

Report for Prison Committee-US Spring 2023-Cleveland

Author- Ed G. Trustee Area10-Committee Chair

Purpose

To provide telephone, email, "snail mail", and in person resource (as feasible) to the trustees or their designees for the purpose of assisting when a prisoner or institutional staff member is requesting to start an "inside" meeting, or an intergroup and its committee are outreaching to prisons, jails, etc. Also, to compile in the ISO Office an unpublished JIP meeting directory as a much-needed resource for federal, state, and local judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, and clinicians.

Since the last Trustee Meeting

1. Three prison meeting starter kits have gone out to institutions in Grafton, Toledo and London, Ohio Where inside meeting have started.
2. Seven prisoners have reached out to ISO for information. Israel sent information, then forwarded their letters to me. Each prisoner received a personal letter from a committee member, Harold, or myself.
3. ISO records have been restarted (referred to in the mission statement as "JIT") under three files. Those being: Prison Meetings, Clinician information for correctional institutions, and prisoners outreached to. Israel has an electronic file at ISO and I have copies for committee use.

Shortfalls and Setbacks

1. Attempts to get meetings started in Avenal State Prison in California and Morgantown Federal Penitentiary in West Virginia have thus far failed to materialize due to lacking information requesting communications be established with the representative staff member.
2. While the committee has new added members, difficulties remain in determining a meeting day and time where most members can attend. Only one meeting was held with poor turnout, but much discussed and decided.
3. An AA member from Pennsylvania reached out to get a prison starter kit sent to him to take into the prison his AA group services. Thrice it was explained to him our procedure, but refused to cooperate with relaying information to us.

Committee Procedural Change Implemented

The largest decision we came to agreement on is this: Israel will not send out prison starter kits to anyone but the addictions staff member of an institution. And then they are sent directly to that person. This ensures the institutional rules regarding literature are met as the staff member filters, that the institution is on board with meetings within, and effective communication is established so GA/Institutional cooperation and support is readily utilized. This also allows prudent use of GA materials that are otherwise destroyed, lost, or misused.

Looking Forward

1. Was invited to present a 90 minute workshop to clinicians at the CPGC Summer Symposium on June 16th which is well attended by Government employed institutional clinicians. I accepted their offer.
2. Start widening our efforts to other States.
3. Increase committee involvement in driving our mission in their areas.