



D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department
of Behavioral Health
& Developmental
Disabilities

BE D·B·H·D·D

BE COMPASSIONATE

BE PREPARED

BE RESPECTFUL

BE PROFESSIONAL

BE CARING

BE EXCEPTIONAL

BE INSPIRED

BE ENGAGED

BE ACCOUNTABLE

BE INFORMED

BE FLEXIBLE

BE HOPEFUL

BE CONNECTED

BE D·B·H·D·D

Developing an Alumni Group for Your Treatment Court Program

BE D·B·H·D·D

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Today's agenda

- What is an Alumni Group

- Purpose of Group

- Creating the Group

- First Steps

- Maintaining the Group

- Sustaining the Group

- Court Involvement

What is an Alumni Group?



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Group Logo



The lotus flower symbolizes transformation, a rising from a dark place into beauty and rebirth, as this is exactly how a lotus flower grows. Lotus flowers grow directly out of muddy and murky waters and produce beautiful blossoms. Lotus flowers are often referred to as symbol of strength among adversity.

Group Mission

It is our mission as the HONOR Alumni Group to promote healthy lifestyles through a safe and supportive self-governed body and to uplift and encourage participants toward positive change that promotes sobriety and healthy living for therapeutic court participants and graduates.



Group Motto

Show Up. Be Honest. Try!



Remember Who the Group Belongs To



- Alumni Groups are just that....Alumni!
- The groups should be run by, governed by and created by Alumni.
- There should be no Court or Treatment staff involved after the initial set up, unless requested by the group Board.
- Court should be used as a resource for the group, but not as oversight.
- The group should be treated as any Outside Group (AA/NA. etc.).
- The court should require the same documentation from Alumni Group participants as any other outside group.



Why have an Alumni Group?

Create a forum
for ongoing
support



Increase
community
awareness of
treatment court
benefits



Provide
treatment court
participant a
way to “give
back”



Identify
Leaders
Among
Alumni



Creating Alumni Groups



First Steps

1. Gain Court Program's Approval

2. Identify Possible Leaders/Board Members (Grads and Soon to be Grads)

3. Compile List of Alumni (phone numbers, emails)

4. Find Volunteer(s) to Act as Information Distributors

5. Identify Group Space Where Meetings will Take Place

6. -Set a Time, Date and Agenda for Initial Meeting

You're Ready!!!



Initial Meeting

Who will maintain distribution lists?

- Sign in sheets
- Possible family members/friends as volunteers



FOOD!

- Potluck
- Possible food donations
- Plates, cups, flatware donations



Time and Place

- How often?
- Time of day?
- Where?



Agenda

- Structure?
- Topic selection?
- Group Rules?



Meetings

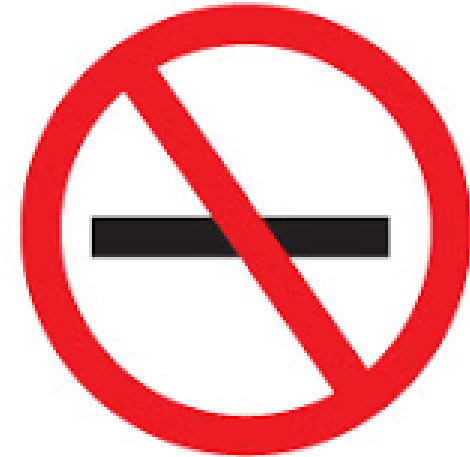
- Hold Meetings Regardless of Attendance
- Stay Entire Time
- Stick to Schedule
- Send Out Reminders



Group Structure

- Include Check-in
- Structured Agenda?
- Encourage Participation
- Problem-based, negativity will not be supported!

**NO NEGATIVITY
AREA**



**Negative vibes are not
permitted at or within
10 metres of this area**

Group Goals

- MRT steps 13-16
 - Benefits to Community
 - Give back to court program
 - Connect with all
 - Provide ways others can give back



Group Goals

MRT Step 13-

Reassess your behavior, attitude, and beliefs. Once you identify weaknesses in yourself, work on them.



Group Goals

MRT Step 14-

Forget yourself some. Expand your life's direction and goals into a project that involves the welfare of others.



Group Goals

MRT Step 15-

Enable others to move up the freedom ladder in ethical, moral ways.



Group Goals

MRT Step 16-

Constantly reassess the relationship between your personality and the Inner Self.



Maintaining Alumni Groups

CONSISTENCY
IS 

Contact Lists

- Sign-in Sheets at every meeting
- Update Contacts from Sign-in Sheets
- Storage of Contacts
- Frequency of Contact



Stay Connected to Your Court Program

- Attend Graduations
- Volunteer to Help at Court Events
- Offer to Mentor or Share Your Story



FOOD!

- Food Brings People Together
- Ask for Volunteers
- Seek Donations



Recruit Volunteers!

- Talents are Everywhere!
 - T-Shirts
 - Organizing Events
 - Cooking/Catering
 - Fundraising
 - Grant Writing
 - Promoting



Funding

- Your Court (Grant funding)
- Your Court's Advisory Board
- Community Non-Profits (Kiwanis, Rotary, Recovery Groups, etc.)
- Churches
- Other Grants
- Fund Raisers (car wash, bake sale, craft sale, garage sale, etc.)
- Talent Show



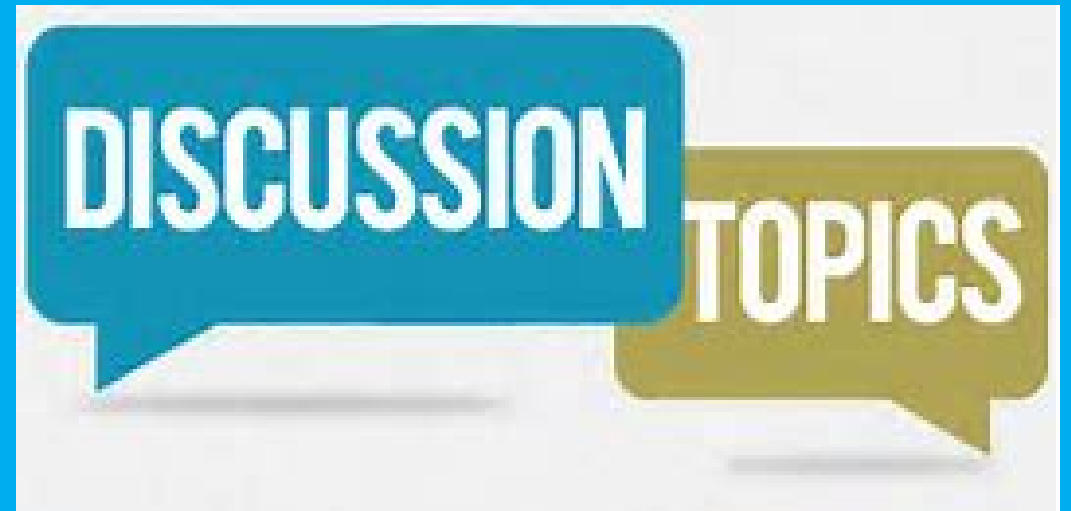
Door Prizes

- Don't have to cost money.
- Ask for donations (cut lawn, wash car, house cleaning, babysitter, etc.)
- Outside organizations



Group Topics

- How does the topic relate to MRT steps 13-16
- Stay true to the group mission
- Take suggestions from all
- Possible outside speakers (financial, health, legal, etc.)



Sustain the Gain!



Social Media

Face Book Page

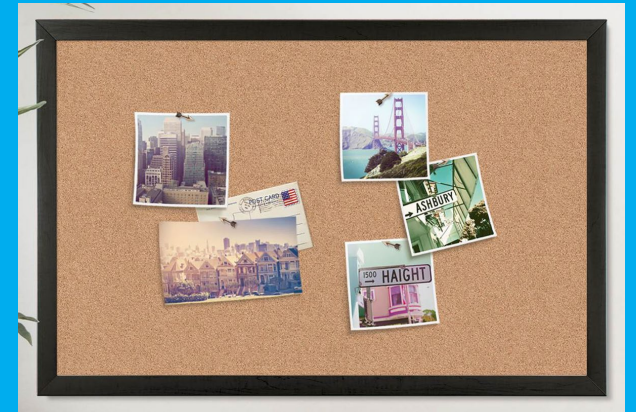
Newsletter

Other Social media



Court Assistance

- Announcements in Court
- Bulletin Board with Grad Info and Upcoming/Current Events
- Mandatory Attendance?
- Use as Outside Meeting



Sober Celebrations

Requirement of Graduation?

Substitute for Community Service?



Believe!!



Available Resources

- The Basics of Creating an Alumni Group
- Group Handbook (2 formats) 8.5 X 11 and booklet (5.5 X 8.5)
- Acknowledgement of receipt of handbook
- Group Attendance Logs
- Copies of AA/NA Steps, Traditions , Promises (for Group Leader Manual)
- Board Oath of Office
- Alumni Group Confidentiality Agreement
- Suggested Group structure
- Ideas for growing groups
- Copies of the Logo, Mission, Motto (for inclusion in publications)
- Assistance with introducing and support for potential group leaders

Time for Questions

