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CORRECTIONS ACTIVITY UPDATE

May 2021

To: Corrections, H&I, Bridging the Gap Committee Chairs
From: Brenda Brown, Corrections Coordinator, corrections@aa.org
cc: Area Delegates, Board Trustees and Directors

Dear A.A. Friends,

Warm greetings from your General Service Office. For those who do not already know me, my name is Brenda Brown, and I am an alcoholic. With your support I have completed my first year as Corrections Coordinator and for that I sincerely thank you.

Here is what is new from the Corrections desk.

71st GSC Conference Committee on Corrections Considerations:

The committee recommended revisions be made to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and to replace the terms “inmate” and “offender” with “person in custody.”

The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Corrections review the language used in Corrections materials for Corrections professionals and explore the need for developing different language to refer to “persons in custody.”

The committee received a report from the A.A.W.S. publishing director with several viable options that had been identified to make A.A. literature in digital formats available for alcoholics in correctional settings.

The committee recognized the Correction assignment’s ongoing efforts to collect shared experience from members who participate in Corrections work – currently available upon request. The committee requests that a progress report be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Corrections.

The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and asked the secretary to forward a list of changes to the trustees’ Corrections Committee including using current language, correspondence samples, literature, links to A.A.W.S. Inc. and AA Grapevine digital platforms, and videos from the G.S.O. website. The committee also requested that the existing stock of Corrections Workbooks and Kits be retired once updates are completed.

REQUEST FOR SHARING: FROM OUR CANADIAN FRIENDS!

How is the Corrections Correspondence Service used in your area or district? Have you found it helpful carrying the message this past year? Let us know, submit your reply to corrections@aa.org no later than July 1, 2021.

Corrections Correspondence Service:

In August 2020, the Corrections assignment embarked on the daunting task of overhauling the outdated C.C.S. database system.

In collaboration with G.S.O. I.T. department and consultant firm Welman Digital, the Corrections Desk and team has met weekly to discuss, brainstorm, strategize and iron out every single outstanding issue from the old database system to create a new state of the art digital application, capable of using ALL data (old and new) to automatically match persons in custody with A.A. members on the outside with speedy accuracy.

Integrating the digital capabilities of NetSuite, the New C.C.S. Matching APP will be able to validate this information and use this data to automatically match based on specific criteria: language, location, gender, and capacity of correspondence (how many people are they willing to correspond with).

The New C.C.S. Matching APP is projected to be functional by the end of August 2021.

The application will be able to generate the following:

- Personalized welcome letters to be sent to all participants with information of their match and instructions on how the system works.
- Reports of active and inactive participants, how many participants were matched, total of pending people to be matched, and missing information from inmates and participants.

After implementation of the new C.C.S. Matching App in August, there is a projected phase two to follow. This is to revise functionality of all linked data, and fix or add features as needed.

Sharing from Behind the Walls

The spring and summer 2021 issues of our newsletter ***Sharing From Behind the Walls*** are available on our A.A. website so those of you taking meetings into facilities have easy access to each issue. You can find the newsletters and more information by clicking the following hyperlink <http://sharing-from-behind-the-walls>.

Grapevine News!

Free on the Inside a new book to A.A. Grapevine, features 50+ powerful stories by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous who have experienced AA in prison—while either currently serving, formerly incarcerated, or as outside AA members carrying the message inside. Carrying the message of recovery into institutions has long been a critically important aspect of service in AA. Chapters include finding AA in prison, staying sober inside, women helping

one another, working the Twelve Steps, sponsorship and carrying the AA message into prisons. Great for alcoholics looking for recovery in prison and for those who want to help them.

Thanks to the AA Grapevine and La Vina for supplying free subscriptions to incarcerated members who requested the Grapevine or La Vina magazines. Also, once a year the AA Grapevine Inc. publishes a special issue which includes inmates sharing. Look for it in July 2021.

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[G.S.O. U.S/Canada: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) helpful resources](#)