

A.A.® Guidelines

Cooperation With the Professional Community

from G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an *informed* group conscience.

By action of the General Service Board, January 1970, the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.)—a spin off from the Public Information Committee—was developed. A similar Conference committee was formed the following year. Since that time, A.A. members in local areas have been responding to local need by establishing C.P.C. committees.

A.A. is considered by many professionals to be a valuable resource for alcoholics who want help. When there is a good working relationship between A.A. members in the community and paid alcoholism workers, the sick alcoholic is the winner—he or she gets the help needed from both.

We are not in competition with these non-A.A.s; we have our separate functions. A.A. is not in the business of education, research, medicine, counseling, treatment, prevention, or funding. We simply have a message to carry about a program of recovery for alcoholics—a program that works for hundreds of thousands who want it.

The professional can help the alcoholic want it—by education, counseling, and rehabilitative treatment—and can also be of aid through making the community aware of and care about the millions still suffering from the progressive illness of alcoholism.

PUBLIC INFORMATION, COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY, TREATMENT FACILITIES AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

The following descriptions of the responsibilities of P.I., C.P.C., T.F. and C.F. committees are given for purposes of clarification.

P.I.—The purpose of P.I. service work is to provide accurate A.A. information to the public when requested. P.I. committees visit schools, businesses and community meetings for this purpose. They also serve as resources for our friends in the local media, emphasizing our Traditions of anonymity, singleness of purpose and nonaffiliation, as well as offering A.A. public service announcements to radio and television stations.

C.P.C.—Members of these committees provide information about A.A. to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession. This group includes health care professionals, educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders, and industrial managers, as well as those working in the field of alcoholism. Information is provided about where we are, what we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do.

C.F. and T.F.—The purpose of C.F. or T.F., or combined institutions committees, is to coordinate the work of individual members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in hospitals, alcoholism treatment and rehabilitation centers, and correctional facilities.

In many areas, liaisons have been established among these committees—i.e., C.F., T.F., institutions and P.I. committees send a liaison to C.P.C. committee meetings. There are many instances of overlapping responsibilities. It should be clearly established that A.A. committees are not in competition with each other. Local circumstances determine who does what.

GETTING STARTED

One of the best ways to start your C.P.C. Twelfth Step work is to read the C.P.C. Workbook, which is a bounty of information gathered from A.A.'s past experience in C.P.C. work. As an example, in many areas C.P.C. committees are organized as follows:

1. Area C.P.C. chairperson and co-chairperson elected or appointed by the area committee.
2. District C.P.C. chairperson and co-chairperson elected or selected in each district.
3. The P.I., C.F., T.F. and C.P.C. committees each assign a member to attend meetings of the other three committees, thus maintaining communication and cooperation within A.A.
4. A budget figure from area committee funds is established and approved.
5. The chairperson of an area, district or intergroup (central office) C.P.C. committee is listed with the G.S.O. in New York.

Whether you work primarily through the area and district structure, through the local central office or intergroup, or your group, it is a good idea to have an overall organization. If you don't, problems of communication, duplication of effort, and outright confusion will undoubtedly arise.

C.P.C. KIT AND PAMPHLETS

The C.P.C. Kit contains information on all aspects of C.P.C. service, including the C.P.C. Workbook. The Kit also includes a history of C.P.C. since its beginnings, Guidelines, literature catalog & order form, pamphlets and copies of *Box 4-5-9* (which may include a section on C.P.C. news) and *About A.A.*, our newsletter for professionals along with a sample sign-up card. It is suggested that the basic "text" for C.P.C. committee members is the Conference-approved pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals."

Most C.P.C. committees have found it helpful for each member to have a personal copy of the Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbook. G.S.O. furnishes a C.P.C. Kit to the area committee chairperson at no charge. Additional Kits and Workbooks may be purchased.

C.P.C. IN ACTION

One suggestion is to work with one group of professionals at a time. When a list of professionals has been compiled, members of the C.P.C. committee would make an initial contact (by letter, phone or face-to-face), and offer to come and talk about what A.A. can and cannot do. Sample C.P.C. letters are available electronically. E-mail cpc@aa.org. You might also offer to take a professional or student to an open A.A. meeting in your area or provide A.A. literature describing our A.A. program of recovery, stressing our eagerness to act as a resource to the recovering alcoholic.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Area C.P.C. committees may request to be placed on the mailing list with community, state or area professional agencies. Specific suggestions and information about exhibiting at professional meetings is available from the General Service Office.

PRESENTATIONS

See the C.P.C. Workbook for suggestions on presentations you might give in your community. Most C.P.C. committee members will be informed on A.A. and its history, and are able to give an accurate and positive impression of Alcoholics Anonymous. We stress our primary purpose, and Traditions of nonaffiliation, self-support and anonymity. Please keep in touch with G.S.O. so that we may share your activities with others.

LITERATURE

The Conference-approved Literature and Other Service Material catalog has a section on C.P.C. specific items. There is also a section of the catalog for Special Needs, and much of the literature is also available in Spanish and French.

BASIC C.P.C. LITERATURE

For C.P.C. Committee Members

Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings	How A.A. Members Cooperate . . .
C.P.C. Workbook	A Member's-Eye View of A.A.
Understanding Anonymity	Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends
Information on Alcoholics Anonymous	Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.
A.A. Membership Survey	

For Professionals

Understanding Anonymity	Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends
If You Are a Professional . . .	A.A. as a Resource for the
Members of the Clergy Ask About A.A.	Health Care Professional
Problems Other Than Alcohol	A.A. Membership Survey
Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?	A Message to Correctional
This Is A.A.	Facilities Professionals
A.A. In Your Community	Information on Alcoholics Anonymous

For the People Professionals Serve

A.A. at a Glance	A Message to Teenagers
This Is A.A.	Is A.A. for You?
Is A.A. for Me?	44 Questions
A Brief Guide to A.A.	A.A. for the Woman
Too Young?	Letter to a Woman Alcoholic
Do You Think You're Different?	Time to Start Living
Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?	A.A. for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic
Problems Other Than Alcohol	A.A. for the Native North American

A.A. Guidelines on: C.P.C. Committees; Cooperating With Courts, D.W.I. & Similar Programs; Relationship Between A.A. and Al-Anon; For A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field; Public Information Committees; Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs.

Videos: Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous; It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell; Young People and A.A.; A.A. — Rap With Us.

Discount Packages: G.S.O. has C.P.C. Discount Packages for sale to help C.P.C. committees with quantity purchases of basic A.A. information for the public. For information about Discount Packages, please contact G.S.O., Grand Central Station, Box 459, New York, NY 10163, (212) 870-3400, or e-mail cpc@aa.org.

A.A. WEB SITE

G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, at www.aa.org, is available in English, French and Spanish. Helpful contents of the Web site are:

- The A.A. General Service Conference-approved A.A. Fact File.
- Conference-approved pamphlets and the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- List of Central Offices/Intergroups/Answering Services in U.S./Canada.
- List of international general service offices and intergroup/central offices.
- Anonymity letter to the media.
- Information on A.A. (service piece).
- *About A.A.*, newsletter for professionals.
- The A.A. Guidelines.
- A letter directed to professionals, which includes an e-mail response form for requesting additional information.

The General Service Office contacts C.P.C. committees to act as a local resource to professionals who request additional information. A.A. experience indicates that this provides a valuable opportunity for C.P.C. committees to reach the sick alcoholic through cooperation with the professional community.