

11:00 am - Sharing Session held virtually; opened with the Serenity Prayer by Coree H. Chair. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and participate on the topics. Presentation – Improving Communication in The Service Entities by Ken M./Panel 61 Delegate → SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

What is communication?

“Communication” is referenced 70 times in the Service Manual

Chapter One speaks of communication through the structure. It is clearly defined in the sub-section.

Communications starts with the group – the group and the Home Group

Different ways of how to communicate today. Video conferencing will be very useful in the future of A.A. Communication is a two-way street.

Sharing at the level of intergroups and central offices.

Liaison= communication between two or more groups; cooperation; working together

Different relationships within all the service entities. Sharing reports to what is going on.

Hearing more and more about Intergroups having Access Committees . Relations and communications are vital. H&I have active liaisons to foster better understanding and cooperation. Bridging differences through communication. Initiating better communication between all the committees at Area Level.

The ability to find out who they are and sharing information in uniformity at both

Local and District level. To kind of summarize it all starts at the home group, good sponsorship and representatives that attends various meetings with enthusiasm. Drawing the line in what we do in Twelve Step Work.

The meeting was opened for Q&A and open discussion:

A member shared their thanks for the defining of terms. A member shared their need to attend other district meetings and exploring the different services within the structure.

A member shared thanks for the presentation and the unity that is so defined. We can help by communicating to them that we are united ourselves. A member shared how well the speaker communicated about general service and that it's a model to follow. A member shared the importance of the dictionary along with the Service Manual.

Thanks for being a dictionary holder. A member shared how the homegroup and good examples to look to.

Q: Have you heard any communication of H&I going into facilities next year?

A: The whole CDCR are not open to video conferencing. Although some facilities like rehabs and recovery facilities have video conferencing available so that H&I can carry the message

A member shared the value of having joint committee meetings and the support that it provides

Forming a united front at District and Intergroup level. Perhaps it is a benefit

A member shared there's a lack of participation from the membership. If we don't have the membership to utilize the liaison accordingly we sometimes get thin. The current technology will facilitate the cooperation. Communication rids of undefined overlapping of services.

Q: There are different climates from semi-harmonious to outright hostility what kind of tips would you have to break those that we sometimes get into?

A: Great question. My experience is getting involved and becoming a part of those committees. I was the General Service spy in YPAA, but I eventually was integrated. Do not be apart from be a part of in breaking the barriers of open communication.

Q: What means of communication is becoming less effective because of the pandemic, and what would that look like in the future?

A: Suffering from effectiveness not meeting in person but going forward having the digital platforms. I hope will be a part of how we do things in the future eliminating excessive travel and opening different services to more folks that may not be able to go to the meetings. I think the video conferencing platform leads to better communication. Going forward, A.A. should utilize these things forced upon us right now. There is a silver lining somewhere for this bad situation.

Q: It seems if the walls are up and the person is to break the barrier, have you found any key ways to stressing unanimity with these sub-groups?

A: Becoming engrained in these committees, I find very helpful and talking to people one-on-one. When it comes to PI/BTG/H&I they are so interconnected. Bridging The Gap (BTG) should be at every H&I meeting sharing information. Being a part of one-on-one conversations instantiates where there are walls and divisions.

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A member shared the intimidation and it's like walking into the dark belly. The need for more transparency and how to be better informed. What do representatives do throughout the year of their single positions.

A member shared there are new opportunities of misinterpretation. Having love, patience and tolerance that there is room for misinterpretation.

A member shared how Covid has disrupted the program in how it interacts with jails and institutions. It seems we are having a real hard time picking up the slack and going to all the various detox programs and connecting volunteers with people by telephone. Trying to send contact cards. Inept at the technology that is demanded of us today.

A member shared their sadness with BTG not being able to work with H&I in their area. I don't understand the problem.

Topic and speaker selection for next month: It was suggested by a member to have an open sharing session and pass it on to the next DCMs from DCMs that are "Rotating On. Next month's topic → **WHAT WE LEARNED AND WHAT WE CAN PASS ON TO INCOMING DCMs. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm with the Responsibility Statement**

Respectfully submitted,

Chase C., Fill-in DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary