



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 is the transformative leader driving innovation and patient-centered excellence in anesthesia and healthcare.

AANA Mission: The AANA advances patient safety and our profession through excellence in practice and service to members.

AANA Member Value Proposition: The AANA is dedicated to advancing its members' profession and anesthesia patient safety through advocacy, evidence-based practice standards, professional development, and commitment to innovation, collaboration, diverse ideas, experiences, and beliefs.

AANA Core Values: Member Service, Compassion, Professionalism, Advocacy, Innovative Solutions and Diversity and Inclusion

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).

PAAC members:

- Lead the AANA peer support network comprised of State Peer Advisors (SPAs) nationwide.
- Serve as advisors to educate and guide the SPAs in their assigned states.
- Oversee the AANA Peer Assistance Helpline (800-654-5167) to closely monitor process and outcomes in providing confidential peer support.
- Commit to building educational endeavors and aggressive promotion of prevention modalities via lectures, state outreach, online resources, and the informational support and referral resources to AANA Helpline callers.
- Provide guidelines for early recognition, intervention, treatment, long-term recovery, and appropriate re-entry.
- Work in solidarity and collaboration with the Practice and Health & Wellness committees.

See also www.AANA.com/PAAC and www.AANA.com/AboutPeerAssistance

Term of Office:

Begins at the conclusion of the AANA Annual Congress through the following Annual Congress.

Membership Criteria:

1. Experience as a SPA:
 - a. Knowledge of CRNAs and issues with alcohol and other drugs as well as provider well-being;

- b. Understanding and readiness to serve as an empathetic information resource to the CRNAs in need;
 - c. Ability to manage difficult conversations and situations (helpline call follow-ups, personal encounters, referrals, departmental conflicts, etc.) and maintain confidentiality;
 - d. Expressed interest, time and commitment to ongoing work of the peer assistance advocacy program through state association outreach and education;
 - e. 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;
 - f. 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;
2. Current AANA membership – active, inactive or retired status;
 3. Knowledge about the AANA’s philosophy, purpose, and goals for practitioner wellness;
 4. Disclosed conflict of interest (i.e. member of a specific treatment program’s Board of Directors, counseling staff, etc.);
 5. The Chair must be a CRNA with a graduate degree; it is preferred that the Chair serve at least one committee term as a member before assuming a term as Chair; this is for the purpose of assuring continuity and consistency regarding achieving the Committee purpose and all responsibilities.

Meetings/Expected time commitment:

- Monitor and oversee AANA Helpline call responses and data collection;
- Participate as back-up to responding to helpline calls according to schedule.
- One face-to-face committee meeting. Conference calls to be scheduled to meet planning needs (min. 4/year).
- Participate in SPA application interview and regular communication with existing SPAs in assigned states;
- Participate in their home state association meetings to provide education and awareness of SUD and promote knowledge of the available via the AANA Helpline;
- AANA meeting attendance: Based on individual AANA meeting needs to support both the AANA Health & Wellness and Peer Assistance Programs (exhibit, lectures, AIR session), one representative will be appointed and funded represent from either the H&W or Peer Assistance committee, Additional representatives to Annual Congress to be determined based on needs for educational lectures and AIR meetings.
- Any committee member attending 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.
- Additional time includes email correspondence.

Role of PAAC Chair:

Assign, oversee, and direct of committee work to achieve committee charges each year. This includes:

- SPA application and acceptance process, orientation training and education
- Data collection from peer assistance network.
- Review/preparation with staff of the agenda and conduct the meetings of the committee;
- Report on committee work;
- Any committee recommendations, coordinate with staff (i.e., Decision memorandum to the AANA Board of Directors, recommendations or collaboration with other AANA committees, etc.)

- Submit report of activities for the Annual Report development.
- Mentor committee members to ensure continuity to the next fiscal year;
- If authorized by the AANA Board, serves as a spokesperson for issues related to the work of the committee to assist members in understanding committee decisions.

Committee Responsibilities:

- Is responsive to committee chair or staff direction.
- Participates actively in all meetings and conference calls.
- Collaborates with the rest of the members of the committee and respects different points of view.
- Considers and responds to the peer assistance needs as resource for CRNAs and students;
- Considers AANA members' perspective.
- Provides prompt and timely written or verbal feedback on issues or documents under discussion by the committee.
- Shares respectful advancement of ideas but avoids personal agendas.
- Maintains confidentiality of the committee's work until dissemination is appropriate.
- Coordinate network of SPAs in assigned states 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);

Role of Committee Staff:

- Provides support services and resources (i.e., agendas, minutes, reports, research).
- Provides clarification and provides historical information on projects/issues.
- Provides input from a staff perspective on issues under discussion.
- Communicates information about committee activities to other AANA committee staff.
- Solicits information or input from AANA staff as appropriate.
- Ensures that all charges or projects not in the original list of committee charges, first goes through the Board of Directors for approval, and then through the project prioritization process prior to action

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.