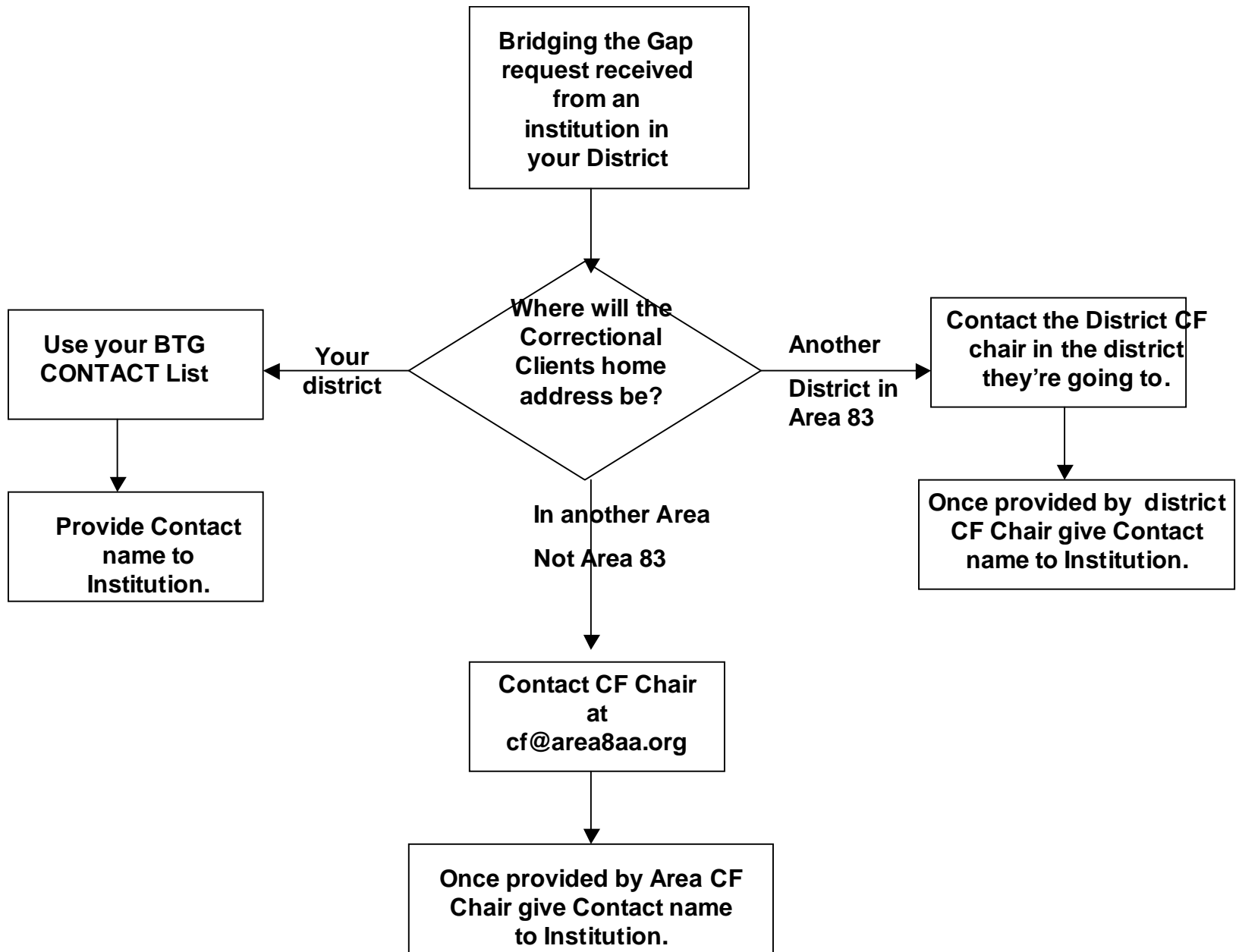


Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap

Flow of request received by an Institution in your District

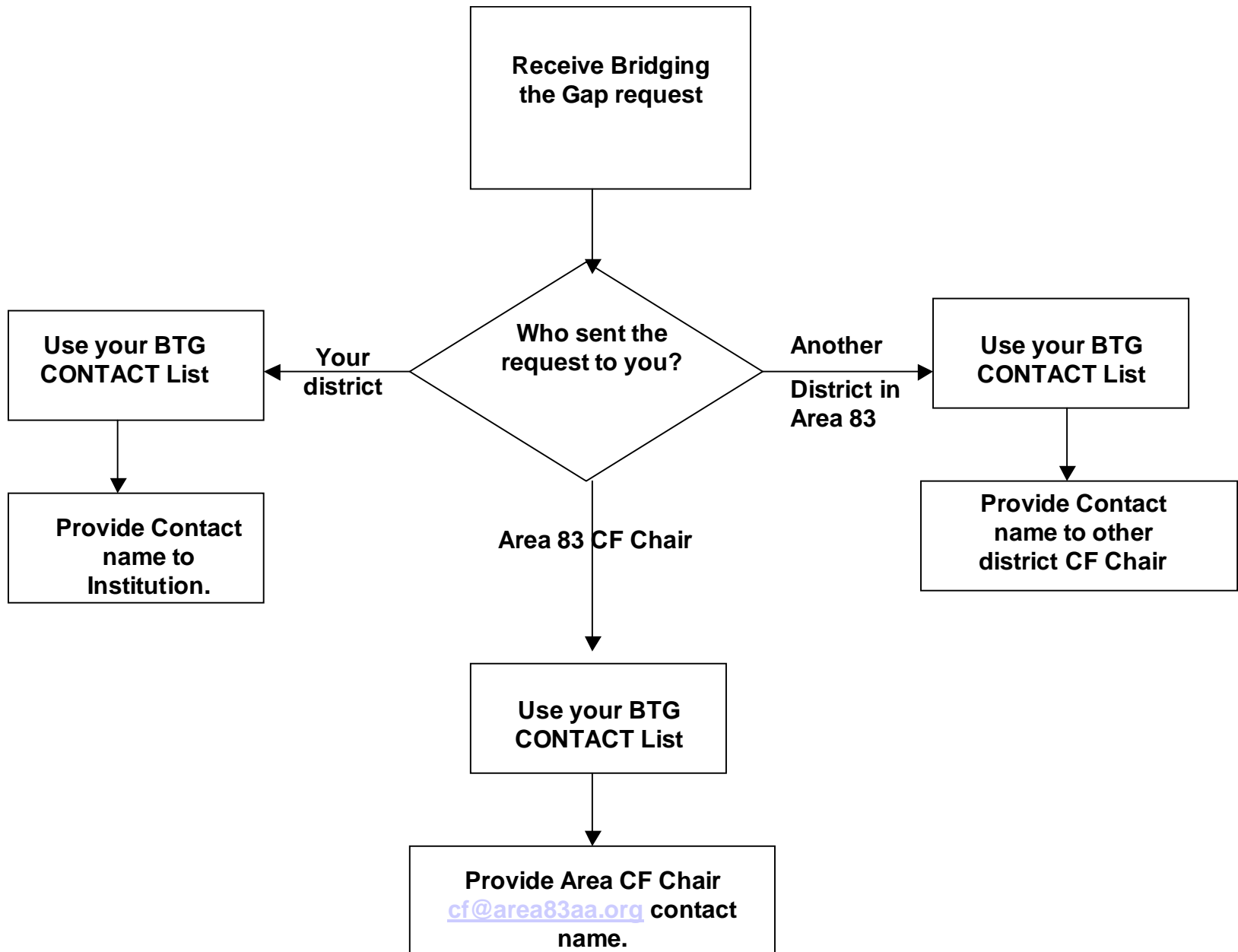


Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap

Flow of request received by others



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Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap

Program Guideline Summary Page

Background Information

Past experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting on the outside on the day of release from prison is one of the most effective tools for a Correctional client in making a sober transition and maintaining continued sobriety in the free world. It is strongly recommended that a Correctional client who is an A.A. member have an A.A. contact on the outside (refer to the attached 'Proposed Guidelines for Temporary Contact Volunteer') that contacts the Correctional client and arranges to meet him or her on their day of release.

The *Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap Program* connects the Correctional client an A.A. member with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community upon their release. When a Correctional client indicates they want to be released under *The Bridging the Gap Program*, we match them to the outside volunteer in their community who contacts them on the day of their release. The outside volunteer is identified and contacted and then sent the relevant information about the soon-to-be released A.A. Correctional client.

Note that this document is a guideline and that the Pre-release A.A. Contact guideline is covered in the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

Attached Guidelines

1. Temporary Contact Volunteers Guideline
2. Request Form for Pre-release A.A. Contact
3. Sample Letter to Institutional Program Coordinator
4. Temporary Contact Volunteer Contact 'Sign Up' Sheet

Prepared by: Area 83 Correctional Facilities

Dated: January 2, 2011

Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap Program

Temporary Contact Volunteers Guidelines

1. It is suggested that the temporary contact be sober for one year.
2. It is strongly suggested that men work with men and women work with women.
3. As in all twelve step work it is suggested that two (2) A.A. members meet the person as soon as possible after release.
4. Time permitting write the newcomer (Correctional client) and make arrangements to meet them on the day of their release and attend at least one meeting with them. Explain the difference between open and closed meetings. Ensure they have a meeting schedule and the applicable literature.
5. Keep in mind this is basic twelve step work. The intent is to provide the Newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have any related experience with correctional facilities. Your qualification is your experience as an alcoholic and your recovery in A.A. It may be helpful for you to as a temporary contact to be a member of your Area's Correctional Facilities Committee.
6. Explain group membership and the value of having a home group, referring to the pamphlet "*Questions & Answers on Sponsorship*". Explain sponsorship to the newcomer and perhaps help them find a sponsor.
7. Remember, you may be the only link a newcomer has with AA. Please be well acquainted with our Steps and Traditions, as well as all related literature.
8. It is strongly suggested that you do not use your address when corresponding with the newcomer. Possibly you could use your group's address, your Intergroup or a P.O. Office.
9. The information you provide us on becoming a Pre-release Contact will not be relayed for any reason to the newcomer (Correctional client) of the Correctional Facility by us. **ONLY YOU CAN MAKE THAT CHOICE.**

Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap Program

Request form for Pre-release A.A. Contact

The Pre-release Contact Bridging the Gap program is a service provided by Alcoholics Anonymous. It is a method of introducing the inmate to Alcoholics Anonymous on the outside. First by letter contact (time permitting) and then upon their release, volunteers escort people to A.A. meetings and introduce them to Alcoholics Anonymous in the community.

YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. You must be within ninety (90) days of your release.
2. You are reminded that A.A. offers only sobriety.
3. A contact person will write you after this form is received. Arrangements can be made to meet as soon as possible after your release. This contact will help you get to your first A.A. meeting and introduce you to the A.A. members in your area.
4. The contact person serves as a vital link between you and the outside group.
5. We feel it works best if you find your own sponsor, soon after your release.

Please supply the following information which will be kept *CONFIDENTIAL*

YOUR NAME _____ NUMBER _____

Current Mailing Address:

Facility _____

Mailing Address _____ Postal/Zip _____

Your New Address:

Mailing Address _____ Postal/Zip _____

Phone (____)-____-____ Tentative Release Date: _____

I would prefer a French () or Spanish () speaking contact

Forward the completed form to your Institutional Program Coordinator

Eastern Ontario international Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap Program

Sample Letter to Institutional Program Coordinator

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is to inform you that Alcoholics Anonymous has a Pre-release Contact / Bridging The Gap Program which introduces the inmates to Alcoholics Anonymous on the outside.

The purpose of the program is to connect the soon to be released A.A. member inmate with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community upon their release.

Enclosed you will find request forms for use by the Correctional Client to take the first step in continuing with their recovery in the free world. It is up to the Correctional Client to decide if they want a contact. Past experience has taught us that it is best if the Correctional Client is responsible for completing the request form and mailing it.

Alcoholics Anonymous offers the Correctional Client a chance to stay sober 'outside the walls'. Our volunteers offer only, their recovery, strength, and hope to the Correctional Client. They introduce the Correctional Client to Alcoholics Anonymous in their community.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the program Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have any questions about this program or about the A.A. program as a whole, please contact us.

Yours in A.A. Correctional Facilities Service,

Eastern Ontario International Area 83

Correctional Facilities

Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Volunteer

'Sign up' Sheet

Volunteers are needed.... Please fill in your name and information if you are willing to be a temporary contact for a newcomer being released from a corrections facility. The persons you will have an opportunity to introduce to AA will live in the same area as you. Take them to local meetings and introduce them to other members of the fellowship. Help them Bridge the Gap into AA.

Postal Code/zip code is needed to match you with the newcomer.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION / LAST NAMES USED

First Name, Last Name (<i>optional</i>)	Sex	Age	Postal Code /Zip Code	Home Phone	Work Phone (<i>optional</i>)