

Sharing Hope.

The reason for policy

A Monthly Letter from the Director of Los Angeles H&I

Hello L.A. H&I Sisters and Brothers,

First, thank you all for your dedication and effort, especially those of you who travel far in not-so-ideal L.A. traffic conditions, for your sacrifice and your willingness to be inconvenienced for the sake of service. I'm honored to serve alongside such beautiful human beings who choose to give up their personal time and energy to help others.

Since I've been involved in the management aspect of L.A. H&I, I've noticed there are many panel leaders who are and have been orbiting for years on the periphery, not participating with L.A. H&I. They do not attend the monthly meeting and so are not using speakers from L.A. H&I. They do not communicate on a regular basis with their respective panel chairpersons and or area supervisors.

This is a problem because we have no way of knowing what may be going on with a particular panel or if it's going dark. It is also very difficult to be accountable and responsible to the organizations we service for any members going into their facilities.

The policy council has through the years made attempts to address this issue but the results have not been very effective due to many factors. One is these factors is enforcement of LA H&I policy. But we have now moved to alleviate this problem. Three years ago, new policy was written that every panel leader should attend the monthly meeting at least once every three months. This past year new policy was written that any panel leader should write a post-panel report within 48 hours of their panel stating:

- First name and last initial of speakers on hospital panels
- Full name of speakers on jail panels
- How many participants in attendance (approximately)
- How much and what type of literature was dispensed (if any)
- Any issues or problems with the panel to report

This new policy will help ensure: that panel leaders communicate with L.A. H&I on a regular basis; that we have L.A. H&I panels at the monthly meeting available to members who are actively participating; to know that L.A. H&I members are being used to speak at these panels; to be more responsible and effective in dispensing literature; and to better address the needs of panel leaders and facilities alike.

Recently I have directed the hospital panels director to enforce the new policy. By no means is this to inconvenience further or to single out any of you. You will be hearing from your panel chairpersons and area supervisors advising you of the new policy. (Please remember Love, Tolerance, Kindness and Compassion).

We need you and we are grateful for your service but I'll remind you that failure to comply with the L.A. H&I policy guidelines is grounds for dismissal. So please send in your reports (it only takes five minutes), and don't forget to sign in at the monthly meeting and come and say "hi" your area supervisors and directors. *(cont'd, right)*

The Los Angeles H&I Committee

LAHIC Director	Noeh C.
Director's Assistant	Devon C.
Policy Council Chair	Greg B.
Correctional Panels Director	Gene S.
Hospital Panels Director	Gregory G.
Panel Screening Chair	Mark S.
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Literature Chairperson	Stephen B.
Orientation	Andy V. & Frank D.
Scribe	Sasha B.
Webmaster	Marc W.
Central Office Liaison	Kim J.
Bridging the Gap/Corrections	Beverly M.
Bridging the Gap/Hospitals & Rehabs	Sarah P.
LA Intergroup Rep	Sasha B.
Greeter/Smoking Police	Terry W.
Newsletter Editor	Colleen W.

(cont'd from left column)

This is much bigger than just organizational integration. Unity is one of AA's principles, and as recovering alcoholics, if we have service but no unity, we cannot have true recovery.

We must stay united.

In Love and Respect.

*Noeh C.,
LAHIC Director*

“OH, HEY LOOK, ANOTHER COLLECT CALL FROM THE PENITENTIARY...”

As we approach Father’s Day, it takes me back to the last time I made a collect call: (a), I was not sober; and (b), I was in the Big House (which come to think about it, makes perfect sense for my then-drunken state of affairs).

The unpleasant facts? It was Father’s Day 2002, I was in jail and my dad was in a bar (a frequent occurrence for us both), and neither of was willing to admit we had a problem. I fought off my fellow law-breaking citizens in our matching blue jumpsuits long enough to grab a phone, make a collect call, and tell my dad I loved him. It was the last thing I would ever say to him as the years of alcohol abuse did him in two days later.

Speaking of fathers, a gal currently taking up residence in Twin Towers shared a story about when she was 13 years old. She ran away from her California home all the way to Texas in

search of her estranged father, who coincidentally enough was in California searching for her. Unfortunately Johnny Law was

also searching for him—a complicated relationship that ended as poorly as you might guess. They never did find each other as he ended up back in prison, where he died of an overdose. Now all these years later she finds herself locked up doing all she can do to prevent a similar outcome, which is how the message delivered by H&I can play a role.

I’ll always be thankful for that last call to my dad and I continue to pay tribute to him by remaining sober these past eight years—AA works!

Gene S.

AA H&I Corrections Director



HELP WANTED

Area 2 is growing; so is Area 4. By growing, I mean that we are adding more panels to these areas every month. We are now asking the area supervisors to keep track of every panel every month, so that we have a report from each panel letting us know: (a), if it happened; (b), who attended; and (c), if literature was used. Unfortunately there has been resistance to this policy—or perhaps, just forgetfulness. The area supes have to spend time chasing down panel leaders to get this information. To say that this is time consuming, and makes the supes want to pull out their hair until they look like me, is an understatement. We do have a system in place for each panel to have a panel chairperson—one person that collects the four or five reports each month for the area supervisor. Finding one panel leader to take on that responsibility is extremely difficult, supervisors tell me.

We need your help, as H&I members, in putting together a system that is accountable and assures that there are no



dark nights. Here is how you can help:

1. If you are a panel speaker, if you have signed up to speak on a panel, show up for the panel, even if the panel leader doesn’t call you and remind you of your commitment.

2. If you are a panel leader, send in your monthly report to your panel chair, directly after your panel, so you don’t forget. If your panel does not have a chair, step up to the plate and become the panel chair.

3. If you are a panel chair, gather your reports and send them to your area supervisor at the end of each month.

4. If you are an area supervisor, get an assistant to help you out. Some of the area supes are already doing this, and it helps with the work load tremendously, not to mention the stress levels.

5. If you are the director, ditto. *Help Wanted: Hospitals director seeks assistant. No pay. For fun, for free, for sanity, for others.*

Gregory Gardner

AA H&I Hospitals Director

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