

Berkshire Institutions Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/19/2018

Hello all and happy holidays. This is going to be brief. some thoughts and conclusions from Wednesdays meetings. IGRs were present from WATCH YOUR STEPGROUP (Housatonic), KISS Nooner (GB), THURS BB STEP (Lenox) Also past chair Bill P and Connell McG who was unanimously voted to be the new chair for Berkshire Institutions beginning January 1. The transition is in progress. After 1/1/19 it will be Connell who will answer all correspondence at this email.

None of the IGRs present had any difficulties to report, regarding their group commitments.

José A the IGR from KISS Nooner in GB stepped up to be the committee Secretary. Bill P will be supporting Connell as he moves into his position. They also hope to get the support of previous committee chairs to strengthen the committee.

Facility Liaisons are needed for all 3 units at Berkshire Medical Center and Berkshire County House of Correction. Duties include filling last minute cancellation at the appointed facility, delivering literature once a month to that same facility (that is picked up by Connell at the monthly W. MA institutions committee on the first weds. and handling last minute problems such as no shows (i.e. getting subs).

There is a plan to start servicing a number of long term care facilities in Berkshire County and it was decided that a long term care liaison for north and for south county would improve smoothe running of those meetings (as most of the current facilities are in central county) It seems that many long term care facilities are beginning to receive alcoholic patients who are currently detoxing and many are implementing clinical counseling for these patients.

It has come to the committee's attention that Berkshire Medical Center has also instituted a SUDS TEAM (Substance Abuse Disorder) that is actively working with medical patients who are in hospital for other reasons, but who start showing symptoms of alcohol or drug withdrawal during their admission. The team consists of a very experienced nurse practitioner and a certified alcohol and substance counselor, who work with the detoxing patient and move them to McGee or CSS or Jones, when appropriate. They are now receiving literature from this committee. The SUDS team is headquartered in the counseling office on McGee unit and Connie Flynn, NP is directing.

The following EXISTING commitments are still in need of sponsorship by either AA group or individual....

Jones II 3rd Sunday 10 am

Jones II 3rd Saturday 11 am

McGee Detox 3rd Saturday 7pm

CSS Clinical Stabilization Services 2nd and 4th Fridays 7pm

These meetings are currently being covered by temporary volunteer subs. If you or anyone you know would like to sponsor one of these monthly commitments or be placed on a temporary sub speaker list, to cover single meetings as needed, please contact the committee at this email.

3rd Saturday McGee Jan 19, 3rd Sunday Jones 1/20, and 4th Friday CSS 1/25 are yet uncovered in

January. If you can pitch in and cover one of these orphans, please contact us.

There certainly seems to be a growing substance abuse and Alcohol addiction problem becoming evident across all of the facilities we serve. If your group has a commitment, please consider bringing gently used literature, meeting lists, grapevines when you go on commitments. you can also donate literature to the committee if you have a surplus in your group coffers. That can be brought to the committee meeting on the 3rd weds or by contacting the chair at this email.

I want to thank all of you who have served the needs of our patients and resident inmates in the last year. We cannot keep what we have if we don't give it away and miraculously, we have stayed sober this year, through the service we have rendered. So I think it must be working, because....so far, the doors are still open and people are still hearing the message of hope that you all bring. Many blessings of the season to you all.

Your's in Service,
Chaula H