



BRIDGING

the Gap

BRIDGE THE GAP PROGRAM

A separate Service Committee for Oklahoma Area.

- OBJECT:** To bridge the gap from any facility to Alcoholics Anonymous.
- PURPOSE:** Two fold-1st to provide the client with a temporary contact for recovery in A.A.-second to inform the client about our "Singleness of Purpose" (Alcohol) and what A.A. 'does and does not do'.
- HISTORY:** The program began in Oklahoma by past delegate Leroy B., in 1979. This proved to be so successful, the Oklahoma Area made this a separate Service Committee in 1988.

ORGANIZING THE PROGRAM

1. Select a team of A.A. members-12 to 16 in number. Each member is responsible for holding a meeting when his time comes. Use a rotation plan. Each team member will be responsible for a meeting every 3 to 4 months, depending on the size of the team.
2. Hold the meeting on the facility premises. Time of this meeting is to be agreed upon, usually in the area of 7p.m.
3. Each team member should have at least one year of sobriety. A former client of the facility is good to have on the team, providing he or she has good sobriety and is active in A.A.
4. Mail out the schedule for the team, and make sure that each member has a complete list of all team members, names, addresses and telephone numbers, in case he cannot attend and needs to arrange for a substitute.

A Suggested Meeting Format

1. Open meeting with moment of silent meditation and Serenity Prayer. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference".
2. Identify yourself as an alcoholic, give your dry date and home group and welcome the group to the meeting. Make sure they understand it is an open meeting, that anyone is welcome. Read the A.A. Preamble.

A.A.

**Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.



The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

3. Invite your speakers and the group members to introduce themselves.
4. Explain our purpose: to make sure that anyone who is leaving the facility within the next week or 10 days has an A.A. contact waiting to take them to their first meeting, and to serve as a temporary contact if they need one. Tell them what a contact does.
5. Share about 10 minutes or so on what you were like, what happened and what you are like today as a result of this program. Invite your guest speaker to share if you have one.
6. Hold an A.A. oriented program-not a "drunkalog". Tell them what A.A. has meant to you and what A.A. must mean to them if they are serious about staying sober. Save 10 minutes or so at the end of the program for personal interviews with those who are being released in the next week or 10 days.
7. Interview to find out if they are alcoholics, or dually addicted. (Suggest that straight drug addicts contact N.A.) we use "3 x 5" inch cards (copy attached) to be filled out by the client at the time they are interviewed.

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

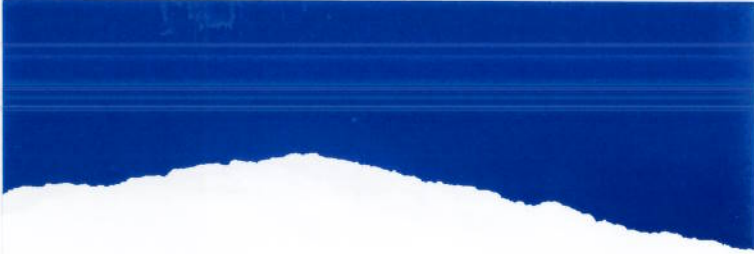
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK _____

AGE _____ SEX _____

DISCHARGE DATE _____

8. Each team member is responsible for the cards he or she receives. These they take home. With the help of the World Directory, if needed, he or she locates a fellow A.A. member to call the party being released on his or her release date and say "I will be by to take you to a meeting." On arrival at the meeting, introduce the newcomer and try to make him or her feel welcome and wanted.

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9. Team members may have to make a few long-distance calls. We, as team members, feel a few long distance calls are much cheaper than liquor.

Resources to obtain A.A. contact for Bridge the Gap patients:

1. A.A. Directory published by General Service Office.
2. Local A.A. Directory published by Intergroup or A.A. Service centers.
3. The District Committee Representative, District Committee Chairman or District Committee. Secretary.
4. Personal acquaintances and contacts in A.A.
5. Your individual A.A. sponsor.
6. Obtain Narcotics Anonymous (NA) phone number for referral.

OTHER INFORMATION:

You need to be very familiar with our 12 TRADITIONS and may wish to read to the clients.

****THE 12 TRADITIONS OF A.A.**

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees, directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principals before personalities.



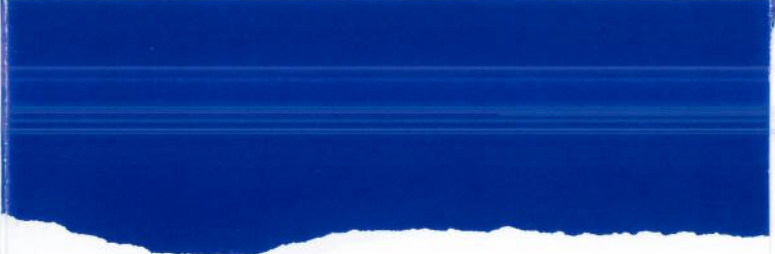
WHAT DOES A.A. DO?

1. A.A. members share their experiences with anyone seeking help with a drinking problem; they give person-to-person service or "sponsorship" to the alcoholic coming to A.A. from any source.
2. The A.A. program, set forth in our Twelve Steps, offers the alcoholic a way to develop a satisfying life without alcohol.
3. This program is discussed at A.A. group meetings.
 - a. Open Speaker meetings- open to alcoholics and non-alcoholics. (attendance at an open meeting is the best way to learn what A.A. is, what it does, and what it does not do.) At speaker meetings, A.A. members "tell their stories". They describe their experiences with alcohol, how they came to A.A., and how their lives have changed as the result of A.A.
 - b. Open discussions meetings-one member speaks briefly about his or her drinking experience, and then leads a discussion on any subject or drinking related problem anyone brings up. (Closed meetings are for A.A.'s or anyone who may have a drinking problem.)
 - c. Closed discussions meetings-conducted just as an open discussions are, but for alcoholics or perspective A.A.'s only.
 - d. Step meetings (usually closed)-discussions or study of one of the Twelve Steps, using our basic text Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - e. Study of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous.

WHAT A.A. DOES NOT DO

1. Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover.
2. Solicit members.
3. Engage in or sponsor research.
4. Join councils of social agencies.
5. Follow up or try to control its members.
6. Make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses.
7. Provide drying-out or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or medical or psychiatric treatment.
8. Offer religious services.
9. Engage in education about alcohol.
10. Provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services.
11. Provide domestic or vocational counseling.
12. Accept money for its services, or any contributions from non-a.a. sources.
13. Provide letters of reference to Parole boards, lawyers, court officials.

Note to chairmen: Some of our best insurance toward friendly relationships with professionals and newcomers is a mutual understanding of what A.A. does and does not do.



Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.

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