



# **NIA20** **NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 20** Alcoholics Anonymous

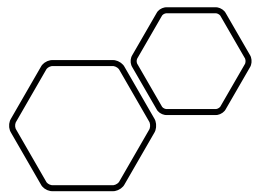
Bringing A.A. Into the  
Treatment Setting

# Why Carry the Message into Treatment Facilities?



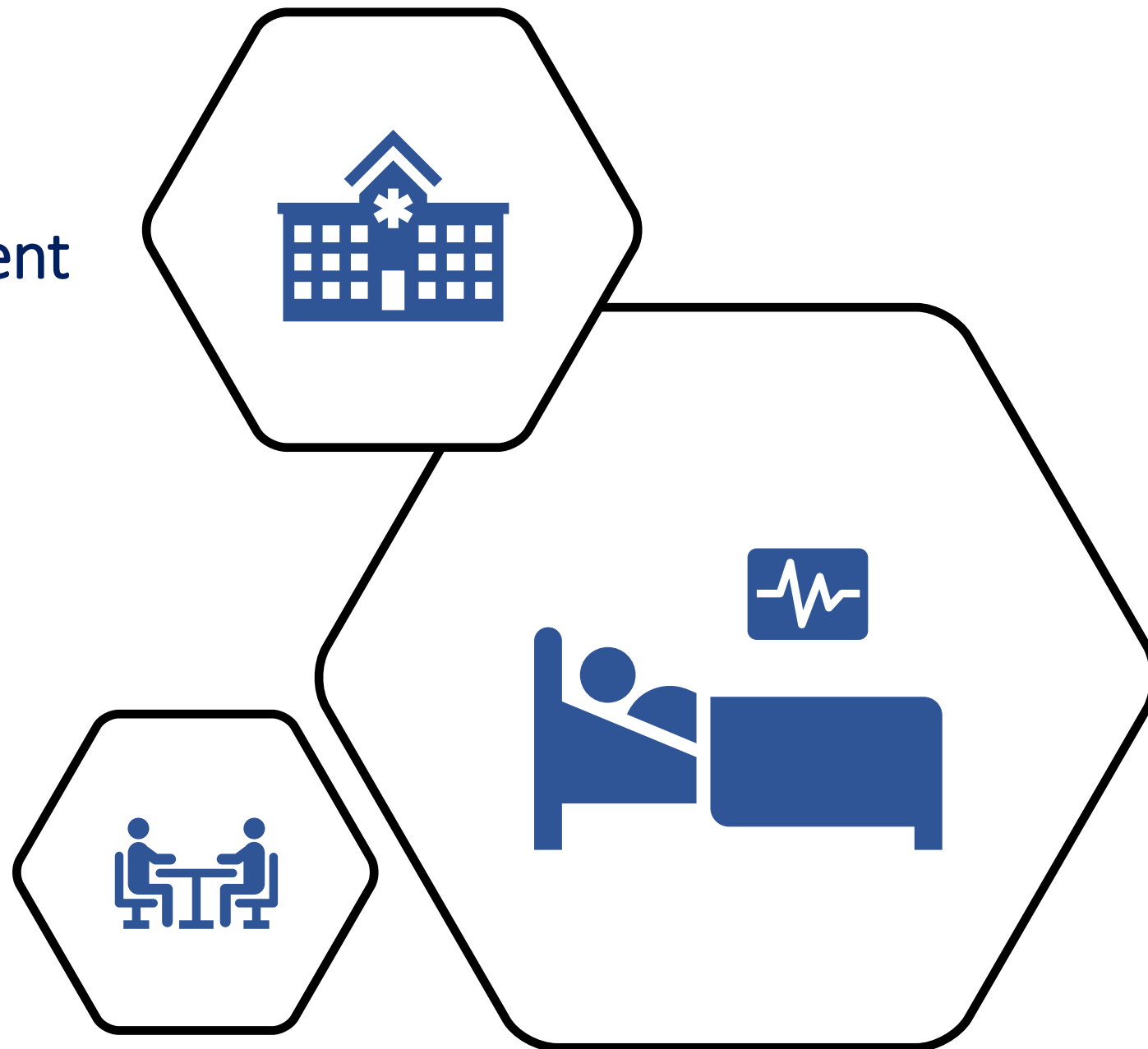
*“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much ensure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.”*

— Alcoholics Anonymous BB Pg. 89

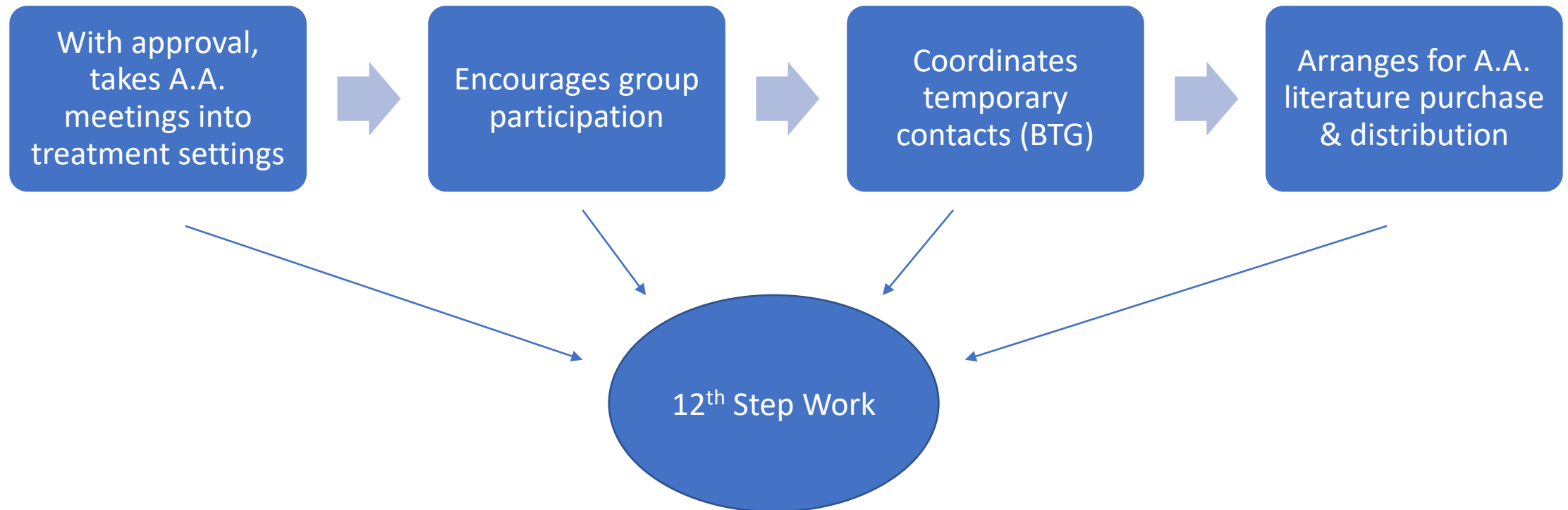


## History of A.A. in Treatment Facilities

- In 1934, Bill W. visits Towns Hospital in New York City
- Bill W. & Dr. Bob visit St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, OH
- Rockland State Hospital in 1939 was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> A.A. group sites
- Detox centers, inpatient treatment, halfway houses, sober living, outpatient clinics, etc.



# Basic Functions of the Treatment Committee



# Getting Started in Your Community



- Every area is different. Identify the needs in your specific community.
- Engage other committees in your efforts – including Cooperation with the Professional Community and Bridging the Gap
- Establish contact with local treatment facility administrators

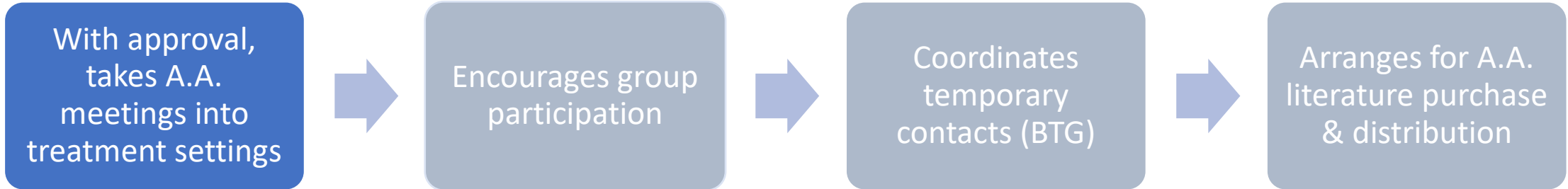
# Getting Started in Your Community (Cont.)



- Meet with your treatment facility administrator
- Have A.A. service material available:
  - *A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional*
  - *A.A. in Treatment Settings*
  - *Bridging the Gap*
- Ask what the needs of the treatment facility are – be part of the solution

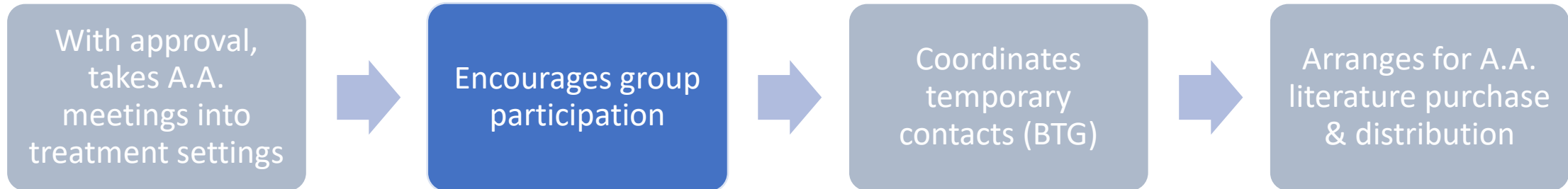


# Carry the Message



- Determine what type of meeting the treatment centers needs
  - Regular A.A. Group meetings (open/speaker/closed)
  - Inpatient meetings
  - Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contacts
  - Informational meetings for staff or clients

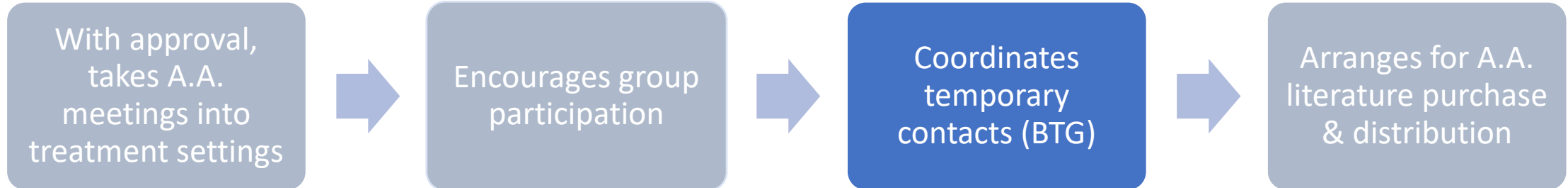
# Carry the Message (Cont.)



- Look to those groups whose members have solid sobriety to support carrying the message into local treatment centers
- Ensure those carrying the message of A.A. into treatment facilities understand the treatment “dynamic”
- Identify and assign a contact person/persons to work together to provide treatment facility with a liaison to the A.A. community
- Start small. Don’t over promise and under deliver.

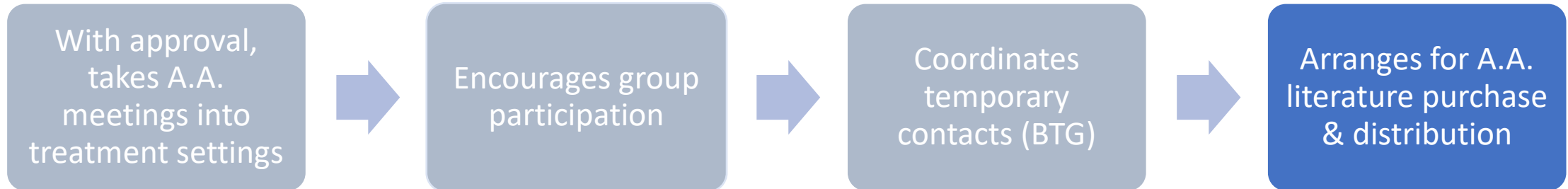


# Carry the Message (Cont.)

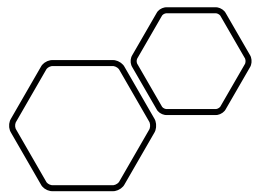


- Reach out and engage BTG Committee member assistance if appropriate and with prior treatment facility approval
- Partner with BTG Committee members to assist in the “warm hand-off” of treatment center clients upon discharge
- Make BTG literature available to treatment facility staff and clients

# Carry the Message (Cont.)

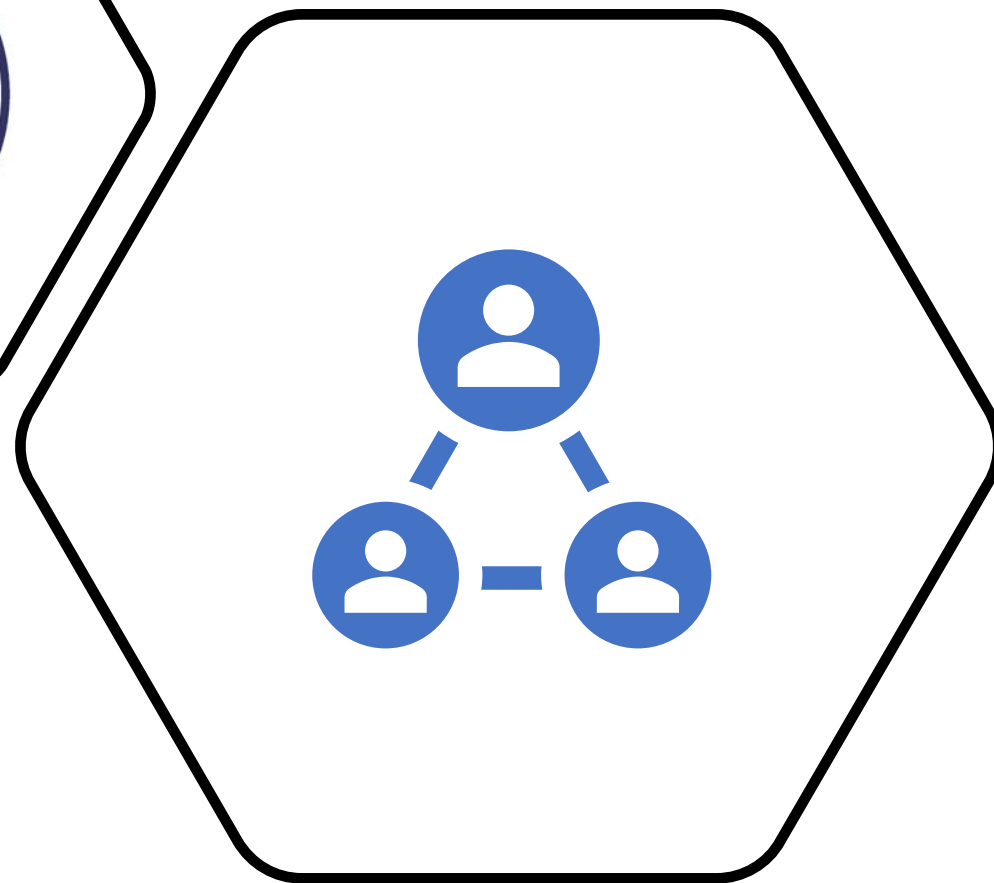


- Identify the literature needs of the treatment center (Big Book, 12 & 12, local A.A. meeting directories, pamphlets, etc.)
- Donated through District or Area Service Committees; purchased with group funds designated for this purpose (“Green Can” donations)
- Donated by individual members
- Discount Treatment literature packets are available through the GSO



# Treatment Center Goals

- Understand, respect and adhere to all treatment center regulations
- Make information about A.A.'s purpose and function available
- Assist in the formation of new A.A. meetings in treatment settings our outpatient facilities
- Carry the message to the alcoholic who still struggles



# Treatment Committee Resources



[https://aa.org/pages/en\\_US/treatment-committees](https://aa.org/pages/en_US/treatment-committees) – Committee guidelines and literature

<http://aa-nia.org/> – About NIA, local meetings, NIA contacts, Area calendar, events, & additional information

<http://aa-nia.org/committees/> – Area committee page with links to various committees: purpose, literature, presentations, videos and other updates as available