

PROPOSAL TO COMBINE HOSPITALS AND TREATMENT

The following proposal was accepted by the May Committee meeting after some debate and two revisions:

Amend the Area 17 Structures and Guidelines as follows:

Delete 3.7H., page 4, re-letter the sections and amend J (currently K) to read “Treatment: Coordinates the service work of A.A. groups and individual A.A. members who carry the message to alcoholics in medical and treatment settings. Sets up means of “Bridging the Gap” from treatment to A.A. and works to clarify what A.A. can and cannot do, within the Twelve Traditions, to help alcoholics in medical and treatment settings.

The objectives of this proposal are threefold:

- (1) It aligns our structure more closely to GSO where support for this work is done by the Treatments/Special Needs-Accessibility department.
- (2) It will help streamline our response as changes continue to occur in the treatment of alcoholism.
- (3) It will be more fiscally responsible.

While I have thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to serve Area 17 during this panel, I would be less than honest if I did not admit I haven't done very much.

All we need do is read “Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three” in the fourth edition of our Big Book to realize the outreach we do in hospitals is as old as A.A. itself. In Area 17 it is very uneven; we have some meetings – in Kona and on Maui – that have been existent in hospitals for well over fifteen years but on Kauai we only have literature available and on Oahu there is everything in between. The point is that the work is being done and oversight/coordination is minimal. We really don't need a separate committee to do this when procedures and practices for the treatment of alcoholics is being more and more centralized in the health care system; what applies in one setting applies in all!

Further, saving Area 17 the expense of one Standing Committee Chair will not solve all our financial challenges, of course, but it is a prudent decision in light of the above.

Lastly, I would only add that should this change negatively affect our work in this area, we can always change it back!

Thank you again for this chance to serve our remarkable fellowship!
Jim D

