

Prisons Committee-US Report for

Denver Trustee Conference November 2-3, 2025

Ed G. Committee Chair.

Since the last conference and, as a result of attending the NCPG national conference, four new prisons have expressed interest in starting GA meetings within their facilities. Each has been sent starter kits and direct contact information. These are:

Franklin County Jail- Columbus, OH
Cuyahoga County Jail- Cleveland OH
Mansfield Correctional Institution- Mansfield, OH
Lenawee County Jail- Adrien, MI.

Cuyahoga County Jail Hosted an implementation meeting in late September with 20 Staff members and health professionals with me and Wayne S (Area 10 prisons fellowship coordinator). It was decided to move forward with LIVE MEETINGS within the facility. The attached meeting minutes were provided by the prison staff and are provided to demonstrate how we can adapt to individual needs of each facility. Currently a GA volunteer core is being formed, applications submitted, background checks being formed. No date for facility training has been set, which will be the final step before activation. Ideally, meetings will ultimately be weekly with one for men and one for women.

Gambling Anonymous Meeting – September 23, 2025

- Provide recovery resources.
 - Two reasons: No Fee, do not run out of time.
- Therapy counseling is wonderful, but it goes away, their program does not.
- Same goal = Decrease recidivism, poor public choices, approach from perspective of been there/done that.
- Prefer hands on approach, not virtual. Some areas are remote and are in the middle of nowhere because it can be difficult to get volunteers to go that distance.
- You do not see people with gambling problems physically because it does not take a toll on your body, its emotional, high suicide rate, takes money/trust, internal struggle, starts small then increase until you rob, or kill. Gambling is now mobile.
- GA program is based on attractions not promotion, you must want it.
- Gambling addiction feeds same receptors in brain; you keep going until you cannot anymore.
- 3-4% compulsive gamblers kill themselves.
- 14% incarcerated.
- Medical can now identify gamblers through Sally Port.

- Hasen identify those who need gambling services through level of care, he asks on his rounds, and trying to do a program.
- Through screening you can hit every person, there is a box but there needs to be a better process so that the appropriate parties are informed.
- GA wants to come every week. Informed there is an application online, background checks must be approved, once approved then training, maximum in room 10 people. The window will be 8:45-11am and 2-4pm.
- The meeting will be for one hour and start and end on time and jail can determine day of week, the jail like Saturday because they have other meetings on that day.
- Male and female are invited, mostly males attend.
- GA provides combo books.
- Megan received books that are GA equivalent to the AA big book, just asking that it not be thrown away, but pass along or put in our library. (Blue Books)
- GA will work on getting volunteers so they can get screened as soon as possible so that the program can start.
- Wayne, was present he has been 10 years clean, lost a lot, did jail time, but the program saved his life.
- Jail will list requirements in housing units.
- Contact information for Ed G. 440-773-9845

This progress is a DIRECT RESULT of participation of GA members in activities outside of the confines of GA while honoring the Unity Steps. Several GA members were present at this conference. Networking works.