

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

BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday December 1st, 2021

16 members were in attendance in person and virtually.

Andrew opened the meeting at 7:00 with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the guidelines of the committee. Mitch read the tradition of the month, and Dan the concept of the month.

Introductions of the committee members.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

Joe, Not So Young People's Group
Mark, Friday Night Wilbraham Group

Secretary's Report: Dan was present to read the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Mitch was not present to give a report in person.

● Ending Balance from Prev.	\$900.00
● Total donations	\$1038.72
● Expenses	\$130.00
● Ending balance for book purchases	\$908.72
● Ending Balance to Carry (reserve)	\$900.00

BTG – Jeff was not present to give a report.

Liaison – Tyler was present to give a report. He reached out to the Chicopee Women's Jail, where the coordinator had just returned from vacation. He will follow up to confirm plans for reopening commitments there. Mike at the Ludlow Section 35 facility will be providing a list of current commitment holders so that we can fill in our roster and identify any openings. Carlson Detox will be looking to restart

commitments after the New Years holiday. In all, 10 facilities in total were contacted, and of these one, Farren Hospital, has closed permanently.

Librarian – Chris was not present to give a report.

Berkshires – Bronwyn was not present to give a report.

Open discussion of meeting issues

Joe, Not So Young People's Group, asked if books are available for Mira Vista commitments. Since the commitment is not through the Institutions Committee, we do not provide literature.

Area Delegate – Paul, our delegate, was here to give a report. "My first commitment 38 years ago was through Institutions to the Hampshire County Jail. It is good to be part of tonight's meeting. I was part of the General Service Conference this year. The proceedings are available in print form here at the meeting, or by email at delegate@area31aa.org. One item of interest was a plan to revise literature directed to members behind the walls of correctional institutions to change the word "Inmate" to "person in custody". Interestingly, the first vote failed to pass, but it was explained that the state of Oregon had banned literature that contained the word "inmate" from going into any prison, and that flipped the vote. In this month's Grapevine there is an excellent story about a member behind bars. "CARRY THE MESSAGE" is a grapevine service that allows regular members to contribute a grapevine subscription for people behind bars. I also have guidelines for commitments in institutions put together by AA World Services available [these will be included in this month's Institutions email]. AA has come up with a new PO box for contributions (PO BOX 2407 JAMES A FARLEY STATION, NY, NY 10116-2407). The full text of the big book is now available on CD audio for accessibility-challenged members. This year, at nine months in, we are right on budget. Contributions are only off by 1% at three quarters of the way into the year. The Area Committee has moved to United Methodist Church, Carew Street, South Hadley. There is a new service manual available, \$4 in print, or downloadable for free [also attached to the email]. This year at the General Service Conference there was the largest number of agenda items ever to be voted on (175 items). There is also a new podcast, the AA Grapevine online. The Mass State Convention will be live this coming year 9-11 November 2022."

CPC - The CPC chair was not present to give a report.

ROLL OUTS – None.

ROLL INS – None.

Jax - Tuesdays at Franklin Recovery
Chris B - 4th and 5th Fridays at Franklin Recovery

OLD BUSINESS -

Gary W., Clinical Director of the adolescent substance abuse program Goodwin House in Chicopee came to the meeting to find out how to secure commitments through the Committee for his facility. He sent a formal letter, per Committee guidelines, but the letter was not received via email. He will send a hard copy for next month's meeting.

Franklin County House of Corrections has sent a letter requesting a commitment on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday at 7:00. We received the letter, read, and voted to include one opening in the schedule with an open day of the week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Both the Treasurer and Bridging the Gap Coordinator positions on the committee are open. There was a request for nominees at the meeting, but no takers. Mark asked if we can list open "alternate" positions on the open meeting list. Dan will investigate.

The next meeting will be on January 5th in person at 474 Pleasant Street.

Your 2022 Institution Committee

Chair	Andy
Co-Chair	Jim R.
Secretary	Jax
Treasurer	Mitch
BTG	
Liaison	Tyler F.
Co-Liaison	
Librarian	Chris T.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan H.
Scribe Pro Tem

Contact information for Bridging the Gap:

Bridging the Gap
C/O Western Mass. Institutions Committee
PO Box 1391
Holyoke, MA 01040
Bridgethegap31@yahoo.com
1-888-240-6991

OPEN COMMITMENTS		
Institution	Day	Time
Franklin County (M)	Tue or Thu or Sat	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1st/2nd/3rd Mon	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1st Tuesday	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	Tue	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1 Wed.	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	3 Wed.	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	2&4 Wed	7:00 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	Tuesday	6:00 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	3rd Monday	6:30 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	1st Wed	6:00 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	2nd Wed	6:00 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	4th Wed	6:00 PM
Mill Street (M) Spanish VIRTUAL	Monday	7:00 PM

OPEN ALTERNATE SLOTS		
Institution	Day	Time
BCHC (M) VIRTUAL	Wed Week D	6:30 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	1st Friday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	2nd Friday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	3rd Friday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	4th Friday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	1st Saturday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	2nd Saturday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	3rd Saturday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	4th Saturday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS VIRTUAL	5th Saturday	7:00 PM
BMC McGee Unit VIRTUAL	Tuesdays (Odd Months)	7:00 PM
BMC McGee Unit VIRTUAL	1st Thursday	7:00 PM
BMC McGee Unit VIRTUAL	2nd Thursday	7:00 PM
BMC McGee Unit VIRTUAL	3rd Thursday	7:00 PM
BMC McGee Unit VIRTUAL	4th Thursday	7:00 PM
BMC McGee Unit VIRTUAL	5th Thursday	7:00 PM
Franklin County (M)	Tue or Thu or Sat	7:00 PM
Franklin County (M)	Wed	6:00 AM
Franklin Medical Center	Sun	5:45 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	Tuesday	7:00 PM

Franklin RC / Northern HC	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	4th/5th Friday	7:00 PM
Hope Center Coed	1st & 3rd Sun.	6:30 PM
Hope Center Coed	2nd Sun.	6:30 PM
Hope Center Coed	4th, 5th Sun.	6:30 PM
Hope Center Coed	3rd Monday	6:30 PM
Hope Center Coed	1st, 3rd, 5th Friday	6:30 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1st Sun	6:30 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	2nd Sun	7:00 AM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	3rd Sun	6:30 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	4th Sun	6:30 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1st/2nd/3rd Mon	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	4th Monday	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1st Tuesday	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	Tue	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	Last Tue	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	1 Wed.	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	3 Wed.	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M) VIRTUAL	2&4 Wed	7:00 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	Tuesday	6:00 PM
Mill Street (W) VIRTUAL	3rd Monday	6:30 PM
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