

AA Corrections Connection Training Held for Wende Hub Program Services Staff

Recently, Central Office and Wende Hub Volunteer Services staff collaborated with volunteers and members of the Areas 47 and 50 delegations of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to offer a unique training opportunity to DOCCS Program staff and potential AA volunteers. The goal of this training event was to increase awareness of how volunteers and Volunteer Programs serve to enhance DOCCS programming, such as Alcohol & Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT) and Transitional Services, and the need for these services at DOCCS facilities in the Wende Hub.

The training began with an extensive overview of AA, helping to provide non-members with a better understanding of AA culture and community. It offered valuable information about AA's programs and initiatives with both county and State correctional systems, as well as resources for pre- and post-release services. The training also included a showing of "A New Freedom," which is a documentary depicting the testimonials of inmates detailing their experiences with addiction and their recovery through AA. Attendees also heard from four AA members sharing their experiences of how their lives were transformed by AA. The training concluded with a presentation by DOCCS Volunteer Services staff with information on implementation and oversight of AA as a Volunteer Program inside facilities.

Over 80 staff and volunteers participated, and the feedback received was extremely positive. DOCCS staff and AA members alike reported that they found the training to be very informative, and that they appreciated this rare opportunity to network with each other face to face in support of the same common goal: helping others in their recovery.



Pictured Left to Right: Ellen Krall, Supervisor of CF Volunteer Services (Gowanda), Donna Lepore, Supervisor of CF Volunteer Services (Attica), Molly Kennedy, Regional Coordinator of Correctional Volunteer Services (Central Office: Elmira & Wende Hubs), Judy Minnick, Supervisor of CF Volunteer Services (Wende)