

## **Berkshire Institutions Committee Meeting May 16th, 2018**

The meeting convened at 7:10 pm with 4 present. Bill P, past chair; Ashley E, interested observer; Michal S, IGR Watch Your Step Group Housatonic; and Chaula H, Chair.

Clarified policies regarding 6 months sobriety to speak at any meeting, 1 year to chair or sponsor a meeting. 90 Days to observe, accompanied by committee chair or her designee at Jones II meeting only. CSS and McGee Detox requested no observers unless they fill above sobriety requirement and are training with an outgoing meeting sponsor to roll into meeting sponsorship.

There was much discussion about this at tonight's meeting. We also discussed some of the unsettling events that have occurred, mostly on CSS unit, and the resistance on their part to having a CPC presentation. Since staff are known to Bill and Chaula, it was suggested that the two, who have both been on CPC committee in the past, go and meet with the unit supervisors and discuss this and other issues impacting smooth running of meetings at the units. Tabled till next month.

CSS: Jim G / BLT rolled out this month from CSS 1st, 3rd, 5th Fridays after several no shows in last few months. 1st Friday Peter P will roll in, 3rd Friday, Sean P rolling in, and 5th Friday, Diane C will roll in on behalf of Northern Berkshire Group in Williamstown, but the group only committed through 12/31/18). No problems have been reported there, aside from the no show earlier this month.

McGee:

There was a no show (Southern Berkshire Group) at McGee on the First Tuesday. The group has no IGR and the Chair person forgot to check the calendar to announce. Chaula will be going there tomorrow to bring literature and meet with staff liaison. Sheffield 12&12 has rolled out of their 5th Saturday Commitment at McGee. Dan D has rolled in on behalf of Northern Berkshire Group, Williamstown, but only committed through 12/31/18

Jones II

We still have 6 open meetings there without sponsors. Much discussion at tonight's meeting about why it is so difficult to fill. The only IGR in the room, from south county, expressed that....she does not have the experience of mental illness and therefore is not comfortable with chairing that meeting, although she has gone with more experienced chairs in the past. Those of us with greater level of comfort expressed using MEDICATION pamphlet, stressing that all are welcome at OPEN AA meetings and clarifying to patients that designation. Also that it is simply an AA meeting and can be chaired the same way. But it does require a soft touch. Kindness, calmness, as often the patients are more disturbed, sedated, or restless than in a detox.

Current Jones openings are:

3rd, 4th Sundays at 10 am

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays 11 am

Bill P stepped up to chair 3 open dates in June and Chaula will take 2. Patrick B and Jessica L (not present tonight) are taking the remaining open dates in June. If we are able to find new meeting sponsor we will let subs know and get the new roll ins started asap.

Berkshire County House of Correction

1st Monday 6:30 pm Bound Overs meeting has opened up. Committee has identified CORI'd subs from speakers bureau to cover on 6/4/18. (David H and Brian C) And we will continue to seek replacement

sponsors.

Discussed important role of GROUP IGRs in groups having on-going sponsor commitments, also of the committee chair freeing up from subbing meetings so she can go to inactive groups' business meetings to inspire more participation. It is not terribly effective going to intergroup meetings and GSR meetings where all the people there already have a vigorous service commitment. Best to take the matter directly to groups. There are, after all, 70 AA meetings a month in Berkshire County, and guess what? There are about that many institutions meetings. So, it stands to reason that if each group took a commitment, they would all be filled! Group commitments engender service sponsorship, which makes the group even stronger.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 with Responsibility Pledge.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday June 20th at 7 pm , Berkshire Intergroup Office, 152 North Street, elevator to 3rd Floor, suite 30C, Pittsfield. Right above Pancho's Restaurant, in fact.... You can meet us for dinner and fellowship at Pancho's at 5:30. They have BANGING soft tacos!

Any issues or concerns please contact Chaula H email [berkshireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted Chaula H