

## **Berkshire Institutions Committee Meeting on 7/18/18**

Committee last met at Berkshire Intergroup office on Weds July 18th after dinner at Pancho's.

7 attending.

The Committee welcomed Peter M the new Institutions Rep for BERKSHIRE GROUP, meeting Weds PM at the Crane Center and Nick M, new Institutions Rep for Thursday Nite Lenox Big Book Step Group.

Also present was Ashley E representing Tuesday night Pittsfield Women's Step group, Bill P (former committee chair) representing SOS group, and Patrick B, Intergroup Office Mgr.

Much of the meeting covered orientation to guidelines, service position roles, and how new reps serve their groups on the committee.

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### **CURRENT OPEN MEETINGS**

(Meetings that are not currently sponsored by individuals or groups):

McGee Detox, BMC 1st and 2nd Tuesday of EVEN MONTHS at 7pm. (Tues Aug 7 desperately in need of a sub! The 14th is already subbed)

Jones II Behavioral Health Unit BMC 2nd and 3rd Saturdays at 11 am remain open  
(We are seeking a last minute sub for saturday, Aug. 11. August 18 is already subbed out)

CSS Clinical Stabilization Services, BMC 3rd Fridays at 7pm  
(August 17 is being covered by a sub)

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Service Workshop "CARRYING THE MESSAGE INSIDE INSTITUTIONS AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES will be presented by the GSRs (General Service Reps) of District 3 (Berkshire County) on Saturday, September 8th from 9am - 12 noon with A Pizza Luncheon to follow. Admission is Free. Location: Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street, Lenox.

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### **On-going needs Berkshire Institutions Committee**

#### **Institutions Group Reps**

To fill all our Committee service positions and encourage regular rotation of committee leadership, we need a committed group of Institutions Group Reps to attend regularly. Ideally, we should have 1 rep for every group that now holds an institutions commitment. There are 70 institutions commitments per month in Berkshire County and it is a LOT if it must be overseen by a committee of 1 person. This writer, the chair of Berkshire Institutions Committee, currently has no co-chair, secretary, or facility liaisons to assist with the administrative work of coordinating committee activities, attending Area 31, District 3, W MA institutions, and Berkshire Intergroup meetings, let alone going to the business meetings of various groups in a large geographic area. On December 31, the committee chair will rotate

out of her position and if there is no one on the committee with commensurate experience to rotate in..... So it is urgently important for you to breach this subject with your home group.

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#### Literature

All group contributions to Western MA Institutions Committee, PO Box 1391, Holyoke, MA 01041-1391 comes back to the Berkshires in the form of books, meeting lists, and pamphlet information that is distributed to patients and inmates at BMC, Berkshire County House of Correction and other facilities. The Berkshire Institutions Committee also accepts contributions of gently used or new literature directly at our monthly meeting. Many groups purchase packets of literature specifically to bring with them to their commitment each month. Your contributions are needed and appreciated!

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#### Last Minute Fill-ins, Subs, and speakers Bureau

Anyone who loves this work but is frustrated because they are unable to make a regular, monthly commitment is welcome to join our speaker's bureau. This is a list of experienced AA members who are available on a last minute basis to sub out unsponsored commitments or in case of illness. We are now processing CORI checks for Berkshire County House of Correction and have made a list of those with cleared CORIs available to staff at the facility so they can fill last minute cancellations.

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#### Correspondence with Inmates in Correctional Facilities

AA World Service office disclosed, recently, that there are over male 100 prison inmates awaiting AA pen pals. this is a much needed service AA provides to inmates in prison who often have NO AA meeting offered by their facility. Please encourage group members to fill this need by stocking the pamphlet Correspondence with Prisoners in Correctional facilities.

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August 29, Weds, 6:30 pm Special Open Speaker meeting at Hillcrest Commons on Valentine Road in Pittsfield. It has been decided that the committee will put on a 3 speaker meeting every few months at this facility where a regular commitment has not been successful after several attempts, due to rotating patients, loss of interest, etc..... Anyone who can attend as a greeter, coffeemaker, speaker or member to be present in the room, please contact the committee.

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Our next Berkshire Institutions Committee Meeting will be on August 15th, 7pm at Berkshire Intergroup Office, 152 North Street, elevator to 3rd floor, Suite 30C, above Pancho's Restaurant in Pittsfield. Some of us meet early for dinner downstairs at Pancho's from 5:30 pm until meeting time. Hope you can join us.

For information or questions, contact Committee Chair.

Respectfully submitted Chaula H [berkshireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com)