

Hospital & Treatment Orientation

Welcome to GSIG Hospital and Treatment Committee orientation meeting. This orientation meeting is designed to introduce you to the H&T committee and for those becoming involved in H&T service. We are going to explain to you what the H&T committee is about, how it functions, its requirements, and to answer any questions you may have.

The only purpose of the Hospital and Treatment facility committee of Greater Seattle Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to alcoholics who are in treatment facilities. The activities of this committee are based on and governed by the twelve traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The H&T committee meets on the 1ST Saturday of each month at the Greater Seattle Intergroup office.

Facilities

The H&T committee works with facilities to bring meetings, panels, and 12 step work into facilities that want our service. We coordinate with groups and individual AA members in the Seattle area to make this happen. Some of the facilities we might serve are inpatient and outpatient centers, detox centers, 12 step calls in hospitals, mental hospitals, homeless shelters, clean and sober housing, and retirement communities. We are asked to be of service in many different places. It is extremely important to remember that we are *guests* in these facilities, it is an honor and a privilege to be there, and, we are the face of AA while we are there.

Guest

We are guests when we walk through the door and we must carefully abide by the rules of the facility. There are a few things that we as AA members try to stay away from doing. This comes from the P-27 pamphlet **A.A. in Treatment Centers**: We do not solicit members and try and persuade anyone to join AA who is not willing. We do not keep membership records, engage in sponsorship research, join councils of social agencies (although AA members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them), follow up or try to control its members, make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses, provide drying out or nursing services, hospitalizations, drugs, or any medical and psychiatric treatment, offer spiritual or religious services, provide housing, food, jobs or money, or accept money for our services.

Guidelines for Good Standing

These are suggestions that the GSIG H&T committee, relying on experience from AA as whole, have come up with in order to help carry the AA message and to stay in good standing with the facility. We serve these facilities at their invitation remembering "cooperation without affiliation."

As members of the committee we cannot, and do not speak for A.A., however, each participant is automatically viewed as representing Alcoholics Anonymous. We maintain our sobriety through the twelve steps of A.A. and try and practice these principles in all our affairs. In view of this we will:

- Avoid the self-indulgence of prolonged drunken logs, profanity, and unrelated topics.
- Respect anonymity of inside members at all times.
- Avoid interceding on behalf of any individual or group of individuals affected by decisions of the facility.
- Respect rules and regulations of each facility.
- Avoid controversy over policies or administrative practices of the host facility.
- Not pose as authorities in related fields.

This is a Service Committee and our responsibilities are:

- To the individual members and to the A.A. group within the facility.

- To the facility; courteous acceptance and compliance with the facility rules and regulations.

- To the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous; namely conducting ourselves in a manner above reproach, to ensure that we will not say or do anything that will reflect unfavorably upon the committee or A.A. as a whole.

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

- To attend all Hospital & Treatment Facilities Committee Meetings, which are held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 A.M. in the Seattle Intergroup office.

These are some of the rules and regulations that facilities have ask us to abide by:

- To avoid personal contact. NO HUGS, handshakes are ok.

- No smoking on the facilities property.

- No cell phones.

- Do not talk about medications.

- Do not give or exchange cell phone or personal numbers (this is only for a few facilities).

- Some facilities have asked us NOT to offer to sponsor their patients but it is okay to let them know what meetings we attend.

Rules and regulations vary per facility. It is necessary to learn these prior to entering the facility.

Always remember that we may be the first A.A. contact a person has and we want to make the patients feel that they have a safe place to go.

Guidelines:

- A.A. member.

- Sober for at least six months.

- Attend the H&T orientation.

- Abide by the rules and regulations of the facility.

- Show up to your commitment and if unable to do so, to find a replacement with the same qualifications.

- If you become unable to serve your full commitment term you must let the H&T committee know as soon as possible.

- If you are leading the meeting or panel it will be your responsibility to get other members to join you and to abide by the rules and regulations of the facility.

The rules and regulations are set up to protect both ourselves and the patients. If at any time you are unable to follow them, the result may be that the facility will terminate our relationship with them.