

MSCA 09 BRIDGING THE GAP PRESENTATION GUIDELINES FOR FACILITY RESIDENTS

Points to Remember

Keep calm control of the meeting. Excessive comments from patients or inmates may cause a person to be reluctant to request a contact, especially excessively negative comments during the Q&A period. Try to limit participation to questions only.

Be positive yet honest. Remind them that if anyone did not request a contact and they change their mind later, they can get in touch with us or talk to the staff.

Remembering page 89 of the Big Book may help:

"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics." (Reprinted with permission of A.A.W.S.)

Literature to bring:

- *Bridging the Gap (P-49) pamphlet*
- *MSCA 09 Temporary Contact Request Form*
- *A.A Fact Sheet (What A.A. Does and Does Not Do)*

Suggested BTG Presentation Format

Hello, my name is _____. I am an Alcoholic. I am here with _____ (names of the A.A. members with you).

We are members of Bridging the Gap of Alcoholics Anonymous. Bridging the Gap provides a temporary contact person to help Alcoholics make the transition from the facility to A.A. on the outside.

Our experience has taught us that one of the most slippery places in sobriety is between the doors of the facility and the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous in the community.

We would like to explain a little about Alcoholics Anonymous and what BTG is all about. We're going to share some information about BTG for a few minutes, and at the end there will be time for questions.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other, that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership. We are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution. Does not wish to engage in any controversy. Neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other Alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

We have brought along a short video, produced by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. I have asked _____ to run the video for us.

Show video - "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" or "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"

Membership in A.A. is open to any person who has a desire to stop drinking. If you think you might have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome, regardless of any other problems or addictions you may have. If you are addicted to drugs and have no problem with alcohol, we suggest that you seek out a twelve-step program that deals with that specific problem.

Bridging the Gap is made up of A.A. members that help people make the transition from hospitals and institutions to A.A. in their home community. Many of us either did not know how to find A.A. when we first started out, or were too scared to go alone. When we finally got up the courage to go, we were not able to reach out to a room full of strangers and ask for help. The sole purpose of BTG is to help you get acquainted with A.A. in your community.

To the Incarcerated:

If you would like a helping hand, we have some information for you, explaining what BTG is, what A.A. IS and IS NOT, and a form for requesting a BTG Temporary Contact. Your request needs to note special information regarding how to communicate with you prior to and after release, to conform to the requirements of this facility..

To patients:

If you would like a helping hand, we have some information for you, explaining what BTG is, what A.A. IS and IS NOT and a form for requesting a BTG Temporary Contact. If you have access to your phone, you may contact us using the QR code on the form or use MSCA 09 BTG website using the link provided.

To Patients and Incarcerated:

The information you give us will be held in the strictest confidence. It will be used to find a Temporary Contact for you, and then the information will be destroyed. We try to match your requests with a volunteer based on three criteria: zip code, gender and age.

Your BTG Temporary Contact will get in touch with you as soon as possible. Often this will be before you leave this facility. After you return home, they will introduce you to fellow members at an A.A. meeting in your home community. Their commitment to you is only short term. Sometimes longer-term sponsorship develops between the newcomer and their temporary contact, but sponsorship is not the purpose of the

Temporary Contact. Your contact will be willing to answer any A.A. related questions you may have, and will introduce you to the fellowship of A.A.

Now I will turn the meeting over to _____ who will share a little about what A.A. has meant to him/her/them.

Does anyone have any questions? If so, we will be happy to answer them.

Q & A period: Allow time for questions from the participants

To patients: These are the request forms we have been talking about. We will spend a few moments if anyone wants to fill one out.

To incarcerated: Be familiar with and follow the H&I Corrections Guidelines and the facility's rules for communicating with those incarcerated. You may use the MSCA Temporary Contact Request Form, noting that the person's DOC number or any other information needed should be added to the request form.

(Check that forms are filled out legibly and completely.) We thank you all for your time. [If the facility permits, you can leave additional request forms and note that anyone may use them to contact us later]. Thank you again.

After the presentation, be sure to turn any Contact Requests into the District Contact Coordinators promptly.

12th Step Service

Our Twelfth Step - carrying the message - is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

---- Bill W.

A.A.'s Legacy of Service (Reprinted with permission of A.A.W.S.)

Our actual 12th Step work must never be paid for, Experience has shown it is important that no funds are accepted for 12th Step work. In the spirit expressed in Bill W.'s words above, BTG is organized with the purpose of practicing the 12th Step and carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers by making the program of Alcoholics Anonymous available to all those who desire its solution.

**I am responsible
when anyone, anywhere reaches
out for help, I want the hand of
A.A. always to be there ... and for
that I am responsible.**