

Area 53 Treatment Facilities Committee Purpose Statement

The primary purpose of the Area 53 Treatment Facilities Committee is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers, specifically the alcoholic in a treatment facility, outpatient treatment setting, and transitional housing setting. Our intention is to simplify and unify the procedures for those who are interested in this type of Twelfth Step work. The activities of this committee are governed by the Twelve Traditions and based on the spiritual principles embodied within the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Because our public relations policy is one of attraction rather than promotion, we serve in these facilities at the invitation of the administration, ever conscious of the admonition

“COOPERATION NOT AFFILIATION”

Our committee is organized to avoid confusion and duplication of effort within Area 53. We are a Standing General Service Committee directly responsible to those we serve; the most important being:

1. To the patient or client within a facility
2. To the facility: courteous acceptance of and compliance with its guidelines
3. To the AA Fellowship of Area 53 which funds our activities:
 - To always be open and accountable to our Fellowship
 - By conducting ourselves in a manner above reproach, to ensure we will not say or do anything that will reflect unfavorably upon A.A. as a whole

According to the A.A. 2014 membership survey, 32% of our members cited treatment facilities as a factor most responsible for them coming to A.A. Carrying the message to alcoholics in treatment is basic Twelfth Step work -- sharing experience, strength, and hope -- giving it away in order to keep it!

Some AA members may be apprehensive about doing this kind of Twelfth Stepping. If they follow the suggestions of the Treatment Facilities Committee and stick to the basics of the A.A. program, their efforts will be successful and rewarding. To quote Chapter 7 of our Basic Text: “Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence where others fail.”

*statement derived in part from the AA Treatment Committee Workbook

(https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/m-40i_TFWorkbook.pdf) and the Northern California Hospitals & Institutions Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous

(<https://www.handinorcal.org/files/2020%20Policy%20Manual%20Sec%201%20Eng%20Final.pdf>)