

AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1391
HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391

BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday October 7nd, 2020

7 Members were in attendance.

Charlie opened the meeting at 7:05 with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the guidelines of the committee.

Charlie read the tradition of the month, and the concept of the month.

Introductions of the committee members.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

No new IGRs

Secretary's Report: Dan read the minutes of the September meeting. There were no amendments or additions.

Treasurer's Report - Andy was not present to give a report, but shared the following with the committee. Report accepted, seconded, and passed.

BTG - Jeff was present. Nothing to report.

Liaison - No one was present for the report.

Librarian - Mitch was not present for the report.

Berkshires - Connell was here to give a report. Zoom meetings have begun in the units. The first virtual meeting at the jail is tonight. There were several technical hurdles identified and overcome. Connell chaired the first Zoom meeting at McGee and it was a success. Meeting sponsors were slow to respond... only 5 of 17 McGee meeting sponsors replied. Luckily many meetings at McGee are covered by some of the handful that replied. It looks as if the meeting sponsors will have to provide the Zoom account for the commitments. Navigating whose account will be used, how and when the login is attained will take some time to figure out. Interestingly, detox residents currently cannot be seen (camera off for privacy reasons) and

their mic was broken, so the meeting chair was speaking to a blank screen. But, some of these issues will be overcome in time.

From Charlie: The account and login information for tonight's meeting will be used for the next two months' Institutions meetings. Liaison news: we have a situation in that no one has stepped up to take a virtual commitment at Mill Street. The facility remains interested in having virtual commitments. Providence CSS now wants to have in-person commitments, two person maximum, with screening, and masks. Beginning with one meeting per week at first. Connell notes that state guidelines stipulate maximum ten people per 1000 square foot room. We do not know if this is the protocol Providence plans to observe. We do know that patients at the facility are checked for temperature and other risk factors regularly. Connell also advises that AAs going into facilities may want to strongly consider wearing an N95 mask.

Open discussion of meeting issues No issues.

Area Delegate - No one was present to give a report.

Area Chair - Steve was here to offer a report. 10/18 10-11:30 AM Grapevine Zoom workshop, login info on the website 10/17 at 11:00 AM District 3 workshop. District 4 workshop tentatively 12/5. Intergroup is meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Please get the word out that the Intergroup meeting is being held each month. The Area will be holding its Service Manual meeting 10/21. There will not be regular area committee meeting this month due to fall assembly, which will be on 10/24 1-5PM for a mini-conference. Several topics of discussion will involve language of the literature. There will also be a Concept meeting this month via Zoom. There is now a PAYPAL button on the area website, that allows contributions to be made online. Be aware that there is a service charge that will be added by PayPal. We have a few new committee members and chairs. NECYPAA has decided to switch their event to virtual, more information to follow. When committees turn minutes in to the area, they must be in some editable format so that the area can redact private information.

ROLL OUTS -

None.

ROLL INS -

None.

OLD BUSINESS -

From Charlie, last meeting: Regarding quorum, our guidelines are not specific as to the number of people (IGRs) who must be present for a vote. The guidelines might be read to suggest that the majority (“one half plus one”) could be counted of the members present at the time of the vote, or counted at the time the motion was put forward (in this specific case, the number in attendance at the March meeting was 43, meaning that 23 votes would be needed). One alternative to in-person voting at Providence discussed is the possibility of holding an outdoor in-person meeting with a simultaneous on-line component. Connell also reminded us that participation in a Zoom meeting only requires a telephone; anyone with a phone can connect.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to spend \$632.94 on books. Approved.

Motion to adjourn.

Next meeting will be on November 4th.

Your 2020 Institution Committee

Chair	Charlie	email: institutions@area31aa.org
Co-Chair	Michelle	
Secretary	Dan H.	
Treasurer	Andy	
Liaison	Cody	
Co-Liaison	Andy	
Librarian	Mitch	

Respectfully submitted,

Dan H.
Scribe Pro Tem

Contact information for Bridging the Gap:

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