

The meetings begin with the PO opening the session with a version of what the probationers are to expect as well as an admonition to pay attention and not fall asleep. The PO underscores that this is a serious arrangement, and that the people assigned to it are expected to treat it as such.

The AA volunteers then take over the program and read an opening designed in Chicago and modified for Dallas. It ends with the AA preamble.

WEEK 1: Show the film "YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA." / Volunteer Shares.

WEEK 2: Have each of the volunteer AA's give a 5-10 minute lead telling of their personal experience, similar to the way we speak in open speaker meetings.

WEEK 3: Show the film "IT SURE BEATS SITTING IN A CELL." / Volunteer Shares

WEEK 4: Have an open meeting including 10-15 minute leads by AA, ALANON, ALATEEN. Explain the difference between open and closed meetings, speaker meetings, discussion meetings, etc.

WEEK 5: Show the film "HOPE." / Volunteer shares

WEEK 6: Have AA's hold a regular discussion meeting including "How it Works," Serenity Prayer, Topic, Sharing, Chips, Lord's Prayer. The Court Referrals will be spectators until the last 10-15 minutes which will be left open for questions.

SESSIONS 1 TO 5 END WITH A 5-10 MINUTE QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD. ALL OF THE ABOVE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY OPINION AND/OR EXPERIENCE.

Narcotics Anonymous has also been asked to share one of the weeks, either the 4th or 5th week.

Planning for the Dallas version of CRIP began over a year ago. Paul M., who served on the InterGroup Board, contacted Chicago InterGroup and the person who started the concept there. Paul headed the project and guided it to a beginning. Paul M. and Jo M. began meeting with the head of Dallas County Probation, Jim Mills and his assistant, Ray Flores. The Probation Department is very understanding about the problems from the AA point of view. In addition, they believe that CRIP would be very beneficial to their clients. The CRIP program has had their backing in every way. Ray Flores has provided help ranging from securing a site and providing storage for the monitor/VCR to providing enthusiastic and supportive probation officers. (They even come in on days off) Paul M. worked out the format and a basic outline for the volunteers, and in September we actually held our first CRIP meeting in the Courthouse. It was not until November, however, that the meetings were conducted as outlined because of various difficulties with equipment and storage. Last week we completed our first six week session of the CRIP program. Ray Flores is trying to the best of his ability to send only people with alcohol-related offenses to CRIP.

CRIP is going very well. We have as many as 30 to 40 probationers showing up each time. This number is up from the 2 to 6 we had at the start. These people are attending CRIP before attending Alcoholics Anonymous. At some point, we want the CRIP program to take the place of "sentencing" to AA. Right now, however, we at least have initial contact with the probationers and are able to provide them with information, literature, our experience, contacts, phone numbers, and meeting schedules. Out of respect for the AA Traditions, we can steer them away from closed meetings unless they have a desire to stay sober. As the judicial systems become confident that we are here to stay and really do provide a service, we will see attendance grow and approval become wide spread. In the future, we believe that CRIP can take the place of "sentencing" to AA meetings.

I meet with the CRIP captains the second Tuesday of every month to go over problems and offer solutions. When we encounter something we want to change or need help on, then I bring it to the board for consideration. The main problem we have encountered so far: AA volunteers have been unwilling to commit to six weeks. The present team captains sometimes are the only ones that show up. Friday is fully staffed, but Monday and Wednesday need help. These team captains will be leaving some time in the next few months, and we need experienced volunteers to take their place.

Two suggestions: we reprint the twelve questions on sheets of paper.
use old meeting schedules to distribute to probationers