



Maricopa County Education Service Agency

4041 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1200
Phoenix, AZ 85012

October 13, 2013

It is with great confidence that I recommend Teen Addiction Anonymous (Teen AA) as an effective, transitional program for teens, who are part of the court system. Teen AA is a program that was actually created by teens in response to their sense of "hopelessness" within our community. The program was initiated in 2003, and developed over the next five years. What started as a 12 step program and edited to fit within the parameters of state institutions, turned into one of our most effective opportunities for transitional support.

Teen AA is part of several alliances within our state, including: MCESA Youth Transition Advisory Council (MYTAC), the Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA, school districts, probation groups and is offered throughout the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. Data has been presented that shows a significant reduction in drug use by participants and overall improvement in behavioral issues.

Teen AA collaborations within the community for transitional support are dedicated to offering Teen AA meetings, which are unique for several reasons. These meetings are voluntary opportunities, run by teens and do not disclose the addiction of the individual. They focus on processing how negative behavior occurs and offers unconditional support as well as communication skills that further personal empowerment.

Staff attend Teen AA's training program that redefines addiction, offers unconditional peer support, develops teen processing while maintaining confidentiality and insuring personal boundaries while encouraging goal setting. Teen Addiction Anonymous is neither therapeutic nor treatment; however, it may be used within those support settings. It is a 12 step program implemented in state and local organizations as well as in the general public.

Teens have demonstrated that the 12 step program is a positive tool that is addressed through the Teen AA format, and gives them an opportunity for ongoing support throughout a lifetime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Covey".

Dr. Don Covey,
Superintendent of Schools
Maricopa County