

# Treatment Facilities Committee –Guidelines

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## Mid-Southern California Area 09

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### **Article I -- Purpose & Scope**

The purpose of the Mid-Southern California Area 09 Treatment Facilities Committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in hospital/treatment facilities, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from treatment to A.A. in the individual's community. The Treatment Facilities (henceforth T.F.) Committee also works to clarify what A.A. can and cannot do, within the Traditions, to help alcoholics in treatment.

The Committee will cooperate with Hospital & Institutions (henceforth H&I) Committees, Intergroup Committees, A.A. groups and individual members to maintain open lines of communication. All A.A. groups and members will be given the opportunity of sharing in and doing this type of Twelfth Step work.

All actions of the T. F. Committee will be guided by the Twelve Traditions of AA, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the AA Service Manual, the Guidelines of the Mid-Southern California Area (henceforth MSCA09) and the Guidelines of the MSCA09 T.F. Committee.

#### A. Basic Functions of the MSCA09 T.F. Committee

1. Support A.A. meetings in facilities within the Area.
2. Encourage group participation.
3. Coordinate temporary contact programs (bridging the gap).
4. Arrange purchase and distribution of literature for these groups & meetings.
5. Arrange for informational presentations to the facilities' staff for the purpose of explaining what A.A. is and is not.

#### B. Relationship With Treatment

1. Seeks to understand, respect, and adhere to all treatment facility regulations.
2. Makes information about A.A.'s function and purpose available.
3. Supports the formation of new A.A. meetings in treatment facilities.

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## **Article II -- Background**

Since A.A.'s co-founders first stayed sober by carrying the A.A. message into hospitals, many other alcoholics have discovered the great value to their own sobriety of working with suffering alcoholics in treatment facilities.

In 1934, Bill W. kept trying to help drunks in Towns Hospital in New York City. None of them seemed interested at that time, but Bill stayed sober. Dr. Bob worked with thousands of alcoholics at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio. In 1939, Rockland State Hospital, a New York mental institution, was the site of one of our first A.A. hospital groups. Twelfth Stepping and sponsoring other alcoholics — where they are—has long been one of the most important and satisfying ways of keeping ourselves sober.

Services to treatment facilities used to be combined with corrections facilities under the title Institutions Committee. In 1977 the General Service Conference voted to dissolve its Institutions Committee and form two new committees, one on correctional facilities and one on treatment facilities.

In 2003, the MSCA 09 likewise decided to dissolve its H&I Committee and form two new committees under the same names.

## **Article III -- Committee Meetings**

The T.F. Committee will meet at the monthly Area meeting (A.S.C. or Assembly) and at the same location. In addition, the T.F. Committee will maintain a current list of committees that currently take meetings (panels) into treatment facilities, which fall within the parameters of MSCA 09. The T.F. Committee will make every effort to maintain open lines of communication with such committees in order to foster a spirit of cooperation among such committees, groups and/or individual A.A. members.

## **Article IV -- Committee Membership and Officers**

The Treatment Facilities Committee, when possible, will be made up of the following members: Chairperson, Co-Chair, Secretary and any interested GSR's who have a working knowledge of current Treatment Facility issues.

A. Chair: *Elected bi-annually by the Mid-Southern California Area 09 Assembly.* The Chairperson may serve no more than two consecutive years in this position.

### **Duties & Responsibilities:**

1. Conduct monthly Committee meetings.
2. Prepare an annual budget for presentation/approval by the MSCA Assembly.
3. Report on T. F. Committee activities at the monthly Committee meeting and the monthly MSCA09 Area meeting (Assembly or ASC).
4. Help the T. F. Committee to elect an A.A. member to serve as the Co-chair.
5. Maintain a current list of local treatment facilities.
6. Ensure that the purpose and scope of this committee is maintained through facilitating a periodic Committee Inventory. The Committee Secretary will produce a typewritten summary of the inventory session and distribute copies of this summary to any interested parties. It is strongly suggested that the Committee Inventory follow guidelines laid out in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

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B. Co-Chair: *The A.A. member filling this position is elected by the T.F. Committee and confirmed by the MSCA09 Area Assembly.* In the absence of the T.F. Committee Chairperson, the Co-Chair will act as the Committee Chairperson and is responsible for all those items listed in the Chairperson's responsibilities. In the event the T.F. Committee Chairperson is unable to continue in that capacity, the Co-Chair will act as Committee Chair until the MSCA Area Officers meet, at which time, the Area Officers Committee (A.O.C.) will decide to either present the Co-Chair to the Area for confirmation as the new T. F. Committee Chair, or select (an)other AA member(s) for presentation to the MSCA for election and/or confirmation.

C. Secretary: The Secretary of the T.F. Committee is responsible for recording the minutes of the monthly committee meeting and making those minutes available, as requested. The Secretary will also assist the Chairperson to maintain accurate records of treatment facilities within MSCA09 and assist in making sure that harmonious relationships are maintained between these facilities and the AA committees, groups or individual members which interact with them. Access to a computer and internet/email communication is highly recommended for the person holding the Secretary position.

D. Rotation: Voting members of the MSCA09 through their GSR's elect The T.F. Committee Chairperson biannually according to the Area Guidelines. The Chair may serve no more than two consecutive years. The T.F. Committee Co-chair is elected by the T.F. Committee and confirmed by the Area. The Secretary is a volunteer position.

## **Article V -- Funding**

By September of each year, the T.F. Committee is responsible for producing a budget for the following year. In keeping with A.A.s 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, it is suggested that all T.F. Committee Officer expenses be the responsibility of the MSCA09 which it serves.

## **Article VI -- Changes to These Guidelines**

These guidelines may be amended only by a vote of the Assembly of the MSCA 09. It is suggested that a simple majority vote be required to amend these guidelines.

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