

Keep attendance records or case histories.

Offer religious services.

Provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services.

Provide counseling.

Provide letters of reference.

Discuss prevention, treatment, advocacy, legislation, etc.

#### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO CARRY THE MESSAGE?

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.

#### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The best way is to email the PI/CPC committee at [pi\\_cpc@district21cnia.org](mailto:pi_cpc@district21cnia.org)

Or

Simply attend a regular PI/CPC coordinating meeting at 6:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month at 244 Palm Avenue, Auburn, CA (Auburn Fellowship).  
(Meeting lasts about an hour.)

## TALKING POINTS

### Public Information and Cooperation

#### with the Professional Community

#### (PI/CPC)

#### WHY IS PI/CPC IMPORTANT?

"The A.A. program works when an active alcoholic wants help, and an A.A. is on hand to give that help.

But, somewhere in the background, there has probably been help from an employer, a doctor, an alcoholism agency or facility, or relative - someone who knew about A.A. and how to find us." (PI Workbook p. 13).

#### WHY IS CARRYING THE MESSAGE SO CRUCIAL?

"Our Twelfth Step-carrying the message-is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives;

This is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence.

The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service." (Bill W.)

#### HOW DO SUFFERING ALCOHOLICS REACH A.A. THESE DAYS? \*

- 33% find A.A. via Treatment Centers.
- 11% find A.A. via the Courts.
- 39% of A.A. members say they were referred by a Health Care Professional.

\*(According to the 2007 Membership Survey.)

#### WHAT IS THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH SUFFERING ALCOHOLICS?

Often the first contact an A.A. member has with a new person is to escort him/her to a detox or treatment center. Sometimes A.A. members don't even have an opportunity to do that; the courts do it.

## WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS SITUATION?

The following is an answer offered by Joe McQ (The Big Book Study Tapes)  
*"But now, with health care reforms and other social and political forces, the number of treatment centers is diminishing. There are fewer and fewer, and insurance companies are no longer as willing to pay for treatment as they were during the treatment center boom. At the same time, we in A.A. have lost some of our skill in working with alcoholics in this important phase of their recovery."*

## WHAT IS PUBLIC INFORMATION?

Public Information in Alcoholics Anonymous means carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. We carry the message by getting in touch with the media, schools, industry, and other organizations which can report on the nature and purpose of A.A. and what it can do for alcoholics

## WHAT IS COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY?

Cooperating with nonalcoholic professionals is an effective way to carry the message to the sick alcoholic. Such people often meet the alcoholic in places where A.A. is not present. Through professionals, alcoholics may be reached who might otherwise never find the program, or they may be reached sooner with the help of informed non-A.As.

## WHAT DO PI/CPC VOLUNTEERS ACTUALLY DO AND HOW DO THEY PRACTICE "COOPERATION" AND NOT "AFFILIATION?"

- We distribute A.A. literature in public places like high schools, medical clinics, public libraries, etc. etc.
- We explain what A.A. does and does not do, in face-to-face meetings with professionals in veterans affairs, treatment centers, counselors in high schools etc. etc.

- We offer to serve on panels in high schools and colleges and at County Health Professionals' conferences.
- We arrange for public displays providing A.A. contact information on buses, in hotel lobbies, etc. etc.
- We organize workshops with various Professionals Groups to learn how to best cooperate for the benefit of troubled drinkers.

## WHAT DO WE SAY ABOUT A.A., SO THAT OUR COMMUNICATION IS ATTRACTION AND NOT PROMOTION?

We tell our non-A.A. friends plainly what A.A. does and what A.A. does not do. (*More information in the "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" pamphlet.*)

## WHAT DOES A.A. DO?

- The A.A. program of recovery, set forth in our Twelve Steps, offers the alcoholic a way to stop drinking alcohol, and stay stopped, and become a useful and productive member of society.
- This recovery program is discussed at A.A. group meetings.
- A.A. members share their experience with anyone seeking help with a drinking problem.
- They give person-to-person attention to the alcoholic coming to A.A. This is ongoing, informal and unpaid.
- Local A.A. committees bring the A.A. message to alcoholics, upon request, as well as to professionals who encounter alcoholics in the course of their work

## WHAT A.A. DOES NOT DO?

- Solicit members.
- Make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses.
- Provide drying-out or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment.