

Bridging The Gap

Presented by:

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Introduction

- Welcome to the presentation on "Bridging the Gap" in AA as it pertains to corrections.
- The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the role of AA in bridging the gap between corrections and the recovering community.



What is "Bridging the Gap"?

- "Bridging the Gap" is an AA service program that helps connect those leaving correctional facilities with AA meetings and members in the community.
- The program is designed to help people in custody who have been introduced to AA in correctional facilities to continue their recovery journey once they are released.
- The program is also aimed at reducing recidivism by providing support to those in recovery.



History of "Bridging the Gap"

- The "Bridging the Gap" program was established in 1955 as a response to the growing number of inmates who were being introduced to AA in correctional facilities but were not continuing their recovery outside of prison.
- The program started in California and quickly spread to other states and countries.
- Today, "Bridging the Gap" is a worldwide program with a strong presence in Canada and the United States



The Importance of "Bridging the Gap"

- The importance of "Bridging the Gap" lies in its ability to help individuals in recovery continue their journey after they leave correctional facilities.
- Without the support and guidance of the program, many individuals may struggle to find meetings, sponsors, and other resources that are critical to their recovery.
- Additionally, the program helps to break down the stigma associated with addiction and recovery by providing support and understanding to those who have been incarcerated



How Does "Bridging the Gap" Work?

- The "Bridging the Gap" program works by connecting inmates with AA members in the community.
- The program provides inmates with a list of local AA meetings and gets them in contact with members who are willing to support them.
- In some cases, AA members may also attend meetings inside the correctional facility to provide support and guidance to inmates who are leaving their facilities.



Challenges Faced by "Bridging the Gap"

- One of the challenges faced by the "Bridging the Gap" program is ensuring that inmates have access to meetings and support once they are released.
- Transportation and financial barriers can make it difficult for individuals to attend meetings, especially in rural or low-income areas.
- Additionally, some individuals may not be ready to embrace recovery or may struggle to find a sponsor or mentor.
- The lure of their old life can be difficult to overcome. It may seem like the "Easier Softer Way".



Success Stories of "Bridging the Gap"

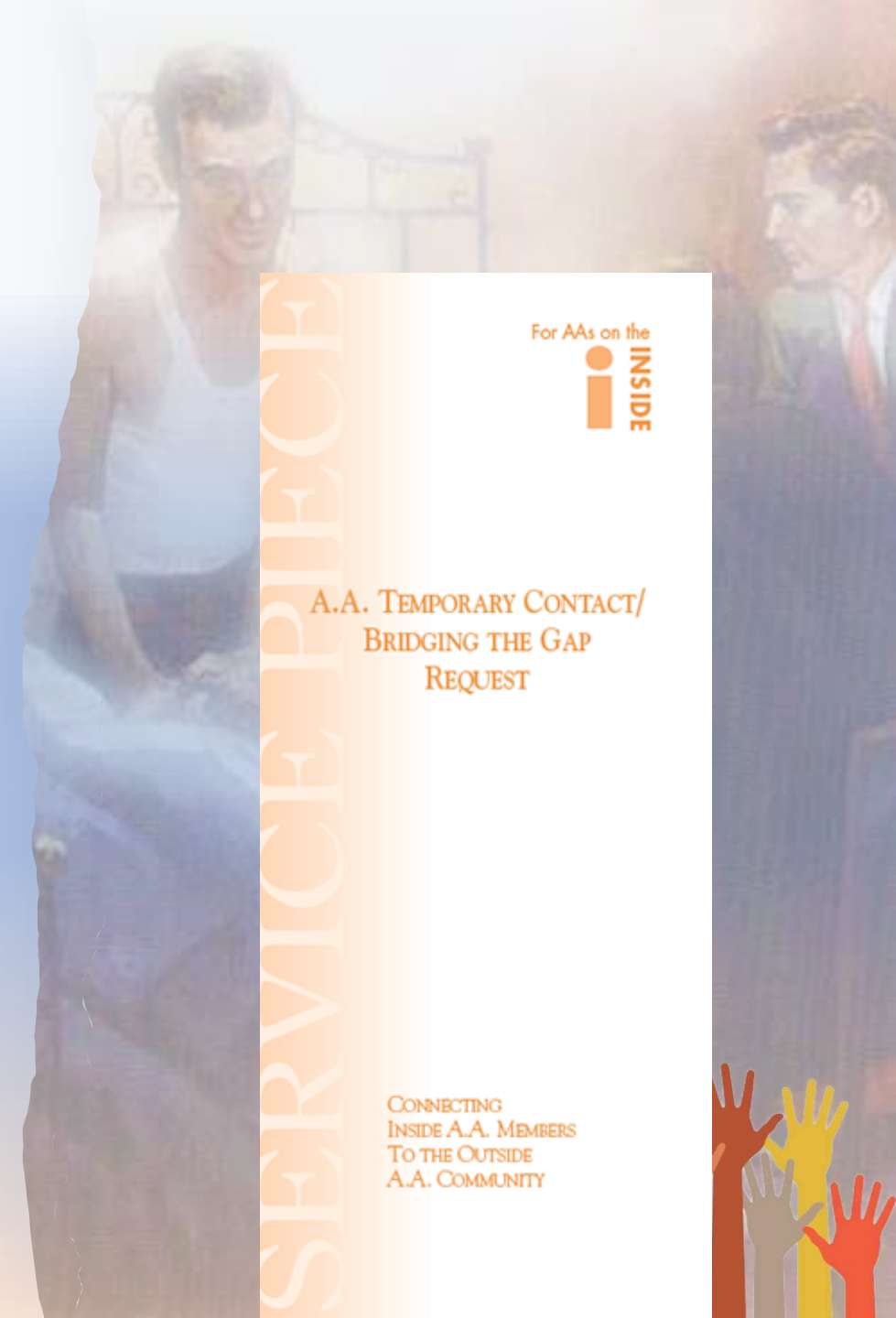
- Despite the challenges, the "Bridging the Gap" program has helped countless individuals continue their recovery journey outside of correctional facilities.
- Success stories include individuals who have found employment, built strong support networks, and maintained long-term sobriety.
- The program has also helped reduce recidivism by providing individuals with the tools and resources they need to rebuild their lives after incarceration.



Resources

F-183 A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request – Inside

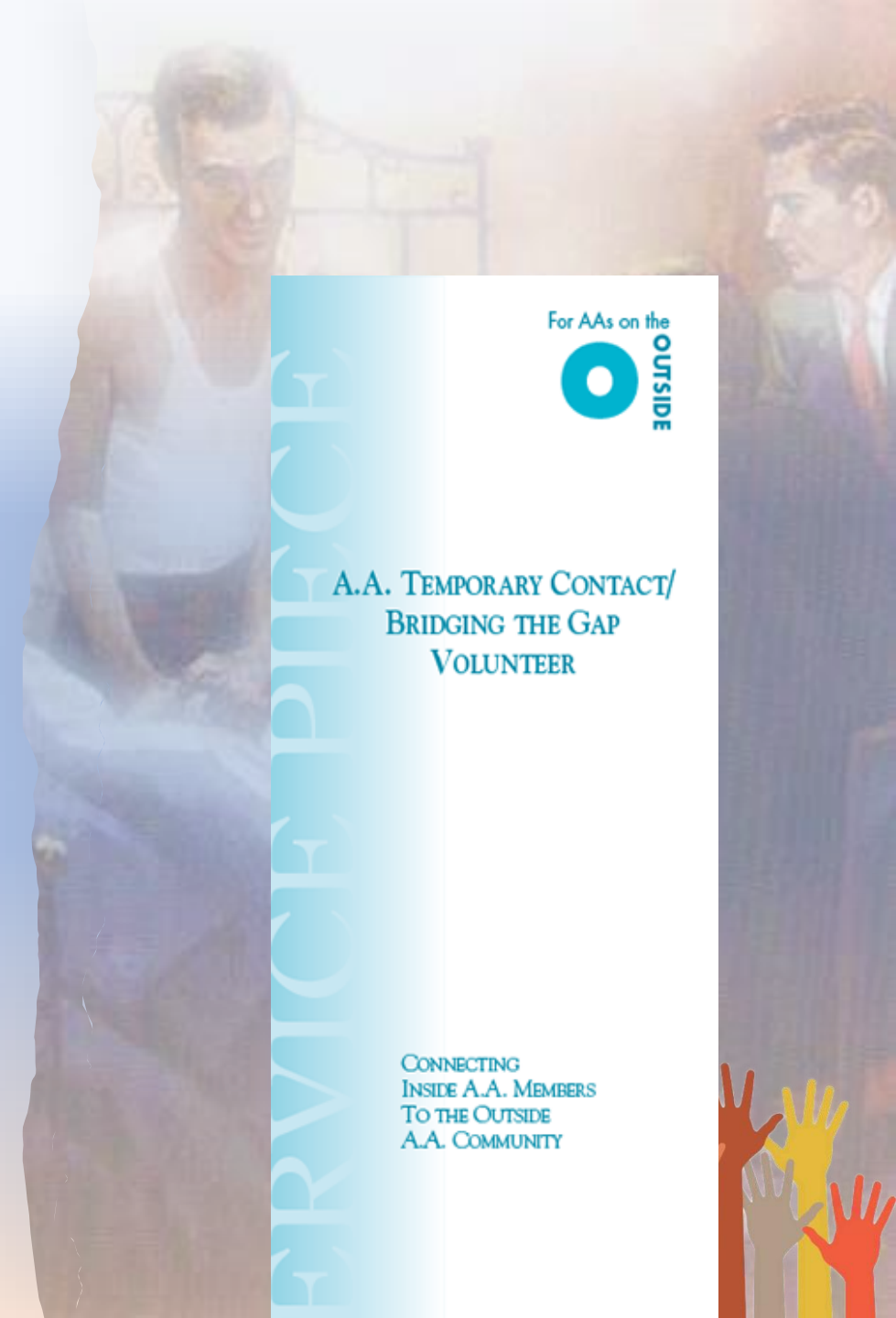
The A.A. Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contact Program connects clients leaving a treatment facility with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community. This leaflet explains the procedures for those about to be discharged.



Resources

F-184 A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer – Outside

The A.A. Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contact Program connects clients leaving a treatment facility with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community. This leaflet explains the procedures for those about to be discharged.



Resources

F-222 Temporary Contact Volunteers - Bridging the Gap

The Role of Prerelease and Bridging the Gap (BTG)

The Role of Prerelease and **Bridging the Gap** (BTG)

TEMPORARY CONTACT VOLUNTEERS

Warm greetings from the Trustees' Committee on Corrections. We are delighted to be in touch about the role of Prerelease and Bridging the Gap (BTG) temporary contact volunteers.

Alcoholics Anonymous has a single purpose of helping individuals who identify as alcoholics to find sobriety through attendance at A.A. meetings and participation with the Fellowship of A.A. Many members of A.A. volunteer as Prerelease and Bridging the Gap temporary contacts as part of their own A.A. recovery, with the intention of helping soon-to-be released or newly-released alcoholics. One of the ways A.A. members can assist individuals who are under community supervision is to introduce them to A.A. by accompanying them to local A.A. meetings during the first days of release. Prior to release, local volunteers may also be able to offer temporary sponsorship or literature.

If a local A.A. community does not have volunteers who can serve as Prerelease and Bridging the Gap temporary contact volunteers, the location and time of meetings can be found by contacting the nearest local A.A. office (https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/find-aa-resources) or through the Meeting Guide app, which can be downloaded for free through the App Store or Google Play. Meeting Guide will provide detailed information including day and time of meetings, and whether it is an open or closed meeting. Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers. Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking."

As a service center we do not govern local groups but can share their collective experiences. Alcoholics Anonymous offers alcoholics a new and satisfying way of life without alcohol — a program of recovery that is working successfully for millions of men and women throughout the world, in all walks of life. The A.A. concept is that alcoholism is a progressive, incurable illness that can be arrested by learning to stay away from the first drink, one day at a time.

Local members will often be willing to attend at your offices, facilities or your training or educational sessions to provide a free informational session to more fully acquaint your staff with these services.

Information about your local temporary contact services or A.A. in general can be requested from the Corrections desk of the General Service Office of A.A. at corrections@aa.org or you can visit our website at www.aa.org.

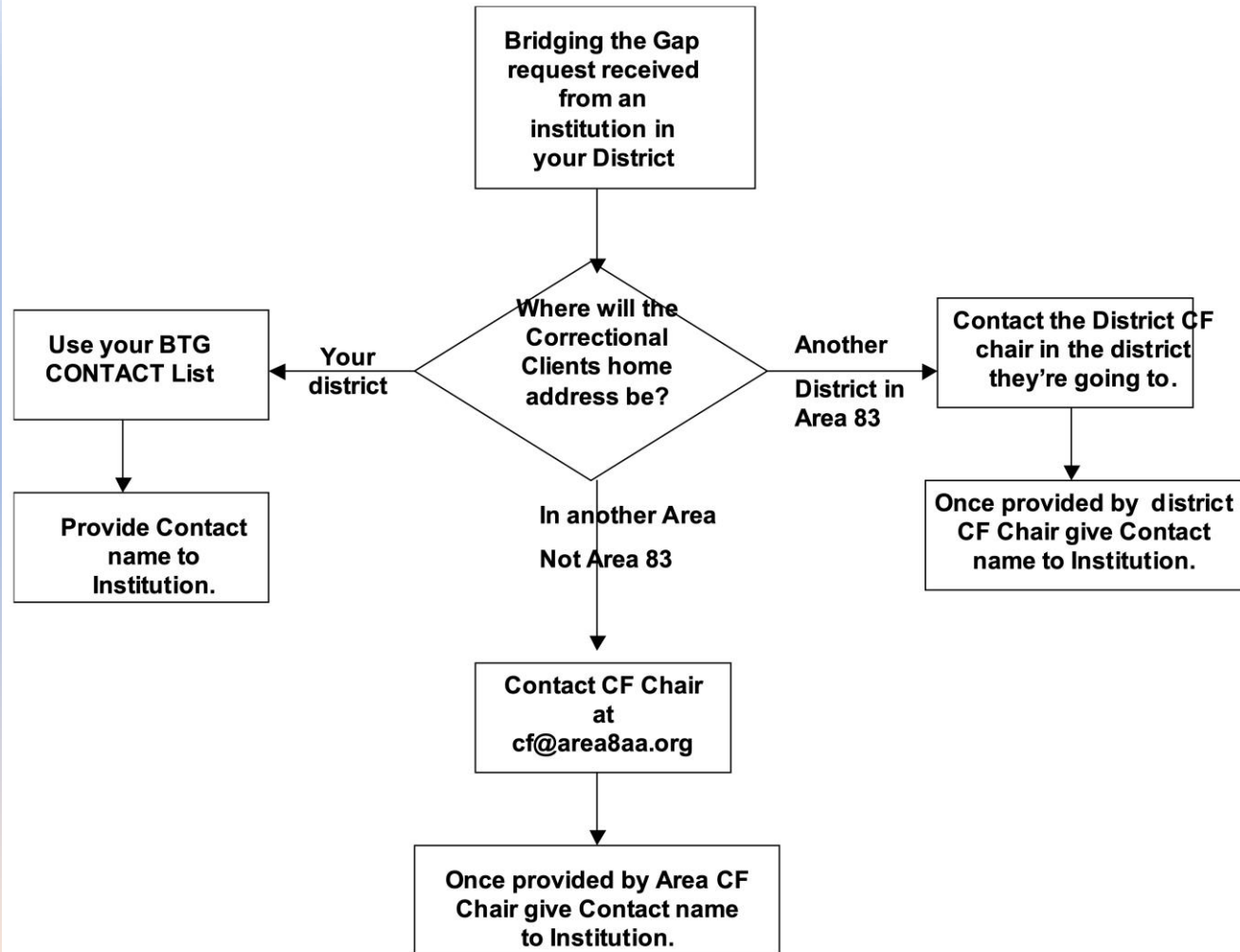
Request Received by an Institution

Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap

Flow of request received by an Institution in your District



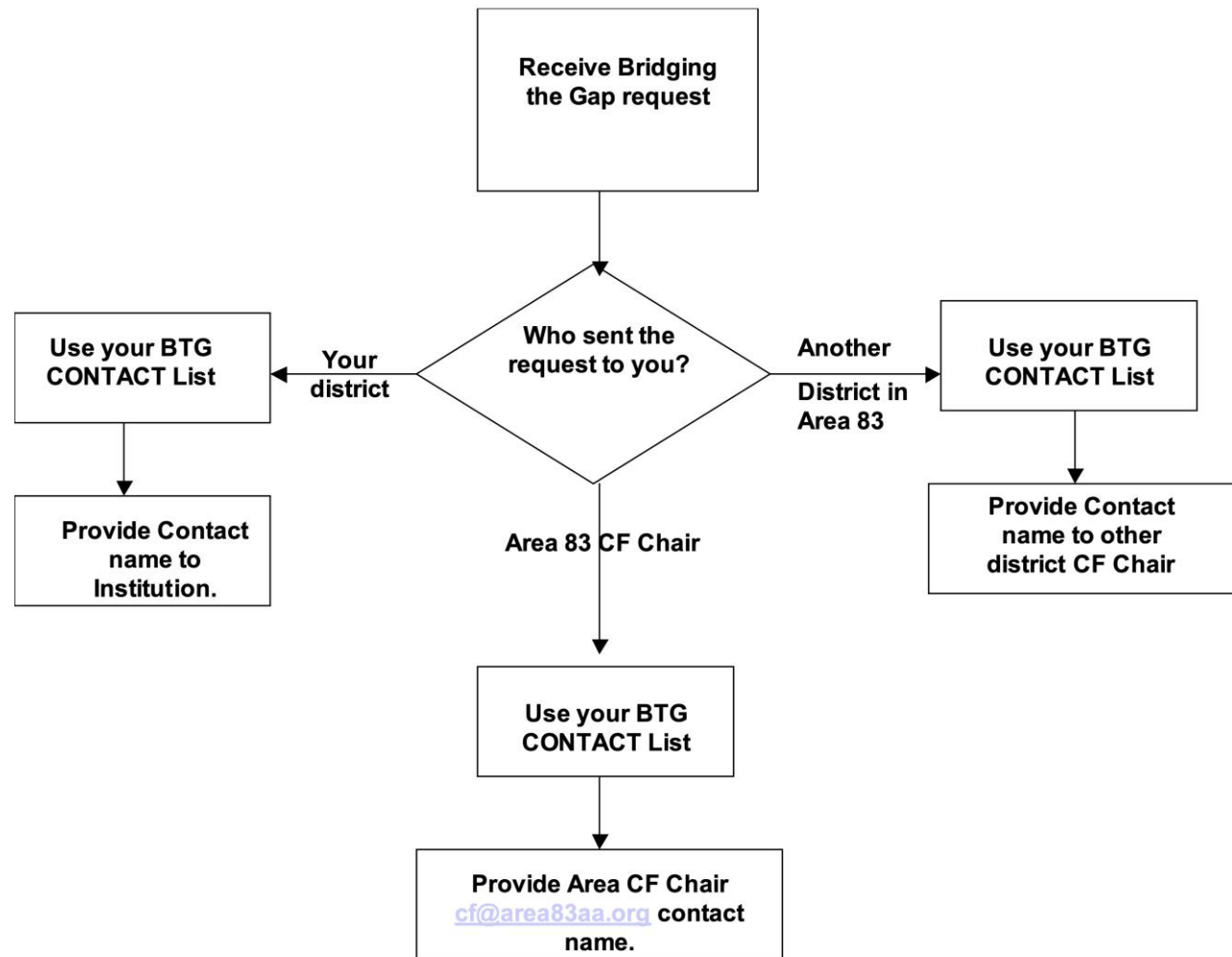
Request Received by Others

Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap

Flow of request received by others



Conclusion

- In conclusion, the "Bridging the Gap" program plays a critical role in helping individuals in recovery continue their journey after leaving correctional facilities..

