

PRESENTATION: “WHAT A.A. IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT”
FOR TREATMENT FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

This is an A.A. service piece, prepared by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, at the suggestion of the 1991 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities. It is meant to assist A.A. members in making informational presentations to the administrators and professional staff of a treatment facility.

THE A.A. INFORMATION PROGRAM

The A.A. information program is designed to help alcoholics by presenting information which should be helpful to clients of alcoholism treatment facilities.

Presentations by A.A. members generally include a video and follow an outline which explains what A.A. is and is not; where it is; and what it's like. In addition to specific requests, presentations may be set up on a regularly scheduled basis. A recurring presentation is usually coordinated through a local or area Treatment Facilities Committee. Such presentations may be adapted to meet your needs.

GUIDELINES

1. The goals of this presentation are:
 - a. To impart knowledge about A.A. and to try to correct any misconceptions that may be held by the treatment facility's staff.
 - b. To foster a cooperative attitude between the treatment facility administration and staff and A.A.
2. Familiarize yourself with the A.A. literature that relates to treatment facilities, especially the Treatment Facilities Workbook and the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings.”
3. Review the film “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and note the comments which can be made before and after its showing.
4. Make brief notes on the topics to be covered. Talk about A.A. , not your personal problems and experiences. Never comment on facility policy or practices!
5. Allocate a certain amount of time to each segment of your presentation. Then...trim it down! Allow time for questions and answers. It's better to finish early than to push too much, too fast into the presentation. You can always come back.

6. Work with other members of the TF Committee or your group in preparing for this presentation. It may be helpful for you to run through or even “rehearse” this presentation a few times.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE (T.F. Administrators and Professional Staff)

1. Be on time, well groomed, and courteous.
2. Introduce A.A. and yourself as a resource, with a desire to help the alcoholic but with no opinion on the treatment facility’s policies.
3. Show the film, “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.”
4. Lead a discussion on the film.
 - a. Explain what A.A. is and is not, with emphasis on our primary purpose, non affiliation, and anonymity.
 - b. Describe what it means to practice a program of recovery with emphasis on:
 - 1) What happens at meetings
 - 2) The benefits of a home group
 - 3) What temporary contacts and sponsors do
 - 4) Working on the Steps

Encourage questions and comments. Refer to other A.A. resources and to other TF committee members, when necessary.

5. Distribute Literature: “A.A. at A Glance”; “A.A. in Treatment Facilities”; “If You Are a Professional”; Information on Alcoholics Anonymous.

Mention that A.A. literature is available from local intergroup or central offices or from G.S.O.

6. Invite the treatment facility staff to attend open A.A. meetings. Your local C.P.C. committee may have a program in place for this purpose.
7. Offer to come back for other presentations/discussions, to help meet their goals.

REMEMBER THAT THIS, TOO, IS BASIC TWELFTH STEP WORK

The professionals you are presenting to touch the lives of many alcoholics. You can help them to inform their patients about A.A.’s message.

And if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Treatment Facilities Desk at G.S.O.