

Northeast Freedom Area H&I Subcommittee

Report for Area 11/23/2016

Chair: Erin Mc.

Vice Chair: Kate S.

Secretary: Evan W.

Literature: Mike V.

Our monthly meeting was held on November 2nd at Jerusalem Lutheran Church at 7 pm. In attendance was Erin Mc., Kimberly G., Garry C., Kate S., Kimberly R. and Alton H.

- Currently we are taking in approximately 55 meetings per month, into 5 facilities and have approximately 52 members of H&I.

- Current open positions are Panel Leaders for:
 - Tues 8pm Sheppard Pratt (4th week)
 - Wed 7:30 pm Men's Detention (4th & 5th week)
 - Wed 8 pm Hopkins (5th week)
 - Thurs 7 pm MRP (2nd week)
 - Thurs 7:30 pm Men's Detention (3rd & 5th week)

In loving service,

Erin Mc. – (443) 531-6791

Kate S.- (443) 418-3860

WHO IS BEST SUITED TO CARRY THE NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MESSAGE IN A HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION MEETING?

In our experience, it is best for members to have three months clean before attending an H&I meeting, and six months clean before speaking at one. It is not important whether or not we have been in a similar facility ourselves. Anyone with a clear and consistent Narcotics Anonymous message who is willing to share is well suited for H&I work.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Adolescents

When adolescents are referred to in this handbook, we are referring to anyone under the legal age of majority in your state or country. We need to remember that adolescents are prospective members, and should be treated with respect. When sharing in an H&I meeting/presentation, we need to remember that to an adolescent, the stress experienced due to peer pressure, or the relationship with their parents and/or teacher may be just as much a crisis to them as losing a job, marriage, or house may be to others. In NA, we learn to deal with our feelings and emotions and share with others how we have been able to work through them by utilizing the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.

Due to the governmental statutes regarding adolescents, we need to be especially aware of facilities' rules and regulations as they relate to our interaction with these prospective members. For example, some facilities may require a staff member to be present during meetings. One suggestion we may make to administrators of facilities for adolescents is that they make attendance at the H&I meeting voluntary. We have found this reduces distraction, increasing the opportunity for recovery in the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship.

While some people maintain that adolescents respond better to people closer to their own age, the bulk of our experience suggests that the age of the person sharing at an adolescent H&I meeting is secondary to their ability to share a strong, clear message of recovery. Adolescents seem to respond more to the message than to the messenger. All H&I meetings/presentations are highly structured and should be geared towards recovery through the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous. Our experience has shown that we do not need to use a special format when carrying the message to adolescents.

In addition to the do's and don'ts found on pages 28 and 40-41 we feel that the following should be included.

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