

PEER ASSISTANCE ADVISORS COMMITTEE – Position Description

(Note: Members on this committee are APPOINTED by the President Elect and approved by the AANA Board of Directors during the upcoming fiscal year)

AANA Vision: AANA will be a preeminent professional association for healthcare and patient safety.

AANA Mission: AANA advances patient safety, practice excellence, and its members' profession.

AANA Core Values: Quality, Professionalism, Compassion, Collaboration, Wellness and Diversity

AANA Motto: Safe and effective anesthesia CARE for every patient.

Committee Description:

The ad hoc Peer Assistance Advisors Committee (PAAC) provides advocacy and information to the association members and the public on issues regarding practitioner well-being as it pertains to nurse anesthetists' and students' risk for substance use disorder (SUD). The work is committed to educational endeavors and aggressive promotion of prevention modalities; committee members offer confidential assistance, informational support and referral resources in the formulation of guidelines for early recognition, intervention, treatment, long-term recovery, and appropriate re-entry. PAAC members respond to helpline calls (800-654-5167) and lead the AANA Peer Assistance support network comprised of State Peer Advisors (SPAs; www.AANA.com/SPA) and provide a wealth of online resources at www.AANAPeerAssistance.com.

Term of Office: Begins at the conclusion of the AANA Annual Congress through the following Annual Congress.

Membership Criteria:

1. Expressed interest, time and commitment to ongoing work of the peer assistance advocacy program;
2. Active unencumbered RN license and/or ability to comprehend the challenges to the CRNA with impairment issues by virtue of past experiences. If in recovery, at least three years of continuous sobriety is required. Those without personal experience with addiction must be conversant with the principals and resources of recovery;
3. Current AANA membership – active, inactive or retired status
4. Knowledge about the AANA's philosophy, purpose, and goals for practitioner wellness;
5. Familiar with external groups who advocate and support education, research, treatment, and recovery from the disease of substance use disorder. Working knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) principles and resources, or other fellowship groups;
6. Experience as a SPA;
7. Ability to manage difficult conversations and crisis situations (helpline calls, personal encounters, referrals, departmental conflicts, etc.) and maintain confidentiality;
8. Expertise in one of more areas related to provider SUD and wellness, i.e. research, education, management, health maintenance, et cetera.
9. Disclosed conflict of interest (i.e. member of a specific treatment program's Board of Directors, counseling staff, etc.);

Meetings/ Expected time commitment:

- Participate in responding to helpline calls according to schedule.
- Committee meetings/conference calls: One face-to-face in Chicago area (date TBD). Regularly scheduled conference calls to meet planning needs and committee work.
- Regular communication with SPAs in assigned region.

- AANA meeting attendance as individually assigned: One individual to represent both H&W and Peer Assistance will be assigned and funded to attend AANA assembly meetings - Fall, Mid Year & School Faculty. Annual Meeting representative funding will be based on needs for educational lectures.
- Any committee member that attends an AANA meeting during their term acts as a representative of the committee and, if at all feasible, is expected to assist the assigned/funded committee member.
- Participate in your region's state association meetings to provide education and awareness of substance use disorder and the help available.
- Additional time includes email correspondence.

Responsibilities:

- Report to the chair;
- Respond to the peer assistance helpline calls as resource for CRNAs and students;
- Complete data collection form for calls received;
- Coordinate network of SPAs in region to respond to state specific calls and queries;
- Participation in AANA Connect State Peer Advisors community and facilitate sharing of information among SPAs;
- Contribute to Peer Support Response Tool (web app) for handling calls and sharing information;
- Provide input for PAAC development of related model policies and protocols for anesthesia departments;
- Monitor environments to provide input regarding threats to provider wellness;
- Avoid conflict of interest issues, for example service on a Board of Nursing or selection board for alternative programs (recommendation: may participate in discussion, but should remove self from a final vote if the matter concerns a CRNA);

Duties of Chair:

- Assignment of committee responsibilities and work on projects.
- Oversight of the SPA assignment process, training, and network continuity.
- Management of peer assistance helpline
- Oversight of data collection from peer assistance network.
- Collaboration with staff in the preparation of the agenda and conduct the meetings of the committee;
- Report on committee work;
- Coordinate with staff any committee recommendations (i.e., Decision memorandum to the AANA Board of Directors, recommendations or collaboration with other AANA committees, etc.)

Expense Reimbursement: Expenses related to the PAAC's AANA related travel and meetings are reimbursed in accordance with the AANA Business Travel and Reimbursement Policy.

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