

X.

**TREATMENT &
ACCESSIBILITIES**

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 9 a.m. - Noon

Room: William Odelle

Chairperson: Teddy B.-W.

Secretary: Irene D.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 69

Teddy B.-W.

Jane E.

Rob M.

Sue T.

Panel 70

Marilyn F.

Paul H.

Bill L.

Thad N.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' committee report.
- A. Discuss the report on the review of materials related to Bridging the Gap activities.
- B. Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook.
- C. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
- D. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
- E. Review contents of Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook.

Note: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM A: Report on Review of Bridging the Gap Materials

Background Notes:

From the 2019 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities Additional Consideration on the Bridging the Gap Pamphlet:

“The committee considered revising the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap Between Treatment and A.A. Through Contact Programs” to include related corrections activities and agreed with the concept. The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consult with the trustees’ Committee on Corrections to review all treatment and corrections committee literature from G.S.O. related to bridging the gap and temporary contact activities with the following in mind:

- How treatment and corrections material can be updated for currency and inclusion;
- How this material could be combined;
- What material might be discontinued, and;
- How the combined material might be broadened to encompass the full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful.

The committee requested that a report be brought to the 2020 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities committee.

From the July 2019 trustees’ C.P.C./T.A. meeting:

The committee discussed the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities additional committee consideration to include experiences about Bridging the Gap service from correctional facilities. The committee asked the staff secretary to forward the sharing to Publishing Department to create draft language for the November 2019 meeting.

From the November 2019 trustees’ C.P.C./T.A. meeting:

The committee reviewed and discussed the draft language provided by the staff secretary for the “Bridging the Gap” pamphlet and other service material for

Bridging the Gap service. The draft includes language describing Bridging the Gap service from correctional facilities and inclusive language to describe alcoholics that may request this service. The committee asked the secretary to continue to work with the Publishing Department and bring back a revised draft to the February 2020 meeting.

From the February 2020 trustees' C.P.C./T.A. meeting:

The committee reviewed and discussed progress on reviewing materials related to Bridging the Gap activities, and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The committee noted samples that demonstrated current and inclusive language and encompassed possible opportunities for Bridging the Gap and Temporary Contact services.

Background attached:

1. Report on review of "Bridging the Gap" materials
2. Sample of updating information for currency and inclusion
3. Sample of combined material
4. Sample of how materials might be broadened to encompass all possibilities

2020 Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community- Treatment and Accessibilities

Review of Bridging the Gap Materials

February 2, 2020

Report

Introduction

The 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities additional committee consideration on the "Bridging the Gap" pamphlet, requested that literature from G.S.O. related to bridging the gap and temporary contacts activities be reviewed with the following in mind:

- How treatment and corrections material can be updated for currency and inclusion;
- How this material could be combined;
- What material might be discontinued, and;
- How the combined material might be broadened to encompass the full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful.

The Treatment secretary consulted the Corrections secretary and worked with the Publishing Department. The following Treatment and Correctional literature from G.S.O. was reviewed:

Conference Approved	Service Materials
1. "Bridging the Gap" 2. "A.A. in Treatment Settings" 3. "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" 4. "Sure Beats sitting in a Cell" 5. "A Message to Corrections Professionals"	6. "A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer" (Outside) 7. "A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request" (Inside) 8. "A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information" (Inside) 9. "A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information" (Outside) 10. Treatment Workbook pg. (19-24) 11. Corrections Workbook pg. (35 -41) 12. A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Committees 13. A.A. Guidelines on Corrections Committees 14. Newsletter, "Sharing from Behind the Walls"
Corrections Assignment Letter	
15. "The Role of Prerelease and Bridging the Gap (BTG) Temporary Contact Volunteers"	

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Several possible items are noted in this report that focus on updating materials for currency and inclusion, encompassing a full range of possibilities to provide a temporary A.A. contact.

Samples are attached to this report. These samples are intended to facilitate a discussion. Further review and development would occur as next steps are discussed and agreed by to the committee, the Treatment Assignment, and the Publishing Department.

Currency and Inclusion

One way to strive for currency and inclusion, might be to note that people participate in, or are confined to many types of treatment, therapeutic, or correctional settings. Such settings include but are not limited to: hospitals, prisons, jails; clinical, psychiatric, behavioral health, detox, inpatient/outpatient, military and veteran programs, sobering centers, shelters, halfway houses, healing lodges, and transitional centers.

Many people who have a desire to stop drinking attend A.A. meetings in these settings and are requesting help in transitioning to their home community and participate in local A.A. These settings are managed differently through a private, community, church, state or federal agencies.

To encompass a full range of possibilities to provide a temporary A.A. contact, it might be useful to replace words such as, “facilities” and “institutions” with “settings,” and include phrases such as “...who participate or are confined in....” Additionally, text in our literature that refers to treatment settings could be replaced by “treatment, therapeutic, or correctional settings.” A sample draft update of the “Bridging the Gap” pamphlet is attached **(Refer to attachment item 2.2)**

How to Broaden

In order to include as many people as possible who request B.T.G./Temporary Contact (Prerelease) service, it might be helpful to replace words like “inmate, “patients,” with words such as “alcoholics”, “newcomer”, “people”, “clients”, “participants”, “incarcerated or confined alcoholics.”

Also use of neutral pronouns such as “they and “their” or phrases such as, “alcoholics who may request this service,” “people with a desire to stop drinking” could reflect the board scope of “Bridging the Gap” possibilities.

Combining and Discontinuing Materials

How materials for Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contacts, and Prerelease Contacts could be combined or deleted was considered. The volunteer forms (Outside) and request forms (Inside) are an example how to achieve this (**refer to attachment item 2.3**). For the new title, it might be helpful to link the old and new materials as outlined below:

Current Service Materials to be deleted	Proposed new title
“A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information” (Outside) A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer” (Outside)	A.A. Temporary Prerelease Contacts/Bridging the Gap (Volunteers)
“A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request” (Inside) “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information” (Inside)	A.A. Temporary Prerelease Contacts/Bridging the Gap (Requests)

Another way to strive to encompass a broader scope of settings, might be achieved by creating an A.A. Guideline for this service area. This also would provide a fully combined resource.

Since A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared service experience of A.A. members, this could combine the sharing related to bridging the gap activates from all local A.A. committees including B.T.G., Treatment, Corrections, Hospitals and Institutions (H &I) committees. A.A. Guidelines are available in digital and print versions. A sample draft is attached. (**refer to attachment item 2.4**)

While reviewing all the materials related to Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contacts, and Prerelease Contacts, it became clear there is an opportunity to simplify these materials to make them more accessible to the broad range of alcoholics. A simplified approach would also benefit alcoholics with different reading levels.

It might be useful to consider using a “Question and Answer” style to share the information clearly. The following is an example of possible questions:

- How do I transition to an A.A. Group on the outside?
- Who can request a BTG/Temp Contacts?
- What is the intention of BTG/Temporary Contacts?

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- When does a BTG/Temp Contact happen?
- Can BTG/Temp Contacts write letters of reference or support?
- Can BTG/Temp Contacts be my A.A. Sponsor?
- How long does a Temporary Contact/BTG last?
- How is BTG/Temp Contact Volunteers Organized?
- Who can volunteer to be a BTG/Temp Contact?
- What setting can BTG/Temp Contact happen at?
- Can professionals request BTG/Temp Contacts?
- How do I request a BTG/Temp Contact?

This approach could be used in:

“A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information” (Outside)
“A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer” (Outside)
“A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request” (Inside)
“A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information” (Inside)
Treatment Workbook pg. (19-24)
Corrections Workbook pg. (35 -41)
A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Committees
A.A. Guidelines on Corrections Committees
“Bridging the Gap”
“Sure Beats sitting in a Cell”
“A.A. in Treatment Settings”
“A.A. in Correctional Facilities”
“A Message to Corrections Professionals”

It was exciting to review these materials and see so many opportunities to improve how we extend the hand of A.A. through “Love,” Gratitude, and “Service,” through this vital Twelve Step Work.

Treatment/
Accessibilities
Item A
Doc. 2

Sample of updating information for currency and inclusion, using the pamphlet,
“Bridging the Gap”

Secretary's Note: *This proposed draft is intended to facilitate the discussion of the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities addition committee consideration on the “Bridging the Gap” pamphlet.*

The highlighted text added to the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” demonstrates possible ways to encompass a full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful, and to update for currency and inclusion.

Part of Bridging the Gap between a correctional, therapeutic, or treatment setting and A.A. on the outside is a Temporary Contact, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous who can help the soon to be released alcoholic make that transition. Such settings include: hospitals, prisons, jails; clinical, psychiatric, behavioral health, detox, inpatient/outpatient, military and veteran programs, sobering centers, shelters, halfway houses, healing lodges, and transitional centers.

Many people who have a desire to stop drinking who attend A.A. meetings inside these settings and are requesting help to transition to their home community and participate in local A.A.

As you know, one of the more “slippery” places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of correctional, therapeutic or treatment setting and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. inside one of these settings, we were too fearful to make a meeting in our community once we were released.

A.A. experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to bridge the gap between a treatment, therapeutic, or correctional setting and meetings on the outside. A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and to introduce newly

released newcomers or those A.A. members who may have gotten sober while in the treatment or correctional setting to Alcoholics Anonymous on the outside.

The A.A. videos, “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous,” and “A New Freedom” which are offered to people who participate or are confined to treatment, therapeutic, or correctional settings, emphasize the importance of having a temporary contact as the essential link in establishing A.A. recovery on the outside.

It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newly released alcoholic to a variety of A.A. meetings; introduce them to other A.A.s; insure that they can have the phone numbers of several A.A. members; and share their personal experiences of sponsorship and a home group.

Points to remember

A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, referrals, money, letters of reference, or other welfare or social services.

The professional at a treatment, therapeutic, correctional setting oversees participants or clients and is responsible for them. While we cannot compromise our A.A. Traditions, we should remember that we are there as guests of the setting, and must abide by its rules. We are there to carry the A.A. message to the newcomer, and to answer any questions regarding the A.A. program of recovery and the A.A. way of life.

Statements that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or advice on medication or legal matters should be avoided. We are there only to share our experience of staying away from one drink, one day at a time, through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a setting. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message. If problems arise, inform the local service committee.

They may wish to present an A.A. informational meeting. These settings where Bridging the Gap, A.A. Prerelease, or other Temporary Contact services could be useful are managed differently thru a privately, community, church, state or federally agency.

No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. When we carry the A.A. message to those inside a treatment, therapeutic or correctional setting, we are just one drunk talking with another.

How we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!

Bridging the Gap, /Prerelease/Temporary Contact guidelines

- Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
- Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another A.A. member when meeting a newly released A.A. member or newcomer. Ideally, one of the two temporary contacts should have at least a year of sobriety.
- Experience also suggests that A.A. volunteers be sensitive to gender identity in order to avoid emotional entanglements and keep the focus on sharing experiences with sobriety.
- The intent is to provide the recently released or discharged alcoholic with your help for a limited time. You need not have personal experience with being inside a treatment, therapeutic, or correctional setting. Your qualifications are personal experience with alcoholism and the recovery program of A.A.
- It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops and meetings on Bridging the Gap in your community.
- Remember, the purpose of temporary A.A. contacts at treatment, therapeutic or correctional settings is the same — try to help an newly released alcoholic transition to outside A.A.

- Be familiar with the flyer “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous,” particularly the section on what A.A. does and does not do.
- **With** all contacts or activities in **treatment, therapeutic, or correctional settings**, it is extremely important to be punctual and to look your best.

Try to do the following:

Make contact with alcoholics who participate in or are confined to a setting while they are still inside. To avoid any misunderstandings, explain clearly that this is a temporary arrangement.

Review the many different meeting formats — cover the difference between open and closed A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a variety of outside meetings. Give the newcomer an A.A. meeting schedule, printed or online versions, to find A.A. meetings.

Introduce the newcomer to A.A. Conference-approved materials (particularly the Big Book), pamphlets, AA Grapevine and La Viña.

Explain group membership and the value of having a home group.

Explain sponsorship to them, referring to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and perhaps help them find a sponsor.

If you would like to help.

If you would like to participate in this very important Twelfth Step work, please complete the following information and give it to your group’s **treatment, corrections, H&I, or BTG representative, general service representative (G.S.R.)**, or send it to the chairperson of your area or district committee or your general service delegate. **In some areas, service committees and temporary contact programs are organized through the local intergroup or central office**. Or email tf@aa.org or mail it to the General Service Office, Treatment Assignment Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 so that G.S.O. can forward the information to your area, district or other committee.

Sample of Combined Service Materials, “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information- Outside” and “A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer”

Secretary’s Note: *This proposed draft is intended to facilitate the discussion of the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities additional committee consideration on Bridging the Gap Pamphlet. The highlighted text added to the sample, using the A.A. volunteer forms (outside), demonstrates examples on how materials could be combined. For the new title, it might be helpful to link the old and new materials such as the following:*

Current Service Materials to be deleted	New Title Sample
<u>“A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - Outside”</u> <u>“A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer”</u>	A.A. Temporary Prerelease Contacts/Bridging the Gap (Volunteers)
<u>“A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - Inside”</u> <u>“A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request”</u>	A.A. Temporary Prerelease Contacts/Bridging the Gap (Requests)

“A.A. Temporary, Prerelease Contacts/Bridging the Gap (Volunteers)”

Dear A.A. member,

The A.A. Temporary Contact Program connects A.A. members being released from a correctional, therapeutic, or treatment setting with Alcoholics Anonymous members in the local community where they will be released. Such settings include: hospitals, prisons, jails; clinical, psychiatric, behavioral health, detox, inpatient/outpatient, military and

veteran programs, sobering centers, shelters, halfway houses, healing lodges, and transitional centers. These settings are managed differently through a private, community, church, state or federal agencies.

When the soon-to-be-released A.A. member writes us, we try to match them with an A.A. member who volunteers to be a Temporary Contact in their community. If you are interested in this form of service, we will call you, get the okay, and then send you the name of a soon-to-be released A.A. member. Many A.A.s involved in this service stress the importance of getting the newly released person to a meeting as soon as possible, usually within the first 48 hours after release. During this time, you try to help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, perhaps locate a sponsor or home group, and become connected to the local A.A. community. You introduce the alcoholic, new to outside A.A., to others A.A. members in their A.A. community so they have a broad, healthy base. An A.A. member who volunteers to be a temporary contact needs to be familiar with, and adhere to, rules that treatment, therapeutic, or correctional settings have regarding a volunteer's contact while the soon to be released person is participating or confined in the setting and after they are released. If you are willing to be the hand of A.A. when someone with a desire to stop drinking at a setting reaches out for help, complete the attached A.A. Volunteer Form and email it or give it to your local committee, at the information provided.

A.A. Temporary Contact Procedures

1. Inside A.A. members (those in correctional, therapeutic, treatment settings) are eligible for this program if they have less than six months until they are released.

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2. The inside A.A. member fills out the form and sends it to the local A.A. Committee, which is responsible for processing and coordinating all temporary contacts. **3.** The outside A.A. volunteer contacts the inside A.A. member within two weeks. If the Temporary Contact fails to make contact, the inside A.A. member should inform the Treatment or Corrections committee. (A.A.s who volunteer to be Temporary Contacts may, if they are given permission, use the local A.A. intergroup or central office as their return address.) **4.** The inside A.A. member and the outside Temporary A.A. contact will set up a meeting following the release of the A.A. Member. The inside A.A. provides such information as their date of release, arrival time in the local area, an address and phone number. **5.** The A.A. temporary contact will meet the newly released A.A. at an agreed upon time and place to try to help them adjust to attending their first meetings in the local community. **6.** The A.A. Temporary Contact and the newly released A.A. will, by working together, know when they both feel the time has come for the Temporary Contact to move on to someone new.

Suggestions for the A.A. Temporary Contact Volunteer:

1. Contact the inside A.A. member by letter or email within two weeks of being matched and remain in touch with them as their release date approaches.

2. Try to take the newly released A.A. member to an A.A. meeting within 24 to 48 hours of their release. **3.** It is suggested that the first meeting be viewed as a regular Twelfth Step call and that you take another A.A. member with you. **4.** Share your experience, strength and hope with the newly released A.A., just as you would with any other person

new to A.A. in your community. **5.** Review the A.A. Temporary Contact Information with the **recently discharged or released alcoholic** so that there are no misunderstandings. **6.** Your service as a temporary contact is finished with the newly released A.A. member after a sponsor has been found, or when you and the newly released A.A. member feel that it is time to move on to help someone new. **7.** Make sure the newly released A.A. receives meeting schedules, information about the Meeting Guide app, phone numbers, and A.A. literature. **8.** Encourage the newly released A.A. to attend meetings as often as possible, to find a home group and, most important, to get a sponsor as soon as possible. Let them know that even a temporary sponsor who has time for them now would be acceptable.

Remember that:

- It is important that newly released A.A.'s attend their first A.A. meeting as soon as they are released.
- Our primary purpose is to carry the A.A. message.
- You are not responsible for the member's attitude or actions in or out of A.A. meetings.
- It is suggested that you do not loan money or anything of value, or become a personal taxi service.
- Introduce **newly released alcoholics** to other A.A. members, just as you would any newcomer.
- We are not to act in any reporting or communication capacity regarding the A.A. member and the justice system.

Suggested Reading

"A.A. at a Glance," "Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities," "Where Do I Go From Here?" "A brief guide to A.A.," "A.A. in your Community", "A.A. in Treatment Settings," *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate.*

Sample on how materials might be broadened to encompass all possibilities - A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap

Secretary's Note: *This sample is intended to facilitate the discussion of the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities additional committee consideration on the "Bridging the Gap" Pamphlet. It is an example of how local A.A. sharing could encompass a full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful.*

This sample is based on shared experiences from a Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop (BTGWW), and is modified for inclusion and currency.

To encompass a full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful, both examples replace words such as, "facilities" and "institutions" with "settings" to cover a broader scope of programs. Additionally, to strive to include all alcoholics who may request this service, both drafts replace words such as, "inmate" or "patients" and try to use words like "alcoholics", "people," and "clients" and pronouns "they and "their" as needed.

A.A.® Guidelines

Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contact

Committees

from G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience.

PURPOSE

The purpose is to bridge the gap between A.A. members inside a treatment of correctional setting and their first A.A. meeting(s) outside in the home community.

The type of setting can vary. Such settings include: hospitals, prisons, jails; clinical, psychiatric, behavioral health, detox, inpatient/outpatient, community based, military and veteran programs; shelters, halfway houses, transitional centers.

This type of service is known by a variety of names in the A.A. Fellowship, such as "Bridging the Gap," "Prerelease," "Contact Upon Release," "Contact upon re-entry," "Temporary Contact," etc., but all committees do essentially the same type of Twelfth Step service.

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous meet the people who are alcoholics after release and accompany them to their first A.A. meeting. As in all 12'th step work, this activity is strictly voluntary. Our collective experience suggests this

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type of service is best to be accompanied by another A.A. member.

GETTING STARTED

The committee is to make this vital 12-step work possible.

- To meet and correspond with staff and administration at local settings to ask for permission to share about BTG/Temporary Contact service.
- Make contact with alcoholics desiring transition help on release.
- To coordinate AA volunteers willing to do BTG/Temporary Contact service and to coordinate the requests with these volunteers.
- To communicate and cooperate with other A.A. service entities.
- To maintain communication with appropriate staff members at the General Service Office in New York.
- To share appropriate A.A. material including online and printed versions.
- Start simply when forming a committee
- Don't count them, serve them
- Provide unchanging contact information, pick up requests, and route them to volunteers locally or across areas
- Presentations: As a standalone committee, or make a joint presentation with P.I., C.P.C., Corrections, Treatment, H&I committees.
- Volunteers: Make announcements in local newsletters at A.A. Groups, meetings, or ask to present at local intergroup, district and area meetings and events.
- Unity: Contact other local trusted servants to help find volunteers to chair committee meetings, Coordinator volunteers, present to staff, participants or clients, to be temporary contact volunteers.
- Autonomy: The bridge the gap activity is done differently in each location. In some areas there might be multiple people, in other areas one person may do quite a bit of it.

A.A. COMMITTEES, AND SERVICE ENTITIES

The alcoholics requesting help to transition to A.A. outside of their setting are best served when A.A. service entities and committees work together to provide the full variety of A.A. services.

BTG/Temporary Contact efforts can be combined with other committees such as Corrections, Treatment, H&I committees. Cooperation with the Professional Communities (C.P.C.) and Public Information committees can also help to share about this service area. Areas can provide pre-release contact services via dedicated transition

committees at the Area/District level.

Depending on the location, the work is done by a shared committee, or the work is split into separate committees. There are many similarities across these committees, but there are many important differences.

Local A.A. committees and members will have the best experience for each location, and can help provide bridge services and coordinate volunteers. Some local committees will host B.T.G./Temporary workshops and events for local professionals or A.A. members. An annual workshop on B.T.G. is locally coordinated by A.A. members coordinator@btgww.org

RESOURCES AND LITERATURE

- Meeting Guide App <https://www.aa.org/meetingguide> - based on location, contact information of local intergroup and central offices is provided.
- Corrections Committee page on <https://www.aa.org/corrections> - request and volunteer forms are available
- Treatment Committee page on <https://www.aa.org/treatment> - request and volunteer forms are available
- A.A. Guidelines https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-guidelines
- "Bridging the Gap" pamphlet
- A.A. videos and Audio. https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios

BTG/TEMPORARY CONTACTS

Experience suggests that even though a soon-to-be released alcoholic may have been participating in an A.A. group or meeting inside a treatment or correctional setting, there is often anxiety about the transition to an A.A. group on the outside.

Out experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting on the outside on the day of release from a correctional, therapeutic, or treatment setting is one of the most effective tools for making a sober transition and maintaining continued sobriety in the outside world.

- Experience has shown that A.A. members volunteer as temporary contacts preferably with an appropriate match in gender identity to an alcoholic who is participating in, or is confined to a correctional, therapeutic, or treatment setting. These settings are managed differently through a private, community, church, state or federal agencies, and may have specific requirements.

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- The volunteer contacts the alcoholic client/participant and arranges to meet that person on the day of release a setting to help in bridging the gap between the setting and A.A. on the outside.
- A.A. members on the outside agree to meet A.A. s to accompany them to their first few local meetings.
- This is not intended to become a long-term A.A. relationship, but simply to help ease the newly-released member's transition to outside A.A. and to help get them started on the road to sobriety in their home community.

RELATIONSHIP TO G.S.O.

The General Service Office When G.S.O. receives a request for A.A. temporary contacts, it is forwarded to the local area.

The Corrections Correspondence Service is not a part of temporary contacts and is intended for alcoholics who have six months or longer remaining on their incarceration.

HISTORY

Bridging the gap activities by A.A. members go back into the late 1930's. Trying to reach drunks in correctional, therapeutic, and treatment settings and escorting them to meetings became the job of many new A.A. members.

In the mid-seventies Alcoholics Anonymous members were gaining an increasing awareness that many alcoholics were leaving treatment programs and not making it to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and not staying sober. Members started Twelve step work then to try to remedy this situation.

In 1979, an A.A. members who had been to the General Service conference and heard about B.T.G., went back to start B.T.G. in their community. These "programs" included regular visits to these settings by AA volunteers, making an offer for contact or "temporary contact" to these alcoholics to help them become part of AA when they were to leave the setting.

In 1987 a section describing "Temporary Contact Programs" was added to the AA Treatment Committee Workbook. Presentations and Workshops on "Bridging the Gap" and "Temporary Contact" program began to be included in most Alcoholics Anonymous Forums and in many Area and Regional Service meetings. One result of that session was the beginning of the "Temporary Contact Program" in Minneapolis. In 1990 the tremendous value of a committed "contact points" had become clearly obvious to many.

Today we have many forms of Bridging the Gap, Contact upon Release, Temporary Contact and Re- Entry Programs throughout our fellowship.

2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM B: Request to Create a Bridging the Gap (B.T.G.) Workbook

Background Notes:

This item was submitted by BTG coordinator, in District 10, Area 69, Utah:

That a Bridging the Gap Workbook be created to assist A.A. members who have Interest in Bridging the Gap responsibilities in their Districts and Area.

The submitter consulted with A.A. members serving on the Area 69 committee to discuss shared experience.

From the trustees' Committee on C.P.C.Treatment-Accessibilities February 2020 meeting on:

The committee considered a request to create a Bridging the Gap Workbook and **agreed to forward** the request to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The committee noted that some local A.A. communities do not participate in Bridging the Gap or Temporary Contact activities due to limited access of shared experience in this service area.

The Bridging the Gap (B.T.G.) committees are know within the Fellowship as "Tradition Nine" committees similar to the Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) committees. The Bridging the Gap Committee focuses on temporary contact to an alcoholic's transition from a Treatment or Correctional Setting.

Workbooks are service pieces that provide detailed shared experiences on topics related to a specific service area. Suggested are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations. Typically, Treatment and Corrections Workbooks are provided for free to a district, area or intergroup chairperson of that related service area who decide to list their service position with G.S.O. Otherwise, Workbooks are available for purchase.

Online versions of Workbooks (in three languages) are available on related service committee pages, to be access by the Fellowship as often as needed. To date, 464.

Background attached:

1. Correspondence from Submitter.pdf
2. Motion from Area 69 Utah
3. Sample Workbook from Area 69, Utah

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

4. Treatment Workbook: En:www.aa.org/cpc, Sp:www.aa.org/ccp, Fr:www.aa.org/cmp

Diana L.

From: rick v.
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 8:43 PM
To: Conference
Cc: Matt D.
Subject: Fwd: Area 69 - Proposed Agenda Item
Attachments: motion.pdf; BTG Workbook.pdf

Patrick,

Thank you again for your email of October 8, 2019 explaining the process of submitting a proposed agenda item for the 2020 General Service Conference.

I have attached two documents to this email. The first is the motion for the agenda item being submitted. The second is a sample copy of a workbook I have created using information from the existing GSO Corrections and Treatment Workbooks. The workbook is 20 pages, including the cover. It is meant to be copied double-sided.

Please contact me if have any questions or concerns. Thank you very much for your consideration of this motion.

Best Regards,

Rick V.
BTG Coodinator
District 10, Area 69



UTAH AREA 69
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

MOTION

I would like to make a motion that a Bridging the Gap Workbook be created to assist A.A. members who have an interest in Bridging the Gap responsibilities in their Districts and Areas.

A.A. MEMBERS CONSULTED

It would be beneficial to note that I have spoken with the following people in regards to this motion and they have encouraged me to move forward with this:

- Matt D.
- Area 69 Treatment Chair
- Area 69 Corrections Chair
- Current National BTGWW Coordinator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are currently pamphlets available from GSO regarding Bridging the Gap, but there is not a BTG Workbook. The Bridging the Gap Workbook would combine the most important aspects drawn from both the GSO Corrections and Treatment Workbooks to achieve a complete understanding of the overall Bridging the Gap process.

MEMBER SUBMITTING MOTION

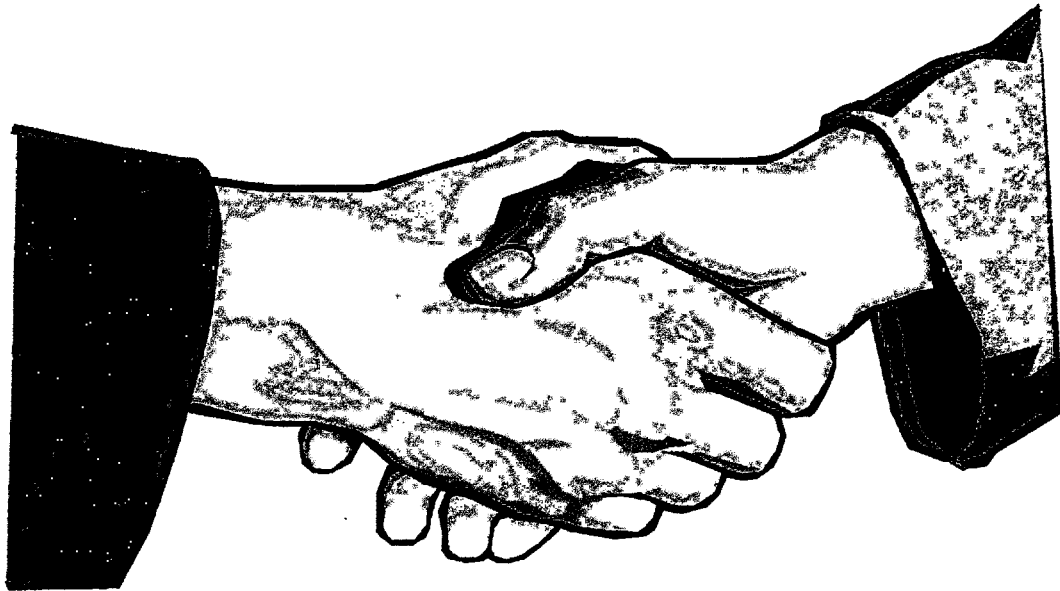
Rick V.
Current BTG Coordinator
District 10, Area 69, State of Utah

CONTACT PERSON

Rick V.

Bridge the Gap

By
**Extending the Hand of
Alcoholics Anonymous**



District Workbook A Guide to Bridging the Gap

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Introduction to Bridging the Gap

The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous offers a program designed to assist *new members* after their release from treatment and correctional facilities. This service is commonly referred to as the "*Bridging the Gap*" or "*Temporary Contact*" program.

Simply put, a *temporary contact* is an A.A. member who works with clients/inmates after they are discharged from treatment or correctional facilities. The *temporary contact* helps the *new member* "*Bridge the Gap*" between the facility and Alcoholics Anonymous in their community. This arrangement is meant to be temporary only. The volunteer has agreed to accompany the *new member* to as many as six meetings after their release in order to acquaint them with A.A. members and meetings in the area where they live.

Experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting as soon as possible after release is vital to making a sober transition to life on the outside. During this time the *new member* will learn more about sponsors, home groups, working A.A.'s twelve steps and doing service work. The *temporary contact* volunteer is available to answer questions and explain the A.A. program of recovery. They will not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other such services. The *new member* will most likely hear five basic suggestions for sobriety that the Fellowship shares with all it's members:

- 1) Don't drink.
- 2) Go to meetings.
- 3) Work the steps.
- 4) Call your sponsor.
- 5) Read the "Big Book," Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bridging the Gap - Basic Program Procedures:

1. As a *new member* on the inside, they are eligible for this program when they are within three months of their release date.
2. They are asked to fill out a form giving their age, sex, and release date with a phone number and address where they will be released to if possible; a general location if not.
3. The local A.A. Bridging the Gap coordinator will notify the *new member* after receiving their application and then match them with a suitable *temporary contact*, taking into consideration their age, sex, and destination.
4. After selection, the *temporary contact* will confirm the request with the *new member*.
5. The *new member* and the *temporary contact* will then make arrangements to meet after the release date and attend their first A.A. meeting together.

Preface to Bridging the Gap Guidelines

In order to better understand how Bridging the Gap is administered the following is a brief outline of the basic elements of the program and who holds responsibility.

Responsibilities of Area

1) Database. Area ___ will maintain a BTG volunteer database archive for the Area according to information supplied by the Districts. The Communications Committee will administer the web site file. The Districts will periodically review their own information on the web site and submit necessary changes to the Communications Committee.

2) Program. A uniform Bridging the Gap program will be available from Area 69 as a guide the Districts may follow. Information sharing and supporting documents will be provided by the joint efforts of the Corrections and Treatment Standing Chairs and their committees. The Standing Chairs will offer their support helping the Districts to set up and maintain a Bridging the Gap program within their District.

3) Workshop. It is the joint responsibility of the Treatment and Corrections Standing Chairs to set the agenda for the annual Area ___ BTG Workshop. The workshop is a one day event hosted by the Districts on a rotating basis each year beginning at 9:00 am. on the third Saturday in June.

Responsibilities of the Districts

1) Presentation. Make the program available. Contact Treatment and Corrections facilities and present the BTG Program to the staff. After gaining permission from the facility offer the program to the potential *New Members* of A.A. In the absence of a BTG committee, the District Corrections and Treatment volunteers are usually the ones best positioned to do this.

2) Volunteers. The Districts find, organize, and prepare enough BTG volunteers to meet their current needs. Volunteers may be signed up at A.A. meetings and other appropriate A.A. events. It is best if they are given BTG information and briefed on the *Temporary Contact* program. GSRs and District Officers may distribute and collect volunteer sign-up sheets.

3) Volunteer database and Temporary Contact Requests. Each District is requested to organize volunteer contact information and maintain its own database. The Districts are responsible to develop methods for receiving requests from *New Members* and matching them with *Temporary Contacts* within the District. It is helpful to gather information from the efforts of the volunteers and rotate their assignments. If possible, these tasks are best done by one individual, a Bridging the Gap Coordinator; someone dedicated to watching the mailbox and/or phone who will also make the *Temporary Contact* assignments. Requests for "*Bridges*" outside of the District should be referred to the appropriate District or Area Chairperson or processed through the National Bridging the Gap Database (www.btgwww.org) if out of state.

Documents Used in Bridging the Gap

Please maintain the contents of this kit so that interested members of your district can make use of it. Feel free to make as many copies of the materials it contains as necessary.

BTG Publications:	Introduction to Bridging the Gap Preface to Bridging the Gap Suggested Literature Package Lists Bridging the Gap Guidelines Do's & Don'ts Page Sample letter from the BTG Coordinator to the New Member Sample letter from the Volunteer to the New Member Letter to the Inmate Letter to the Treatment Patient BTG Pamphlet: "So You've Been Told" BTG Pamphlet: "New Member" BTG Pamphlet: "Temporary Contact" BTG Volunteer Sign-up Sheet
Alcoholics Anonymous Guidelines:	Temporary Contact Guidelines (Treatment workbook excerpt) Temporary Contact Guidelines (Corrections workbook excerpt) Cooperation with the Professional Community Correctional Facilities Committees Treatment Facilities Committees Cooperation with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs
GSO Pamphlets:	Bridging the Gap (P-49) A brief guide to Alcoholics Anonymous (P-42) AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional (P-23) Alcoholics Anonymous in your Community (P-31) AA in Treatment Facilities (P-27) AA in Correctional Facilities(P-26) A.A. at a glance (F-1) Information on Alcoholics Anonymous (F-2) Where Do I Go From Here? (F-4) A Newcomer Asks (P-24) Is A.A. For You? (P-3) Questions and Answers on Sponsorship (P-15) A.A. Fact Sheet - service material from the GSO
GSO - aa.org	<u>Additional Information Available - How to Find Meetings:</u> Central Offices, Intergroup & Answering Services - U.S. & Canada Bridging the Gap Area Coordinators for the United States and Canada

Guidelines for A.A. Members Who are Temporary Contacts

From the GSO Treatment Workbook - page 16

1. The temporary contact makes direct personal contact with the client while he/she is still at the treatment center - either by telephone, visiting the facility, attending a meeting together or whatever contact is thought necessary. Prison inmates have different rules. Check with BTG coordinator.
2. The contacts and newcomers make every effort to attend one meeting together on the release date.
3. Thereafter, for at least two weeks, the contact will help the newcomer to attend a variety of meetings, introduce him/her to other A.A.s, especially members who might have similar backgrounds or interests.
4. The contact familiarizes newcomers with A.A. books, pamphlets, schedule of meetings, etc.
5. Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, and the importance of obtaining a sponsor without delay. (Much information pertinent to sponsorship is to be found in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.")
6. A temporary contact is an A.A. enjoying a comfortable, stable sobriety, preferably for at least a year.
7. The series of phone calls, involving busy people, to line up an appropriate temporary contact can be very time consuming. It is therefore important to communicate with the treatment facility about allowing adequate time for the contact to get together before the client's discharge date.

A few cautionary words from those who have offered this kind of service before. These are not rules, but a sharing of experience.

1. You may be the first outside A.A. contact that the person meets. Be affable, friendly, interested.
2. Be on time for whatever appointment you make.
3. As a volunteer member of the Contact service Committee, your act of service consists of introducing the person to the local group or meeting. It is suggested that you explain what A.A. is and the Twelve Step program of recovery, and also what A.A. does not do.
4. Try to avoid becoming a long-term taxi service.
5. Try not to confuse the temporary contact service with long-term sponsorship.
6. Take the time to introduce the person you escort to as many A.A. members at the meeting as possible. Be sure to include an introduction to the group secretary and/or meeting chairperson.
7. If a group goes out for coffee after the meeting, ask your contact if he/she wants to join the "meeting after the meeting."
8. Try not to push your contact; some people are very shy.
9. Use your own sense of what's happening in your contact's recovery to dictate how many meetings you take him/her to.
10. Provide the contact with a meeting schedule.
11. Keep the general conversation to A.A. related matters.
12. Avoid becoming involved in discussions about your contact's treatment or confinement. We have no opinions about outside issues.

Bridging the Gap Guidelines

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Bridging the Gap is to assist the new member who is confined and preparing for release from a treatment or correctional facility. It is designed to help them make the transition to the A.A. Fellowship where they will be living. The activities of this program are based on and governed by the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bridging the Gap should be thought of as basic twelfth step work. The idea is to accompany a new member to several of their first outside meetings and introduce them to A.A. members in the community. Once a patient or an inmate has expressed an interest in A.A. and would like to attend meetings after being released, the Bridging the Gap program offers a solution to support this important adjustment. New members who attend an A.A. meeting within the first two days after returning home have been shown to have a much better chance of staying sober.

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- I. Basics of the Bridging the Gap Program
- II. Duties and Responsibilities _____ Area ____Committee
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 - B. _____ Bridging the Gap Program
 - C. Bridging the Gap Workshop
- III. Duties and Responsibilities of the Districts
- IV. District Bridging the Gap Program Procedures
 - A. Preparing Bridging the Gap Volunteers
 - B. Presentation to Facilities and New Members
 - C. Volunteer Database and Temporary Contact Requests

I. Basics of the Bridging the Gap Program

- A. The inmate or client completes a request form including their name, age and gender, current contact information, release date, and contact information after their release.
- B. These details are returned to a local district BTG coordinator or to the appropriate committee chairperson from corrections or treatment for processing.
- C. The information is then given to a local temporary contact volunteer unless the request being made is outside of the district. In that case the information will be forwarded to the district or area where the new member will be going.
- D. The volunteer will make arrangements to accompany them along with another member to an A.A. meeting within 24-48 hours after their release. They will then attend as many as six meetings together.

II. Duties and Responsibilities of the _____ Area ____ Committee

A. Volunteer Database

Area ____ will maintain a database of temporary contact volunteers contributed by the districts. This database is administered by the communications committee. The Area ____ treatment and corrections chairpersons will maintain and distribute a list of Area ____ BTG coordinators and committee members. They will keep lists of Nationwide Long Term Contacts and current BTG chairpersons of the General Service Conference. District chairpersons needing information for "Bridges" outside of their districts may contact the Area ____ treatment and corrections standing chairs for assistance. They may also use the International BTG web site, www.btgww.org

B. Area ____ Bridging the Gap Program

Area ____ will provide a uniform Bridging the Gap program the districts may follow along with supporting materials for duplication. These materials can be modified to address the specific needs of each district. The Area will continue to gather information helpful in revising and improving this program. Each year one of the Area standing chairs from treatment or corrections attends the National Bridging the Gap Conference.

The Area treatment and corrections standing chairs are responsible to inform and to share the combined Area ____ Bridging the Gap experience with the districts. They will maintain the Bridging the Gap documents and procedures and review them on an annual basis. These documents will be updated and revised as necessary through the joint cooperation of the Area treatment and corrections standing committees.

In general, the only direct involvement of the Area ____ corrections and treatment standing chairs in Bridging the Gap is to assist making "Bridges" involving contacts between districts of Area ____ and between other areas of the A.A. General Service structure.

Bridging the Gap District Kits and supporting documents will be available on the _____ web site to be downloaded and duplicated. These documents are meant to be used by each district relevant to their needs and may be changed to include local district names, addresses, and telephone numbers as determined by each district committee.

C. Bridging the Gap Workshop

A Bridging the Gap workshop will be held each year on the third Saturday in June. This workshop will be rotated among districts. The selection to host the event will be made one year in advance. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a joint forum for the corrections and treatment standing committees to share experiences and discuss ways to better serve Area 69 and its members. The area standing chairs of these two committees have joint responsibility for setting the agenda for the workshop. This workshop is a one day event beginning at 9:00 am.

III. Duties and Responsibilities of the Districts

In Area _____, each district manages its own Bridging the Gap program. The districts find volunteers, present the program at facilities, and maintain a database to match new member requests with temporary contact volunteers.

The information contained in this kit is a collection of suggestions based on the experience shared within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The letters, pamphlets, and other documents in this kit are meant to be used in a manner that best fits the needs of each individual district. They can be used in any combination and adapted to contain appropriate mailing addresses, etc. relevant to the district.

Managing the activities of the Bridging the Gap Program is the basic responsibility of the district BTG coordinator. In the absence of a BTG coordinator, the corrections and treatment committee chairpersons generally assume these responsibilities. As a final option, the district committee members, the DCM or DCMC depending on the district, could administer Bridging the Gap procedures. The Bridging the Gap structure can be organized in a variety of different ways. The following are four possibilities:

- 1) A Bridging the Gap Coordinator with a committee.
- 2) A BTG Coordinator utilizing the corrections and treatment committees.
- 3) Corrections and treatment chairpersons working through their committees.
- 4) DCMCs in cooperation with the district committee.

IV. District Bridging the Gap Program Procedures

Bridging the Gap has three main components; preparation, presentation, and implementation. These responsibilities may be approached in a variety of ways. Each district determines what works best for them considering their circumstances. The following ideas are suggestions for each of these areas.

A. Preparing Bridging the Gap Volunteers

- 1) Area ___ has prepared a volunteer sign-up sheet the districts may use. It lists the common information needed to match the temporary contact with those requesting a bridge. These sheets can be circulated at A.A. gatherings such as regular group meetings, assemblies, and workshops. This information is to be considered confidential and for use by Bridging the Gap only. Some members are sensitive to their contact information and may wish to apply by using an individual card or mailing the application directly to the coordinator instead of the group sheet.
- 2) Once a volunteer has submitted the *temporary contact* application, it is a good idea to call and verify their intentions and contact information. The Area 69 pamphlet "*Temporary Contact Volunteer*" along with the Do's & Don'ts page will help them understand what they are being asked to do. The suggested "*Volunteer*" packet will prepare them in greater detail for becoming a temporary contact (*refer to the section for "Literature Packets"*)
- 3) It is suggested that the BTG volunteer has at least one year of current and continuous sobriety and that they are comfortable within the fellowship. It is also strongly suggested that two members accompany the newly released contact to their first outside meeting. It is sometimes helpful for the volunteers to have a "*New Member*" packet available to offer during the first outside meeting. (*refer to the section for "Literature Packets"*)
- 4) Many of our members who have experienced making twelfth step calls can readily adapt to Bridging the Gap. They may only need to be briefed on the details about the individual and/or institution policies before being called on to provide a "*Bridge*" for a new member.

B. Presentation to Facilities and New Members

Facility Administrators

- 1) Meet with appropriate staff members and explain what Bridging the Gap is and how it works. The area has prepared an introduction folder for facility administrators which may be used by volunteers when making this presentation. Usually this discussion is made by the BTG coordinator and at least one other committee member. Ask for permission to explain the program to the inmates or clients and distribute the pamphlets and supporting documents.
- 2) Ask about rules the institution may have in regard to contact with outside members. For example, some facilities will not allow the same person bringing meetings into the facilities to be a temporary contact to a newly released member.

New Members

- 1) Bridging the Gap may be introduced in many different ways. One method is to hold a special meeting entirely devoted to Bridging the Gap. Another approach is to have the members who take A.A. meetings into the facility explain the program periodically. New members will find the Area ___ pamphlet called the "*New Member Guide*" helpful in understanding what to expect from the program.

2) Emphasize the need for complete and accurate contact information. Stress the importance of timely submission of their request and any correspondence with the *temporary contact* in order to assure processing before their release date. By using the small sign-up cards it allows them to register more easily and saves the time and expense of postage.

3) Inform the new members about how to reach Alcoholics Anonymous in case they are released before the temporary contact has been made or in the event they make their decision to participate after they have returned home.

C. Volunteer Database and Temporary Contact Requests.

Database

1) Each District maintains its own database. Area 69 has developed a volunteer sign-up sheet outlining the basic information required to organize a database. Once a group of volunteers have submitted their contact information it is suggested that the coordinator separate them into two categories, one for men and one for women. Designate whether they wish to volunteer for treatment, corrections or both. It is also recommended to keep a list of the new members who request a bridge and comments concerning the results of the BTG effort.

2) It is suggested that the database be refreshed periodically to insure the temporary contacts are still available and willing to participate. Direct phone calls made to the volunteers are generally more successful than mailings.

3) Once a comfortable number of volunteers have been entered into the database it might be well to suspend recruiting activities until demand overtakes volunteers again. An excessive database can have a negative effect if the volunteers lack an opportunity to participate.

4) It is important to share the district Bridging the Gap volunteer database periodically with the Area ___ communications committee. The information will be stored on the web site for future access and convenience to the district. The district is responsible for managing their own file, including updates, additions and deletions in cooperation with the communications committee.

Temporary Contact Requests

1) It is recommended for the district to establish a P.O. Box as a neutral location to send and receive correspondence for temporary contact requests. A disposable cell phone may also be useful as a means of confidential communication.

2) A timely response to requests is essential to preserve the hope and confidence of the new member. If a volunteer is available it is good to have them make the initial contact and begin the "Bridge" process. If no one is readily available, the coordinator should let the new member know a temporary contact will be located as soon as possible.

3) It would be helpful to the area for the districts to share the experiences of those who have been involved in Bridging the Gap in order to make future improvements to the program.

Guidelines for A.A. Members Who Are Temporary Contacts

From the GSO Corrections Workbook - pages 28 & 29

Introduction

Past experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting on the outside on the day of release from prison is one of the most effective tools for an inmate in making a sober transition and maintaining continued sobriety in the free world. It is strongly recommended that an inmate who is an A.A. member have an A.A. contact on the outside (preferably with one year's sobriety and of the same sex) who contacts the inmate and arranges to meet him or her on the day of release to help in "Bridging the Gap" between the institution and A.A. on the outside.

This section of the Workbook deals with guidelines for A.A. members who want to participate in this type of service, sometimes referred to as "Prerelease programs and sometimes as "Bridging the Gap" programs.

Guidelines for Prerelease A.A. Contacts

The following guidelines for A.A. contacts have been drawn from the past experience of many A.A. members who are involved in this rewarding form of Twelfth Step work.

1. As in all types of sponsorship in A.A., prerelease contacts share their experience, strength and hope with soon-to-be-released inmates.
2. We have found that it is better for men to work with men and for women to work with women.
3. If possible, an A.A. contact should be a member of an A.A. group located in the vicinity of the inmate's residence when he or she is released.
4. As in all Twelfth Step work, it is suggested that two A.A. members meet the inmate upon release.

How Prerelease A.A. Contact Works

A.A. contact is of utmost importance in corrections work. Many corrections committees find it helpful to compile a list of contacts. When an inmate is to be released, most corrections committees attempt to locate an A.A. member and link the inmate to his or her hometown A.A. group. However, when an inmate's point of destination is a distant city, sometimes there is slippage in contact and follow-up.

Some corrections committees link homebound inmates by:

- Arranging for a local contact.
- Giving the inmate contact names and telephone numbers.
- Providing the inmate with a meeting list.
- Helping the inmate to contact A.A. in his or her hometown through the local inter-group or central office.

Suggestions for Bridging the Gap Volunteers

What A.A. and Bridging the Gap Does:

1. Helps people with a desire to stop drinking to find a solution to their problem.
2. Helps the new member adjust to the A.A. Fellowship outside of institutions.

What A.A. and Bridging the Gap Do Not Do:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Furnish initial motivation. | 10. Hold classes. |
| 2. Solicit members. | 11. Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing |
| 3. Charge dues or fees. | 12. Offer religious services. |
| 4. Operate clinics or drying-out facilities. | 13. Offer professional counseling. |
| 5. Operate clubs. | 14. Accept money from non-members. |
| 6. Provide housing, meals or transportation. | 15. Do research. |
| 7. Keep membership records. | 16. Join councils or social agencies. |
| 8. Follow-up on errant members. | 17. Loan money. |
| 9. Control members. | |

"Do" List

1. Take the new member to a meeting within the first Twenty-four hours of release.
2. Take another member of the fellowship on this Twelfth Step Call.
3. Explain to the new member that this is a temporary commitment, usually limited to six visits.
4. Make sure the new members receive meeting schedules, phone numbers, literature, and Big Book.
5. Encourage them to attend meetings as often as possible, emphasize the importance of the home group.
6. Explain the important of sponsorship; share how you got your sponsor.
7. Refrain from profanity, off-color jokes, prolonged drunk-a-logs and other types of self indulgence.
8. Respect full anonymity of new members at all times.
9. Keep in touch with your sponsor and your Higher Power.

"Don't" List

1. Don't become responsible for the members attitude or actions in or out of the meetings.
2. Don't become a personal taxi service.
3. Don't let the new member dictate where to go for the meetings.
4. Don't allow any emotional or romantic relationship to develop.
5. Don't act in any reporting or communicating capacity regarding the new member and the justice system or treatment facilities.
6. Don't intercede in behalf of any individual affected by decisions of the administration.
7. Don't forget you are not in control, you are not GOD.

Suggestions for the Temporary Contact

1. You may be the first outside A.A. member the prospect meets. In that respect you represent the Fellowship. It is important to be relaxed, friendly, and attentive.
2. Keep the general conversation related to recovery. Avoid discussing the new member's treatment or confinement. We have no opinion on outside issues.
3. Take time to introduce the new person to as many A.A. members as possible. Do not, however, push your contact. Some people are very shy.
4. Invite them to the "meeting after the meeting" if there is one and show them how enjoyable sobriety can be.
5. Your commitment is usually finished after attending six meetings. Use good recovery judgment about when to end the relationship.
6. Make sure the newly released member receives meeting schedules, A.A. literature, and phone numbers if possible.
7. Encourage them to attend meetings, find a home group and get a sponsor as soon as possible. Explain that even a temporary sponsor would be better than not having one.
8. Share your experience, strength, and hope with the newly released member just as you would with anyone else in A.A.
9. Be familiar with the suggestions of the BTG program contained in this pamphlet. We don't offer or imply any other service and assistance unless we personally want to provide it.

10. Respect the complete anonymity of the new member including their confinement.

Remember:

It is best to take the new member to a meeting within 24 - 48 hours of release.

You are not responsible for the member's attitude or actions in or out of the meetings.

It is suggested that you do not become a taxi service, loan money or anything of value.

We do not act in any reporting or communication capacity regarding the A.A. member and the justice system. We also do not intercede on their behalf concerning any decision from their administrators.

Alcoholism is sometimes linked together with other addictions as substance abuse. Non alcoholics are frequently introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and encouraged to attend meetings. Although any visitor who is interested in A.A. may attend open meetings, only those with a drinking problem are meant to attend closed meetings.

Suggested reading from GSO:

Where Do I Go From Here?	(F-4)
Information on A.A.	(F-2)
A.A. At A Glance	(F-1)
A Newcomer Asks	(P-24)
Q. & A. About Sponsorship	(P-15)

For more information or to volunteer contact:

For AAs on the Outside

Temporary Contact Volunteer



Bridging the Gap Prerelease Contact Program

*Connecting the Inside
A.A. Members to the
Outside A.A. Community*

Temporary Contact Form

Please add my name to the list of temporary contacts. I would like to become a Bridging the Gap volunteer in our District.

Name _____

Male / Female Age _____ District _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Sobriety Date _____

Email _____

Corrections _____ Treatment _____ Both _____
(Tear off this portion of the pamphlet)

*Please notify the BTG Coordinator when
there
are changes in your contact information*

Take picture and send to:

A.A. Bridging the Gap Program

Dear A.A. Member,

Bridging the Gap, or BTG, helps a confined member make the transition from meetings in a facility to the A.A. Fellowship in their community. As a temporary contact you are being asked to guide them through this process. You may volunteer to serve in corrections, treatment, or both.

When a confined member makes a BTG request we match that person to a temporary contact in the community where they will be living. If you have volunteered for this type of service, we will call you, get your okay, and then send you their information.

Your job is simple. You contact the new member as soon as possible and make arrangements to take them to a meeting when they are released. In general, your responsibility is to accompany them to as many as six meetings in your local area.

Note: It is not implied that you automatically become their sponsor, not even temporarily. It is best if the word sponsor is not used to describe this type of commitment. The term temporary contact is preferred.

If you are willing to be the hand of A.A. when a confined member reaches out, please complete the temporary contact form and give it to your GSR; the BTG coordinator, corrections, or treatment chairperson; or mail it to one of the addresses provided.

All volunteers need to adhere to the rules of the facility regarding contact with inmates and treatment clients. This applies while they are in the facility as well as after they are released.

Bridging the Gap Program Procedures

1. Those currently in correctional and treatment facilities, are eligible for BTG when they are within three months or less of confinement.
2. The new member fills out a pre-release form and mails it to the Bridging the Gap coordinator or to the committee responsible for processing requests.
3. A temporary contact is located and given the confined members contact information.
4. The temporary contact is asked to communicate with the inside member within two weeks to confirm the request.
5. The inside member provides such information as release date, arrival time in the local area, address and phone number.
6. Some new members, especially treatment clients, may require a phone call instead of a letter to expedite contact arrangements depending on timing of the release date.
7. The temporary contact will meet the new member at an agreed upon time and place to attend their first A.A. meeting together. It's important to be on time.
8. It is suggested that the first meeting be viewed as a regular twelfth step call and that you take another A.A. member with you. Use the same guidelines you would with any newcomer.
9. Review the Bridging the Gap program with the new member in order to reduce the possibility of misunderstandings. Remind them it is only temporary.

Bridging the Gap Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

(For members willing to be a Temporary Contact)

Bridging the Gap is the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous reaching out to the new member. This is basic 12-Step work. When a newcomer leaves a corrections or treatment facility, the Bridging the Gap program can arrange a temporary contact in their home town. The temporary contact volunteer accompanies them to meetings, introduces them to others in recovery and helps them start their life of sobriety in the outside world. You may sign up for corrections, treatment or both.

If you are willing to be a temporary contact, fill out your personal information in the form below. It is suggested that you have at least one year of sobriety to be a temporary contact. Please note if you speak other languages. **It is important to check the appropriate boxes below right for corrections, treatment or both.**

Full Name	Address & Zip Code	District	Age & Gender	Phone	Email	Sobriety Date	C	T

Return to the: District BTG, Corrections, or Treatment Coordinator

Suggested Literature Packages for Bridging the Gap

These literature items have been selected because they are relevant for their category. They may be used in any combination the District BTG Committee chooses. Any of the materials on these lists may be added to or deleted from according to the wishes of the District Committee.

Corrections Facility Staff

A.A. in Correctional Facilities (P-26)
Bridging the Gap (P-49)
Information on A.A. (F-2)
Letter to the Inmate
BTG Pamphlet "*New Member*"
BTG Pamphlet "*So You've Been Told*"

Corrections Inmates &Volunteers

Is A.A. For You? (P-3)
Information on A.A. (F-2)
Letter to an Inmate
BTG Pamphlet "*New Member*"
BTG Pamphlet "*So You've Been Told*"

Treatment Facility Staff

A.A. in Treatment Facilities (P-27)
A.A. as a Resource for the
Health Care Professional (P-23)
Bridging the Gap (P-49)
Information on A.A. (F-2)
Letter to the Treatment Client

Treatment Clients &Volunteers

Is A.A. For You? (P-3)
Information on A.A. (F-2)
Letter to the Treatment Client
BTG Pamphlet "*New Member*"
BTG Pamphlet "*So You've Been Told*"

BTG Pamphlet "*New Member*"

BTG Pamphlet "*So You've Been Told*"

Temporary Contact Volunteer

Bridging the Gap (P-49)
BTG Pamphlet "*Temporary Contact*"
BTG Do's & Don'ts Page

Temporary Contact Guidelines - GSO
Information on A.A. (F-2)

New Members - Released

Where Do I Go From Here? (F-4)
A.A. at a Glance (F-1)
Information on A.A. (F-2)
A newcomer Asks (P-24)
Meeting Schedules
Q. & A. on Sponsorship. (P-15)

Optional Literature for Volunteers

Where do I go from here? (F-4)
Information on A.A. (F-2)
AA at a Glance (F-1)
A Newcomer Asks(P-24)
Is A.A. for You? (P-3)

Here is what A.A. says about 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.

Alcoholics Anonymous 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 to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

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"I am responsible.....when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

What A.A. & Bridging the Gap Does

Helps people with a desire to stop drinking find a solution to their problem.

Helps the new member adjust to A.A. meetings and the A.A. fellowship outside of institutions.

What A.A. & Bridging the Gap Does Not Do:

Furnish initial motivation ~ Solicit members
Charge dues or fees ~ Operate clinics or drying out facilities ~ Operate clubs ~ Provide housing, meals, or transportation ~ Keep membership records ~ Follow up on errant members ~ Control its members ~ Hold classes ~ Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing ~ Offer religious services or professional counseling ~ Accept money from non-members ~ Do research ~ Join councils or social agencies

The A.A. volunteers who bring meetings to your facility can assist you with the Bridging the Gap program and answer questions about temporary contacts.

Important:

If you are released before making final arrangements for a temporary contact call the Alcoholics Anonymous office nearest to where you are staying. The number can be found in the white pages of the phone book. They may be able to help you find a Bridging the Gap contact in your area or a meeting nearby. The number to reach Utah, Area 69 BTG in the SLC area is: 801-484-7871.

District ____ BTG Coordinator:

For AAs on the Inside

New Member Guide



Bridging the Gap Prerelease Contact Program

PRISON

*Connecting the Inside
A.A. members to the
Outside A.A. Community*

BTG Prison Request Form

A.A. Bridging the Gap

Program Procedures

I am within three months of my discharge date. I would like to have an A.A. Temporary Contact who will provide a link for me to the A.A. community through meetings and introductions to other A.A.'s.

Name: _____

Age: _____ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Patient/DOC Number: _____

Facility Name: _____

Housing Unit: _____

Cell #: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City/Discharging To: _____

Date of Discharge: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Alternate Number: _____

Take picture and send to:

Dear A.A. Member,

Bridging the Gap is a program to help you make the transition from meetings in a facility to the Fellowship outside. If you would like to participate, you can be matched after your release with a member close to where you live. This temporary contact will go with you to as many as six meetings, introduce you to other members and help you become comfortable in your new A.A. surroundings. During this time you will most likely find out more about home groups, sponsors, working the steps and service.

Your pre-release contact is temporary only. The volunteer member will accompany you to meetings, answer questions and help explain the A.A. program of recovery. They will not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other such services. You will probably hear the same basic suggestions shared with all members; don't drink, go to meetings, read the Big Book, call your sponsor and work the steps.

Experience has shown that attending a meeting as soon as possible after release is very important in making a sober adjustment to a new way of life. Many of us have been where you are now and we know the A.A. program and the Fellowship can do for you what it has done for us.

Alcoholism is sometimes linked together with other addictions as substance abuse. Non alcoholics are frequently introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and encouraged to attend meetings. Although any visitor who is interested in A.A. may attend open meetings, only those with a drinking problem are meant to attend closed meetings.

1. As an inside A.A. member you are eligible for this program if you are within three months of your release date.

2. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the A.A. volunteers or mail it to the BTG coordinator. You will find addresses at the bottom of the request form and on the back of this pamphlet.

3. An outside member will contact you within two weeks to confirm your request and your discharge information. Please notify the BTG coordinator or the volunteers if you haven't received a confirmation within that time.

4. You and the temporary contact will make arrangements to meet after your release. Be sure to verify your information such as the date of your release, when you will arrive in the local area, the address where you will be staying and a phone number where you can be reached.

5. The temporary contact will meet you at an agreed upon time and place to attend your first meeting together in the local community.

6. A Bridge the Gap relationship is intended to make your transition from "inside" to "outside" meetings as comfortable as possible. There isn't a fixed schedule but usually after six meetings together the temporary contact will rotate to help the next new member.

Note: Inmates and treatment clients subject to early release need to make arrangements with their BTG providers to speed up the process. See the other side of this pamphlet for contact information regarding unusual circumstances.

Here is what A.A. says about 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.

Alcoholics Anonymous 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 to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

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Charge dues or fees ~ Operate clinics or drying out facilities ~ Operate clubs ~
Provide housing, meals, or transportation ~
Keep membership records ~ Follow up on errant members ~ Control its members ~
Hold classes ~ Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing ~ Offer religious services or professional counseling ~ Accept money from non-members ~ Do research ~
Join councils or social agencies

The A.A. volunteers who bring meetings to your facility can assist you with the Bridging the Gap program and answer questions about temporary contacts.

Important:

If you are released before making final arrangements for a temporary contact call the Alcoholics Anonymous office nearest to where you are staying. The number can be found in the white pages of the phone book. They may be able to help you find a Bridging the Gap contact in your area or a meeting nearby.

District ____ BTG Coordinator:

For AAs on the Inside

New Member Guide



Bridging the Gap Prerelease Contact Program

JAILS/TREATMENT CENTERS

*Connecting the Inside
A.A. members to the
Outside A.A. Community*

Temporary Contact Request Form

I am within three months of my discharge date. I would like to have an A.A. Temporary Contact who will provide a link for me to the A.A. community through meetings and introductions to other A.A.'s.

Name: _____

Age: _____ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Patient/DOC Number: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Phone: _____

Facility City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City Discharging To: _____

Date of Discharge: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Alternate Number: _____

Take picture and send to:

A.A. Bridging the Gap

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Your pre-release contact is temporary only. The volunteer member will accompany you to meetings, answer questions and help explain the A.A. program of recovery. They will not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other such services. You will probably hear the same basic suggestions shared with all members; don't drink, go to meetings, read the Big Book, call your sponsor and work the steps.

Experience has shown that attending a meeting as soon as possible after release is very important in making a sober adjustment to a new way of life. Many of us have been where you are now and we know the A.A. program and the Fellowship can do for you what it has done for us.

Alcoholism is sometimes linked together with other addictions as substance abuse. Non alcoholics are frequently introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and encouraged to attend meetings. Although any visitor who is interested in A.A. may attend open meetings, only those with a drinking problem are meant to attend closed meetings.

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3. An outside member will contact you within two weeks to confirm your request and your discharge information. Please notify the BTG coordinator or the volunteers if you haven't received a confirmation within that time.
4. You and the temporary contact will make arrangements to meet after your release. Be sure to verify your information such as the date of your release, when you will arrive in the local area, the address where you will be staying and a phone number where you can be reached.
5. The temporary contact will meet you at an agreed upon time and place to attend your first meeting together in the local community.
6. A Bridge the Gap relationship is intended to make your transition from "inside" to "outside" meetings as comfortable as possible. There isn't a fixed schedule but usually after six meetings together the temporary contact will rotate to help the next new member.

Note: Inmates and treatment clients subject to early release need to make arrangements with their BTG providers to speed up the process. See the other side of this pamphlet for contact information regarding unusual circumstances.

2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM C: Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic Never too Late.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from the trustee’s C.P.C./T.A. Committee January 27, 2019 meeting report:

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities Committee a proposal that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late” be revised.

2019 Conference Advisory Action:

The pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late” be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated “How Do I Find A.A.” section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Excerpt from the trustee’s C.P.C./T.A. Committee July 28, 2019 meeting report:

The trustees’ Committee chair appointed a subcommittee to begin work on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. and the Older Alcoholic,” and requested that a progress report be presented at their November 3, 2019 meeting.

Excerpt from the trustees’ C.P.C./T.A. Committee November 3, 2019 meeting report:

The committee heard a verbal report on the update to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.” The committee asked the staff secretary to send an additional request for sharing on “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” to include accessibilities committees in a broader distribution list. The committee suggested changing the deadline of December 15, 2019, to a later date and that a progress report be provided at the February 2020 meeting.

Excerpt from the trustee’s C.P.C./T.A. Committee February 2, 2020 meeting report:

At their meeting, the trustees’ committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities a progress report on the update to the pamphlet “A.A. and the Older Alcoholic.”

Progress Report from the TLC Secretary:

In consultation with the subcommittee Chair, a request for stories was sent on August 12, 2019, with a deadline of December 15, 2019. A ranking matrix with which to review the new stories was developed and distributed to the subcommittee members.

To follow up on the January 15, 2020 deadline, a total of 44 stories submissions were compiled, it was noted that the stories submitted had an equal participation of female and male A.A. members, as well as a broad regional representation.

2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM D: Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.

Background notes:

Kits and Workbooks for C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.

Workbooks and Kits are service pieces. Any suggested changes to their content from the Conference committee are put forth as Committee Considerations rather than recommendations.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented, or the trustees' committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review.

Typically, service kits are updated annually each fall.

Background:

1. Treatment Committee Kit Contents List (See G.S.O.'s A.A. website at www.aa.org/treatmentkit)
2. Treatment Committee Kit (**Sent under separate cover to Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities members only**)

CONTENTS OF TREATMENT COMMITTEE KIT

The contents of this kit list are also available on G.S.O.'s website at www.aa.org/treatmentkit.

Front Pocket:

Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous	(DV09)
Suggestions for Use of DVDs and Magazine	(F-185)

Three Ring Section:

List of Kit Contents (this page)	(F-167)
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WORKBOOK: Treatment Committee Workbook	(M-40I)
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A.A. GUIDELINES:

Accessibility for All Alcoholics	(MG-16)
Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic Who Is Deaf	(MG-13)
Treatment Committees	(MG-14)

CATALOG/ORDER FORMS:

Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine material)	(F-10)
Treatment Committee Literature Discount Package Order Form	(F-39)

LOCAL EXPERIENCE

Some suggestions for possible use of this section	(F-186)
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OTHER RESOURCES:

Information on Alcoholics Anonymous	(F-2)
<i>About AA:</i> Singleness of Purpose (Fall/Winter 2002)	(F-13A)
<i>About AA:</i> A.A. Cooperates with Treatment Facilities to Help Alcoholics (Spring 2005)	(F-13B)
Fellowships Similar to A.A.	(SMF-38)

Back Pocket:

A Brief Guide to A.A.	(P-42)
A Newcomer Asks	(P-24)
A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their Sponsors	(P-87)
A.A. in Treatment Settings	(P-27)
A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request	(F-183)
A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer	(F-184)
Bridging the Gap	(P-49)
Central Offices/Intergroups/Answering Services U.S. & Canada	(F-25)
G.S.O.s/Central Offices/Intergroups/Answering Services Overseas	(F-59)
If You Are a Professional	(P-46)
Is A.A. for You	(P-3)
Primary Purpose Card	(F-17)
Problems Other than Alcohol	(P-35)

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Questions and Answers on Sponsorship	(P-15)
Serving All Alcoholics	(F-107)
Speaking at Non-A.A Meetings	(P-40)
The A.A. Group	(P-16)
The A.A. Member - Medications and Other Drugs	(P-11)
This is A.A.	(P-1)
Young People's Video	(DV-10)

History and Highlights of Actions: General Service Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities	(F-74)*
History and Actions: Trustees' Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities	(F-78)**

AA GRAPEVINE RESOURCES

AA Grapevine magazine	(F-41)
AA Grapevine Today/La Viña (One Page Flyer)	(F-188)***

** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English, French and Spanish.*

*** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English only.*

****Available through the AA Grapevine website on their resources page at www.aagrapevine.org/resources*

Rev. 10/18

F-167

2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM E: Review contents of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Background notes:

Kits and Workbooks for C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.

Workbooks and Kits are service pieces. Any suggested changes to their content from the Conference committee are put forth as Committee Considerations rather than recommendations.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented, or the trustees' committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review.

Typically, service kits are updated annually each fall. Due to the new G.S.O. ERP implementation, the updates have been delayed.

Work on implementing the suggestions from the 2019 conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities is ongoing.

Background:

1. Accessibilities Kit Contents List (See G.S.O.'s A.A. website at <http://www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit.org>)
2. Accessibilities Kit (**Sent under separate cover to Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities members only**)

CONTENTS OF ACCESSIBILITIES KIT

The contents of this kit list is also available for viewing at www.aa.org/AccessibilitiesKit

Front Pocket:

A.A. For the Older Alcoholic (Large print)	(P-22)
This is A.A. (Large print)	(P-56)
Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. (Large print)	(P-57)
Accessibilities for All Alcoholics	(P-83)
A.A. and the Armed Services	(P-50)
Serving All Alcoholics	(F-107)

Three Ring Section:

List of Kit Contents (this page) (Rev. 10/17)	(F-182)
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WORKBOOK: Accessibilities Workbook	(M-48I)
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A.A. GUIDELINES:

Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic who is Deaf (Rev. 12/16)	(MG-13)
Accessibility for All Alcoholics (Rev. 12/16)	(MG-16)

SERVICE MATERIAL:

Loners-Internationalists Meeting Information Sheet (<i>LIM</i>) (Rev. 10/16)	(SMF-123)
Online Meetings/Online Groups (Rev. 06/17)	(SMF-124)
Accessibilities Check List (12/16)	(SMF-208)

PUBLICATIONS:

<i>About AA:</i> A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs (Spring 2014)	(F-13C)
<i>Box 4-5-9:</i> Sign of the Times (Spring 2014)	(F-36A)

CATALOG/ORDER FORMS:

Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine material)	(F-10)
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Back Pocket:

Is A.A. For Me?	(P-36)*
Too Young?	(P-37)*
What Happened to Joe?	(P-38)*
It Happened to Alice!	(P-39)*
Speaking at Non-A.A Meetings	(P-40)
The Twelve Steps	(P-55)*
A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs [ASL]	(DV-17)

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

History and Highlights of Actions: General Service Conference Committee on
Treatment and Accessibilities

(F-74)**

History and Actions: Trustees' Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

(F-78)***

AA GRAPEVINE RESOURCES

AA Grapevine Magazine Accessibilities Issue

(F-41B)

AA Grapevine Today/La Viña Hoy (one page flyer)

(F-188)****

** Illustrated, Easy-to-Read Pamphlets*

*** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English, French and Spanish.*

**** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English only.*

*****Available through the AA Grapevine website on their resources page at www.aagrapevine.org/resources*

Rev. 10/17

F-182