

Area 72 Corrections Quarterly Minutes: June 21st, 2025

Introduction

- Moment of silence, Serenity Prayer
- Host Committee Announcements
 - o D18 welcome
 - o Break 2-2:30
- General Format

David's Report

- Pre-release Walla Walla prison
- Report: "Since I've started filling in as the Area 72 Corrections Prerelease Coordinator, we've only had one prerelease request. That was for Michael M, who is releasing from Walla Walla to the Olympia area (District 8). This was an interesting one b/c Michael sent the request to Area 92, and Dale B, the Area 92 Corrections Chair, forwarded the request to us.
I contacted Cathy Y, our District 8 Corrections chair, and she said that she would take care of the request. I will circle back with Cathy on Sat, but she said that she'd get back to me if she ran into any issues. I don't believe Cathy will be at the Quarterly on Sat, but she said that she will try to attend via Zoom. If she's at the meeting, perhaps you could ask her for a status of the prerelease request."

Aimee and Matt personal address

- Acknowledgment of the committee's cooperation.
- District and facilities list for 2019
 - o Request from committees to update the list of facilities to update records.
 - o Contact information for staff contact at facilities for future committees.
 - Staff members may not wish their information shared – will need to follow up. Sensitivity for contact information to be shared.
 - Each jail has their own rules for each facility.
- GSO email: at the international convention, we will be at the corrections booth.
 - o Aimee will be hosting with another corrections member from GSO.
- Committee inventory at year 2: not much to take inventory on as of now.

District Corrections Committee Reports

D1: Santiago – presenting 57, 58 (three Hispanic districts) in Area 72. 57 South Everett, 58 Centralia, 1 in the middle. Will report whatever they have.

D9: Leah – Pierce County Intergroup – corrections chairs also attend. When get to Intergroups, she can speak for all.

D10: Melody – meetings currently in Mission Creek Women's Facility, targeting for closing later this year. Converting to juvenile facility. 20 women sent to Purdy. Once/week AA meeting. Week to week basis, unknown shutdown date, possibly as soon as June 30th. No hard date yet. 4 volunteers allowed to go in. Trying to start a meeting in Purdy. Took about 6 months to get through paperwork for new volunteers. Never missed a week since approval. Some women early release but hopefully to see at Purdy. Once converted to juvenile facility, seeing if can get young people in there for AA meetings.

D12: Dan and Marty – both have experience taking meetings in but new to chair. Starts in AA going to Marysville jail before shutdown. Trying to get back in but many obstacles. They reached out to jail and saw roadblocks across the board. Not encouraging but just the reality. Where to elevate from here? Speak with judges, politicians, etc.? Marysville notice won't allow NA/AA/Church groups, due to COVID-19. Feels like someone on command staff that hasn't allowed them to start back up. New jail. Don't want to push too hard, since good working relationship. Similarly, in Snohomish County Jail, can't get in. Anyone with experience of getting approved with facilities? Bob: "Situation like these, go to the warden. Right a strong letter, formal, polite, professional – 'This is what's happening, not getting definitive answer,' if he won't, keep going." Jason: "Lynnwood jail also new but no known meetings in there. Asked for tour with the guy in charge. They're open to it and sound like they want to but staffing issues preventing progress. New facility and large. Pam H helped him out with it, wrote a nice email, and got a sit down with the command. Literature in there but no meetings. Playing the waiting game. Don't want to hammer with emails and be a nuisance. Pam H was a great help – can pass her info along." Karen: "Pam very involved. One of few people allowed in King County Jails – been going 20-25 years. Got info from King County for Lynnwood. Provided contacts from King County and lend credibility to Jason's work."

D18: Jeff – Two facilities in district Regional Justice Center Kent, Kent City Jail. Covered currently. It has been going for 20 years. Currently about 16 men and 16 women on rotation to take into jails each month. RJC sticky – working on getting people in there. Regional Justice Center: women very enthusiastic about reopening for AA. Craig, who lives in district has been working with her to get a group of men approved to take meetings in. Monday or Tuesday meeting – undecided. Facility would like a couple more before reopening, have solid rotation, no weeks missed. Interested in AA finding women's meeting coordinator to get same program for women. Some interest in point contact for women's

facility. The federal center nearby but not in district jurisdiction. Craig coordinating in district.

D24: Jason: “Lynnwood jail also new but no known meetings in there. Asked for tour with the guy in charge. They’re open to it and sound like they want to, but staffing issues prevent progress. New facility and large. Pam H helped him out with it, wrote a nice email, and got a sit down with the command. Literature in there but no meetings. Playing the waiting game. Don’t want to hammer with emails and be a nuisance. Pam H was a great help – can pass her info along.”

D27: Mike – No prisons but county jails. Sent out invitations to all GSRs, starting Zoom meeting first Saturday of the month to get on the same page. Combined corrections and treatment in district. Report: they have County Jail at 7pm. Peninsula group Long Beach, WA into South Bend Jail. Technically D21 but allow them to go in. Every Tuesday evening. 5-7 inmates attending each week. Big Book study, information share. Put in request for literature from area. Waiting for responses from South Bend jail. Doing well, getting more people oriented. Hard to get involved right now with back and forth from COVID.

D28: Ryan – Lewis County and Thurston County. New to position. Talking to Bob earlier had a disruption during COVID. No one to show him how corrections things go. Rough process to gain as much knowledge as possible. Not sure what to ask. Trying to break the cycle. Has alternate to take over for next rotation. Few facilities, only 1 able to get into. Largest jail – Lewis County – still giving same explanation: understaffed. Used to go in regularly, huge groups of men and women able to go in. After the COVID pandemic, change of guard and hard to get in. Peer counselor is alt, must go in for clients regularly and take the opportunity, when possible, to pitch for AA. Hoping for a test trial meeting. The church has access to the jails and had a plug from the church group for AA. Trying to stay professional and staying within principles and traditions. Juvenile Detention Center incredibly difficult to get into. Maple Lane has people sent in by courts for mental health and drugs/alcohol. Friend of Ryan’s going to be working there soon and will try and find out more. Lastly, Chehalis Tribal Jail – can house small numbers. With words about good meetings, getting large meetings in there, including women’s meetings. Since taking over corrections chair, able to get more women’s volunteers, trying to do 1 man and 1 woman. Trying to do one meeting for each man and women, but currently co-ed. No complaints yet. Hiring for CO’s and monitors. Cedar Creek Prison – 2 members from D28 (in District 8) – are liaisons to that facility – trying to keep them up with literature, just gave a box of Daily Reflections. Derek, area chair talking the other day, to send word to committee, recent inmates “Both ready to take the record for most meetings attended at this jail.” Both living the principles.

D31: Dina – having hard time getting feet in. SCORE meeting going in. There are people going into the meetings from Celebrate Recovery. Reached out to previous chair for insight. List of volunteers that want to attend all the different facilities. Since SCORE focused, put out words of correspondence program but not sure who to communicate with. Whole group of men who would like to join up. Dina unaware to focus specifically on SCORE. Trying to learn and facilitate how to coordinate with men and women in meetings. Needs to find out who the SCORE coordinator is at the facility. SCORE tends to be fast cycling. There are women and men going in. Karen can provide their contact info. Aimee will follow up with Dina and get here what she's asking for.

D40: Rick – sporadic with attending meetings. D40 (Capitol Hill) never really seems to have huge interest in corrections. I have seen some pink cans given out, pamphlets. In-person meeting at Intergroup. I am interested in the correspondence program specifically.

D42: Kerilee – N Seattle, Lake Forest Park. Not much to report. Got Jason's contact info because interested in Lynnwood facility. Sharing messages in meetings for national corrections conference bid. Meeting June 23rd. Volunteers for correspondence. Cedar Creek Prison location? Capital Forest – drive through Little Rock to get there (southeast of Olympia).

D43: Leah – Maria tied up and alt out of town. Since the last corrections quarterly, new development. Corrections meetings are now isolated to just a corrections meeting 2nd Monday of the month 6:30. D43 Kitsap County Jail Wednesday evening. Re-established with DOC and work release – do drop offs for literature and resources.

D54: Steve – Working on Enumclaw jail for 2.5 years. Meeting with commander and sergeant over there. Remodel cell section to have a secure spot for a meeting plus staffing. Remodel is done, nudged (email) them a few times, only crickets. Been supplying literature for 2.5 years. 12-15 guys from the plateau been OK to go into Regional Justice Center. Waiting for days and times. District in King and Pierce. First time in years, will have a booth at the Pierce County Fair. PI Chair got them in. Writing to a jail in New York, sent Grapevine Magazine, but then the mail came back. People been soaking magazines in fentanyl water so rejecting all printed materials. Easy to start that, form on GSO, and they'll send names and addresses of people to write to. Every 2-3 weeks, maybe 10 mins, it's really rewarding. Continuing to email Enumclaw Jail to re-open meetings. Were going in for 4-5 years, current commander's dad got sober in AA, so not sure the issue. Bob: "When he left the system, they only allowed Xerox copies of materials. Can only have 2 packages per year but if from a Church, library, etc. can have more. In NY, what one facility does, they generally roll out to all the institutions."

Report: Accomplishments - The process of getting meetings into The Kent RJC is still ongoing. The good news is if we have enough volunteers, we may get two meetings a week. The Enumclaw Jail meetings are still up in the air. The remodel is done but nothing scheduled yet.

Challenges - My main challenge is to remain patient and believe meetings will happen at Enumclaw Jail.

Goals: My main goal remains to be able to take any meetings with the Kent RJC and Enumclaw Jail within the next quarter.

Seattle Intergroup: Karen – back in April, successful volunteer sign-up event. 2 speakers and 41 people attended. Ruth took the lead as vice-chair working with Helen B Ratcliffe and Pioneer Centers to restart meetings post-COVID. Good success with responses. Couple items to work on in the next quarter: finish updates to corrections committee handbook. Reach out to the corrections committee for network/service opportunities. At the last meeting, we talked about how to expand pre-release programs in this area. Get more of the pamphlets into the facilities. For facilities in this area, do pink can.

Written Report:

Committee successes: In April, we held a volunteer sign up event in North Seattle. 41 people attended and we had 23 people sign in who were new and interested in service. We've done several of these in the past with a simple format, 2 speakers who can talk about finding AA at meetings while incarcerated, overviews of AA service opportunities and food! It's a great way to spread the word in a focused, friendly way.

The Federal Detention Center in the Burien area near SeaTac Airport recently accepted four new volunteers to start bringing meetings in on Tuesdays. We got oriented, fingerprinted and badged.

Lynnwood City Jail: The Jail is not completed. They are enthusiastic about bringing AA meetings into the facility when they officially open. We are waiting. Jason D24 Corrections Rep is facilitating this.

Restarting meetings at various facilities:

Helen B Ratcliff women's work release: Ruth our committee vice chair is working with the house to restart meetings which stopped with COVID. She's finding women to get approved to start bringing meetings in on Monday or Tuesday evenings.

Pioneer Work Release for men: Ruth is working with Pioneer to find a man in AA to coordinate and restart these meetings which ended with COVID.

Regional Justice Center in Kent is closer to starting meetings! Several men have been approved, and meetings will start after several more are approved. We are looking for a woman to coordinate reopening the women's meetings! Staff have been very easy to work with and very supportive of getting the meetings started.

Priorities for 3rd Quarter: Finish updates to the GSIG Corrections Committee Handbook. Reach out to eastside King County corrections committee to explore support opportunities. Expand the Prerelease Program efforts with county and regional facilities in our area.

Visit the Committee: We meet the second Monday each month on zoom and in person at 6:30pm. Email corrections@seattleaa.org if you have any questions!

Pierce County Intergroup: Leah – 5 districts, 9, 29, 44, 45, 54. 11 facilities on roster + D43 facilities. Since last quarterly, one has closed – used for ICE. Progress House also is closing permanently. McNeil Island on hold. Just filled position for liaison. The person who voted in was in custody there years ago that started the meeting in that facility. Years later, a member of AA and now leading the meetings. Some are closed to meetings but supply lit. Western State, Puyallup Tribal, Juvenile facility, ICE Detention center, Purdy. Absorbing inmates from Mission Creek. Currently have meetings there twice/week. Doing first-step workshop next month. Volunteers come in as temporary visitors and 12-step work. Orientation every 2 months for volunteers. Next one is July 26th. If anyone wants to join the committee, second Thursday of the month CSO 6:30pm. Only snag was all new Zoom accounts. Since the last corrections quarterly, I met with Sandy and was given a bunch of pre-release pamphlets.

Corrections Literature Coordinator – Sandy Grape – (see written report)

Sandy Grape 253.732.3322

Request from Area: list of contacts from districts. Reviewed process for ordering literature. Contact Sandy at: corlit@area72aa.org.

Greater Seattle Intergroup Corrections Volunteer Coordinator – GSIG: Jennifer – regarding SCORE and other facilities in Seattle, wanted to make herself available. Email: volunteercorrections@seattleaa.org. Coordinators for all the facilities covered by Seattle Intergroup. Fill out paperwork, send in paperwork, and be compliant with each facility. Continue sharing corrections at meetings: send any volunteer candidates to 206.713.0802.

Speaker: Donna – Area 72 Archives: The Seed of HOPE (The Effectiveness of AA Corrections in Area 72).

New Business: Who would like to host the September Quarterly? Puget Sound.

AI Summary (Automated)

Meeting Summary with AI Companion

Corrections Saturday Morning!

Quick recap

The meeting focused on technical and logistical preparations for an upcoming corrections committee meeting, including discussions about Zoom access and facility information updates. The group shared updates and challenges related to conducting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in various correctional facilities across different districts, with participants discussing strategies for establishing or continuing meetings and addressing potential facility closures. The meeting covered historical documentation of AA activities in corrections facilities, updates on current recovery programs across Washington state, and plans for future meetings and literature coordination.

Next steps

- All District Chairs: Send updated list of facilities in their districts to Aimee to update the master list from 2019
- District Chairs: Verify with facility contacts if they are willing to have their contact information shared for committee transitions
- District Chairs: Consider appointing an archives keeper for their corrections committees to preserve current documentation
- District Corrections Committee Members: Send facility reports to Matt via email with district number in subject line
- Sandy: Process literature orders for districts needing materials for facilities
- Donna: Continue working on creating a database of historical prison letters for area membership access
- Craig: Coordinate with volunteers for Regional Justice Center meetings startup
- Ruth: Lead restart of meetings at Helen B. Radcliffe and Pioneer work release centers
- Kerry Lee: Follow up with Jason regarding Linwood facility opening
- Ryan L: Send written report to Matt at cor.secretary@area72aa.org
- District 12: Connect with Pam regarding strategies for facility access through Karen
- Leah/Puget Sound: Host the September 20th Quarterly meeting

Summary

Corrections Committee Technical Setup Meeting

The meeting focused on technical setup and logistics for an upcoming corrections committee meeting, with Aimee B. providing instructions about Zoom access, Wi-Fi connectivity, and audio settings. Seattle, who is dealing with personal challenges including a brother's death and recent brain treatments affecting her memory, announced she would facilitate the meeting and shared updates about David's pre-release report and new

committee chairs being onboarded. The group discussed the need to update facility information, with Seattle requesting current facility lists from district representatives to replace the outdated 2019 data, though there was sensitivity around sharing contact information for facility AA members.

AA Meetings in Correctional Facilities

The meeting focused on updates and challenges related to conducting Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings in various correctional facilities across different districts. Several participants, including Leah and Dan, discussed their experiences and efforts to establish or continue meetings in jails and prisons, highlighting logistical challenges and the need for support from facility administrators. Strategies such as writing formal letters to top officials, leveraging connections with corrections staff, and seeking guidance from experienced volunteers were suggested to overcome reluctance from institutions. The group also addressed the potential closure of the Mission Creek Women's Facility and discussed plans to relocate volunteers to a new location, though no firm closure date was confirmed.

Jail Recovery Program Volunteer Updates

The meeting focused on jail and prison recovery program updates across various districts. Seattle reported on two facilities in their area: the Regional Justice Center in Kent, which is seeking volunteers for AA meetings, and the Kent City jail, where Christy D. covers the women's side and Bob R. handles the men's side. Craig is coordinating efforts at the Regional Justice Center, where they are working to establish regular meetings, and there is interest in finding a women's meeting coordinator. The group discussed the need for volunteers and paperwork requirements, with Santiago noted as the coordinator who needs to be contacted for approval.

Washington Corrections District Updates

The Corrections Committee meeting covered updates from various districts across Washington state. Mike reported on jail meetings in Dallas County and the Peninsula Group in Washington, while Seattle shared challenges and successes in Lewis County. Kerilee discussed correspondence programs and facility access, and Leah provided an extensive update on Pierce County's facilities and upcoming First Step workshop. The committee also discussed literature distribution, volunteer recruitment, and potential expansion of work release programs.

Corrections Committee Literature Coordination Updates

The meeting covered updates on corrections committee activities and literature coordination. Leah provided contact information and details about committee meetings, while Sandy shared updates on literature orders and inventory. Jennifer introduced herself as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Greater Seattle Intergroup Corrections Committee and provided information on coordinating volunteers for various facilities. The group discussed

the process for requesting literature and the importance of connecting with facilities. The conversation ended with a reminder about the upcoming speaker and new business items to be discussed after the speaker's presentation.

Presentation Display and Support Issues

The meeting focused on technical issues related to sharing and displaying presentations, including problems with screen size and scroll bars. Participants discussed solutions for optimizing the presentation display and agreed to try sharing it in a different manner. They also touched on the importance of honesty and support in personal matters, as well as the impact of socioeconomic variables on individuals' lives.

AA History in Correctional Facilities

Donna, a member of the Area 72 Archive Steering Committee, presented a collection of historical materials documenting Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) activities in correctional facilities. She highlighted items from various prison groups, including the Retriever Group at McNeil Island and the Pioneer Group at Walla Walla, showcasing the enthusiasm and recovery celebrations within these groups. Donna also shared letters and personal items from AA members incarcerated between the late 1950s and 1960s, emphasizing the impact of AA on individuals behind bars. She concluded by expressing hope that these historical artifacts would inspire continued support for AA in corrections and announced plans to transfer some materials to Area 92.

AA's Impact in Corrections History

The meeting focused on the history and importance of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) in corrections facilities, particularly in Washington State. Seattle shared letters and documents from the 1950s and 1960s that highlighted the impact of AA on inmates, emphasizing how the program provided hope and changed lives. She discussed the need to preserve this history by archiving letters and documents, and encouraged attendees to share any relevant materials with the area archives. The group also discussed the current state of AA in corrections facilities, noting a decline in support from facility staff. Andrew, who chairs the International Corrections meeting, shared information about this online meeting that brings together corrections workers and AA members from around the world to share experiences and ideas. The conversation ended with a brief discussion of hosting the September quarterly meeting, which was confirmed for Puget Sound.

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