

Berkshire Institutions Committee Mtng 3/21/18

The committee welcomes Jessica L, rolling in as the Institutions Group Representative for the RAY OF HOPE BB group in Lee. They hold the 2nd Sunday Commitment at CSS.

The committee welcomes Jennifer D who is rolling in as the 5th Sunday 7pm CSS chair.

The committee wishes to thank Christian S, Thea B, Eric R, Rich L, Lona B, Eddie B, Ned R, Mark M, Bussy M, Pat P, Brian C, Molly M, Matt T, and all the volunteers on our Last Minute Fiil-in and Speaker Sub list. These members have been filling our open, orphaned meetings on a per meeting basis for many months.

That said, we do have OPEN COMMITMENTS that need to be sponsored by AA groups or individual members. They are as follow:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th Saturdays 11 am at Jones II, BMC
3rd & 4th Sundays 10 am at Jones II, BMC
4th Tuesday 7pm CSS (clinical stabilization services) BMC
5th Sunday 7pm CSS
2nd & 5th Saturday 7pm MCGee Detox (these 2 currently held by Sheffield 12&12 who seek to roll out of the commitment.)

The only complaint from one of our facilities this month was a single No-show last Monday at McGee Detox. A reminder to all groups that we have a LAST MINUTE fill in list or you might call it a speaker's bureau. This is a list of about 80 experienced AA members in the county who are available should you run into problems covering your commitment or should you simply need a 2nd person to go on a commitment.

We are fortunate indeed to now have one of our former committee members working at Berkshire County House of Correction. We are stream-lining the CORI process. The committee now has copies of CORI forms and can provide one, IF you have interest in speaking at the prison. These names and your contact info will then be given to our members who bring meetings into the prison who can then call you to have you speak at inmate meetings.

Berkshire County House of Correction has given our committee the go-ahead to start CORI-checking women to speak at the prison. There are many rules, as some of you may be aware, that will impact women speakers. A woman may only go in accompanied by a male. There are many restrictions on dress code, no jewelry, etc.... which may impact women more than men. The committee has a list of restrictions that can be supplied upon request. So please spread the word. And come to the committee meeting if you need any of these materials.

Berkshire County House of Correction is now working with the Cooperation with Professionals Committee chair, Frank M, to bring a CPC event in to the facility to illuminate Staff.

There is now a similar dialogue to create a CPC event for BMC substance abuse and mental health facilities this year. More to follow.

Chaula H goes every 1st Wednesday to the Area 31 Institutions meeting at Providence Hospital in Holyoke. All are welcome to go along for the ride. The meeting is very large and well-attended. She

returns with literature for the 70 meetings per month that our committee sponsors at Berkshire County House of Correction, BMC and elsewhere. This literature is paid for by your group's generous donations in the meeting basket. Our thanks to the groups for your continued support. The committee also accepts donations of gently used Grapevines, pamphlets, or book literature. Please bring to the monthly committee meeting.

We continue to seek volunteers for our "Speaker's Bureau" (last minute fill ins and sub-list) and now are seeking to CORI check as many of these volunteers as possible to provide relief not only to meetings in the clinical treatment setting, but also to the faithful volunteers who have been bringing meetings to Berkshire House of Correction. We will have blank CORI forms and rules and regs at our monthly meeting.

If you sponsor an institutions commitment, you will be entitled to a copy of this list to be used to obtain speakers for your meeting. Remember that we never do 12th step work alone? A special request..... If you go on a commitment, please bring a newcomer. If they are well- behaved, invite them to come along to observe. If they have 6 months, invite them to speak. If they have a year or more, enjoyed and have done a decent job speaking, please bring them to the committee meeting and encourage them to sponsor an institutions commitment! Institutions work is our MAIN source of new AA members! If we don't make this a priority, there will be no one to continue this important 12-step work when we go to the big meeting in the sky!

Our next Berkshire Institutions Committee meeting is on the 3rd Wednesday, April 18th, 7pm, Berkshire Intergroup office. 152 North Street, elevator to 3rd Floor, Suite 30C above Pancho's Restaurant. Some of us meet at 5:30 for a meal and fellowship before the committee meeting. Won't you join us?

For information, literature, questions, commitments, observation, fill ins, please come to the meeting or contact the current chair: Chaula H berkshireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com

And thank you for your service.