southern Berkshire Group who have made regular donations of pamphlet literature to the unit whenever they put on a meeting there.

We have a special request for new copies of Daily Reflections for the Bekshire County House of Correction. This makes good sense as prisoners are there for a long time. These books are more expensive than the Big Book at 10.25 a piece. I believe the come in boxes of 40 which would then be over 400\$!

I will ask the area 31 committee if they can sometimes give us daily reflections, but have never seen that book in the mix of books they give us. If any local group wants to make the donation of some of that title (must be in new condition) please contact Chaula before making the purchase.

Timberlyn Heights Skilled Nursing Facility

....which serves many patients with head injuries secondary to alcohol use, causing mobility challenges and behavioral issues..... is seeking members wishing to put on an institutions meeting at their facility. The facility owns a handicapped bus and has skilled personnel to operate said bus, which is usually used to transport patients to medical appts. This writer has communicated with staff and provided list of open, lunchtime, WC accessible meetings they can bring patients to. However, the facility prefers to have AA come in. Naturally. We have many meetings to be covered by few sponsors and it may take a while to fill this request. In the meantime, staff is willing to have a CPC presentation to the facility to educate staff on what AA does and doesn't do, etc.... have passed the contact info to Frank M, current CPC chair.

On-going discussion re: Bringing CPC presentation to Berkshire Medical Center In-patient Behavioral and Addictions treatment unit. Add to this a NEW department of a half dozen skilled MDs and addictions professionals who now are mobile in the facility addressing the needs of patients who have been admitted for medical reasons secondary to, or primarily due to their alcoholism. This writer had a conversation with our McGee Detox staff contact who would love to have CPC come in. She had an older letter from 2017 chair Rich J. I gave her updated contact info for current chair Frank M and told her the plan to try to create a large scale presentation in the amphitheater for all of the in-patient behavioral unit staff. Our contact from Jones II is also on board for this. Historically, the management has not favored bringing in a presentation; however the new mobile addictions unit just being formed, this may be an opportune time to re-approach the upper management of the facility.

There is probably more. Mostly it is the fact that we are filling close to 70 meetings per month with only 3-5 attending the monthly committee meetings, usually with only 1 IGR and no Liaisons or secretary. It is akin to feeding the multitude with 5 fish and 7 loaves..... [sic]

Our next committee meeting will be on Weds, Feb 21, 7pm at Berkshire Intergroup office, 152 North Street, 3rd Fl suite 30C, Pittsfield. This is just upstairs from Pancho's restaurant and some of us meet,

prior to the meeting, for fellowship and food at Pancho's. If you want to meet early, come at 5:30.

Please spread the word that the committee needs support and stress that this is our MAIN pathway in 21st century 12 step work! Intergroup office is slow, but hospital and prison meetings are hopping and full of potential sponsees and new home group members!

Questions or concerns? Contact Chaula, current Berkshire Area Chair ###-###-####

And thank you for your service.