

ABLBH

Chapter Training Session Manual (Revised 5/8/2020)

- **Status of ABLBH**

Present chapters

32 chapters in 20 counties

Adams, Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Jay, Henry, Howard, Kosciusko, Lake, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Wayne, Wells, Union, +4 in Mercer Cty., Ohio & 1 in Allen Cty., Ohio, & 1 in Greenville, Darke Cty., Ohio.

- ◆ Probable/Possible Chapters

Connersville	Fayette
Auburn	DeKalb
Brownsburg	Hendricks
Frankfort	Clinton

FYI: DENOMINATIONS INVOLVED BY LEADERSHIP OR LOCATION:

Assembly of God, Baptist, Biker, Brethren, Catholic, Christian, Christian Fellowship, Disciples of Christ, Heavy Metal Church of Christ (Out of Dayton), Nazarene, Non-denominational, Vineyard Fellowship, UMC, Wesleyan, (2) Community Buildings, Youth Building, Library, Jail, Industry/Factory, Rehab Center, Former Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness.

- **ABLBH History**

Brianna's story

Disappearance	June 16, 2014
Search	June 16 - September 1
Multi-county & Multi-State	

We can't definitively say heroin took her life, but we know it led her down a dark path that led to her death.

Body found September 1, 2014.

Pioneer Cemetery @ Jay County Conservation Club.

Brush over her body.

Left there by someone that probably an hour earlier pledged their friendship.

Smell is what drew two hunters.

Autopsy

Parts of body still missing.

(Head, right arm and left hand).

There are still many questions.

I believe one person was involved.

Memorial service over a month after body was found (Oct. 4)

In 4 hours over 600 through for calling hours.

Memorial service was attended by 250+/-

More stoned people than I had ever witnessed in one gathering.

- **Brianna's Prayer our Foundational Document**

Brianna's prayer as copied from a handwritten page: (This was found in her personal belongings just before her body was found).

“Please, Lord, look after me and my family. Please help me to do the right thing and to show people that I am not a bad person inside or out and help me Lord to get through this disappointment again and know I make mistakes but who doesn't. I don't do it to do wrong. I do it cuz I feel I have no other choice. I want a better life, Lord, I do. Please help me. Do to me as what you feel is best. I surrender to you. In Jesus' name, Amen”.

“I do it cuz I feel I have no other choice”.

“I want a better life, Lord, I do”.

Our beginning

Following Brianna's disappearance, I (Randy Davis) did interviews with 75-100 addicts, strugglers, users, abusers, runners, meth lab operators, those that had held guns to people's heads and those that had guns held to theirs. I had things confessed to me that they wouldn't have told their bartender or “ride or die” buddies.

Please realize we are not AA, NA, or CR-

We are not a 12-step

What they do, they do well.

What we do, we want to do the best we possibly can.

You don't go to Chick-fil-A to get a hamburger and you don't attend ABLBH to get a 12-step program.

Those are great groups and effective, but they are not who we are.

- **Missions Statement - “Providing hope through Christ to individuals and communities battling addiction using support, encouragement and collaboration”.**

- **Identity Statement - A participant driven, faith based, and compassion filled support and recovery group for those battling the battle with addiction”. (substance abuse)**

We care more about the addict than the addiction.

We care more about the struggler than the struggle.

We care more about your today and tomorrow than we do your yesterday.

■ **What does “participant driven” mean?**

A Team Hope member facilitates the meeting, but it is driven by those in attendance. (Not led but driven).

Many warned us that if you aren’t an addict you will have great difficulty and that it will be nearly impossible to lead a group as you won’t be able to relate, and they won’t be able to relate to you.

They said keep it in a private place.

Never use their names.

Allow anonymity and don’t share what goes on.

I guess we have broken most all of those rules (successfully).

We have people posting selfies while they are at the meeting.

In the beginning we even used name tags.

We have people posting group shots with names.

We advertise our meeting locations.

We care about your privacy.

Your anonymity isn’t a priority.

It is okay to enter as an addict and leave as one for a while.

We are not an “anonymous” group

One of the differences in us and AA or NA is the word

Anonymous.

This alternative just may be one of the reasons we are experiencing any success we are having.

We encourage honesty, transparency, non-judgment and openness.

We allow people in who we are with no perception of pride for what we have done.

We invite you to share your story.

We believe it is part of your recovery.

We believe that when you share your story you are sharing the story of many others.

■ We are faith based

Being faith based does not require preaching.

We believe: “You do not have to preach to integrate Christ into everything you say and do”.

No one is suggesting that you can't speak God's/Jesus' name

We are saying if your witness can't be done without words- who will believe them when they hear them?

We believe, **“Preach the gospel. Use words if necessary”**.

Your faith w/o work is what - DEAD!!

We believe that if someone wants church they will show up on a Sunday morning, and many of our people are.

So, we give them a dose on Sunday - Friday.

For some this has become their church.

How many of your churches get 100% of your worship attendees to show up at the mid-week service?

**As you consider a chapter you may want to ask yourself, “Is my ministry/church/community ready for a group of addicts to enter in”?

Some don't know the song Amazing Grace.

Some don't know there is a New and Old Testament.

Some don't know how many times Peter failed.

Some don't know when to stand or sit.

Some don't know dress code.

Some have even dropped the f-bomb on a Wednesday night.

Can your church handle it if at break half of your attendee's step outside and light one up?

Does your church realize some of these folks may choose to never get clean?

Does your leadership realize that someone who is new this week may have only come to score some drugs?

This is not the simplest, least complicated ministry you/your church will ever try, however it can be as rewarding as any. When it comes to sharing our faith, we do so, but still allow room for our not yet believers to express themselves freely.

There are many, that when they first started, complained about the “God stuff” that are now living by faith.

ABLBH is a paradigm shift.

It requires a different way of thinking.

A coat and tie approach, or a 3-point lesson approach, or a standup/sit down approach will destroy any hope of a personal approach.

You must be careful to keep the church out of the church but still have Jesus in attendance.

EXP: “You put a boat in the water, but you don’t want the water in the boat”.

Most of our meetings are in the church but we try to keep the church out of our meetings.

We believe: “Where two or more are gathered-.....”

■ What does “compassion filled” mean?

Compassion is not so much thinking about someone but feeling with them, it requires not just caring, but sharing.

The lifestyle and words of the Jesus I know, proves He was/is about compassion first with judgment way down the line.

Too often you and I get that reversed.

Let me share my evidence.

Matt 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Compassion then guidance.

Matt 14:14 - When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Compassion, then He healed them.

Matt 15:32 - Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat, I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way”.

Compassion, then He provided for them.

Matt 20:34 - Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Compassion, then He gave them vision.

Mark 1:41 - Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean"!

Compassion, then He said, "I am willing. Be clean".

Luke 15:20 - So he got up and went to his father, "But while he was still a long way off his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Compassion, then He ran and then He embraced.

2 Cor 1:3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.

Compassion leads Him to comfort them.

Col 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility gentleness and patience.

Compassion is the first piece we are too put on.

This Jesus guy believed that when it started with compassion good things followed.

It almost seems like compassion was a pre-requisite for a miracle.

- **I can tell you this, I have seen as many miracles in the last 4 1/2+ years as I did in my first 30+ years of ministry.**

This is like the blind receiving sight, the lame being made to walk, the deaf hearing and life being restored.

These are Lazarus moments and blind Bartimaeus incidents

We have seen social anxiety beaten, depression defeated, addiction controlled, and lives touched, and souls saved.

We have watched God create p-e-a-c-e from p-i-e-c-e-s.

- **The story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.**

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** Was sure **Somebody** would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

Nobody realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Bottom line - Nothing got accomplished.

With my multiple years of maturity, I have come to realize that even for us imperfect perfectionists, a sloppy start is better than no start.

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE CAME TO BE?

- **Present status of our support and recovery group meetings**

Total attendance between our groups is 800+/- addicts, strugglers and overcomers.

Explain-

Addict=someone actively using.

Struggler=someone trying to find their way out of the hole.

Overcomer=someone with 3 years or more clean

- **Our meetings are for all that battle against substance abuse.**

We recognize there are many types of addictions, but we have decided to focus on substance abuse.

Marijuana, Pills, Meth, Heroin, Cocaine, Alcohol, Etc.

Heroin is the Drug of Choice (DOC) for most of our folks.

We run in age from HS - 50's with most in the 25-38 range.

75% of our folks have had some jail/prison time

We have now sent 750+ to detox/rehab, Residential Therapy/Transitional Housing.

I continue to believe that our success rate is in excess of 50%.

For those that continue to attend meetings, it is near 80%-90%.

Start watching your local paper's felony news reports.

25-55 age range there are ore drug related deaths than vehicle deaths.

Relapse rate of 50-100%.

- **KNOW THIS: Addiction is not contagious.**

If an addict rubs against your shoulder, or you unknowingly shake hands with one, you will not have a sudden urge for some drug you have never experienced.

You will not immediately get in your car and head east on I-70 to Dayton or north to Detroit on I-69.

I think society treats addiction much like the treated **LEPROSY** in the Bible.

“Unclean! Unclean!”

Lepers have been ostracized, treated as outcasts and even been forced into their own community to await death.

And heaven forbid if you touched a leper.

All of a sudden you were one of them.

Jesus broke the mold and made it clear it is time to treat them as real people.

It is time to look beyond the skin condition and see the heart.

See any parallels as to how we treat the addicted?

(Addicts lives matter too).

Scripture says, *“We see the outer man, God looks on the inner”*.

Jesus approached lepers with compassion and then gave them what they needed.

These are not lepers and if they were, they deserve better than they are getting.

Each Chapter sets its own guidelines on who should attend.

At Redkey, we tell first timers that they can bring a support person for two meetings but then we would like for them to come on their own.

However, if they need the support person bring them.

- **We have shared the ABLBH story with**

Male and female population in the Mercer County, Ohio and Jay County, IN jails.

An Army National guard unit w/50+ soldiers.

Over 16,700 students K-12th including Alternative Schools.

We provide an age appropriate program/assembly for each level.

Service clubs and groups

Churches, sororities

We have formed a support relationship with multiple police departments doing together what we can.

Muncie, Portland, Dunkirk, Redkey, Union City, Montpelier

Police Depts. As well as Union and Jay County Sheriff's

Dept.

CAUTION: Do not talk to a school about an assembly without first notifying and getting approval from our board.

CAUTION: Seek Board approval to do an “outside” event and are taking more than two members of ABLBH to share.

****Remember, anything you do under the ABLBH name is a reflection on our entire effort.**

- **LOCAL SUPPORT**

Clubs, groups, organizations, sororities, churches, families, County Commissioners, grants, United Way/Foundation, DCS.

Meals are important. (Every chapter provides a meal each meeting).

Send home leftovers.

- **CAUTIONS-** There was a time early on when many wanted to label us as the #1 place to go in Jay County for their drugs on a Wednesday Night.

More than once we have become someone's excuse/blame for the drugs in their car.

We have had more lies told about us than those that are told on a dozen Friday nights in a bar.

We have been challenged as to why we want to put so much energy and time into a group that brought issues upon themselves. "They got into it, they can get out of it".

There are communities that DO hesitate to have addicts gathered together as one.

People will be on the watch to see our addicts/strugglers/overcomers fail.

We have been watched with binoculars.

Neighbors have watched in hopes of seeing something come down, so they can call authorities over.

Needless to say, we have had our moments of disappointment but the good done has far outweighed the bad.

STORY FROM TEDDY ROOSEVELT - "The Man In The Arena"

If you aren't ready to get your hands dirty, this isn't for you.

If you are worried about your reputation, try one of the other outreaches your church/community offers.

Pope Francis has said, **"If you want to be a shepherd you need to smell like the sheep"**.

If you have an issue with a Dirty God that goes into the trenches, you may want to find your warm fuzzy elsewhere.

If you can't identify with the relapse behaviors of "Peter" you may want to meet another need than that of the addict.

Harry S. Truman once said, **“If you can’t stand the heat get out of the kitchen”**.

Randy Davis, once said, “If you can’t take the criticism you aren’t ready to lead”.

REMEMBER, Jesus was never once voted Mr. Popularity
 He impacted the world but was He a success?
 He gained a following and divided nations.
 He offended as many people, as He connected with.

Ministry/outreach requires the heart of a lamb and the skin of an alligator.

Never seek criticism, but when it comes, make it a springboard not a stumbling block.

Our greatest battles have come from those trying to “protect” God.

These church folks believe they are protecting His integrity and the church’s property.

They don’t want their church made dirty with the presence of an out of control, still using, walked out of a drug house last night piece of ----- that may hurt their image or stain their carpet.

What if one of them comes to our church and sets next to me?

The burden of proof in on us.

Think about it - If Jesus were to return for a visit which place do you think We would choose-

Bible study or the pits of hell these folks are trying to climb out of?

FYI - Any God that needs protected is not much of a God.

FYI - Any community that can’t handle the truth is not ready to move forward.

If we don’t see it, it isn’t there.

If we don’t talk about it, it will go away.

Society is in as much denial as we accuse addicts of being in.

- **More than meetings**

- Calls

- Police depts./court systems/families/individuals in crisis

- Advice and resourcing

- Speaking engagements

- Support for family members

- Students that come to our meetings

- Membership in community organizations

- **General Info**

- For years Indiana is the meth capitol of the US

- Delaware County leads Indiana for the number of meth lab busts.

- Dayton, OH is the drug hub of the US.

- Meth is known for its collateral damage.

- It decreases the sense of right and wrong.

- It clouds judgment and increases sex drive.

- The children involved in meth houses have usually been molested.

- The manufacture of meth damages the environment

- Heroin and synthetic opiates cause the most deaths.

- FYI - To snort heroin/cocaine you get a less intense but longer high.

- To shoot up cocaine/heroin you get a higher high, but it doesn't last as long.

- We are talking no more than 20 minutes.

- The moment you come down you are ready for the next go around.

- Do you know what an opioid is?

- Produce morphine like effects.

- Used for pain relief, including anesthesia.

- Heroin is 3 times stronger than morphine.

- Do you know what Fentanyl is?

- A synthetic opioid 50 - 100 times stronger than morphine.

- Do you know what Carfentanil is?

- 100 times stronger than Fentanyl.

- It can be absorbed through the skin.

- One sniff can kill a drug dog.

- It is an elephant tranquilizer so strong that an amount the size of a grain of salt can be deadly.

- Success rate, still moving forward after detox/rehab 50%+

- **Have We Been Successful?**

I am not absolutely sure how to measure that.

Is the Cancer Society a success - we still have cancer.

Is our legal system a success - we still have crime.

What about our education system - there are those students that will not make the grade.

Are our churches a success - we haven't changed the world like we have been called to do.

A more fair question is, "**Have we made a difference**"?

Do you base it on how many people have been clean how long?

Do you base it on the fact that we have helped 700+ addicts/strugglers get into detox/rehab and half of those have stayed for residential therapy and many have stayed for additional weeks of transitional housing?

Do you base it on the fact that some have self-detoxed and that in the middle of the night they called upon us to help them through - and we listened and encouraged?

Do you base it on the fact some have gotten their children back from CPS?

Do you base it on the fact that some have had charges dismissed or delayed because of their change?

That too saved all of us a few dollars.

Incarceration is around \$65.00/day.

Do you base it on the fact that the addict has an "other choice"?

Do you base it on the fact that some have relapsed?

But we have been there with them and for them.

And when they have, we don't take it lightly nor do we beat them for it.

Our attitude about relapse has caused as much grief.

Do you base it on the fact that some of our people are back in jail, at least one is in prison, some are on the street and I have held the funeral service for multiple others?

***Here is my solace - Not even Jesus reached everyone. Judas and Peter are both perfect examples of relapse type behaviors.

Do you base it on the fact that there are still numerous OD's and drug related deaths in our area?

Do you base it on the fact that there is a renewed awareness of the issue and a better understanding and acceptance of those involved?

Sometime back, I had an addict tell me that for the first time in years, they were being treated like a human being. Another commented how much it meant to be cared about.

I don't know, so I will leave it up to you to determine if we are a success or not.

I can tell you this, we have a letter **FROM JASON WHITE, former Jay County Coroner, that says we are.**

Letters from students at Fort Recovery High School say we have.

Comments from a local police officer.

Comments from Mr. Metz @ Celina HS

Jay Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) believes so.

We believe we have inspired untold/uncountable others.

Weekly if not multiple times a week we post/share success stories on Facebook.

We are meeting an obvious need.

We have seen lives re-collected, re-connected and resurrected.

This is no less than the stories of hurt and healing of the lepers in scripture.

I can assure we have stayed true to our promise of being **“Participant driven, faith based, and compassion filled”**.

DISCLAIMER: We haven't eliminated substance abuse in any town or area. Start ABLBH tomorrow and the day after there will be OD's.

What is the key word? JSYK: *We still have some that come to our meetings high.*

The key word is not “high” but **“come”**.

My favorite phrases of success are-

“I peed clean today without any help”.

“I am now clean for 1 week/1 month after being dirty for 12 years”.

“My family is starting to show signs of trusting me again”.

“My kids are saying, ‘We are proud of you’”.

Recently one of our people said their mom had said, “I love you,” for the first time in maybe ten years.

● **Getting Clean Process**

How we assist

Team Hope member must talk to individual

Please do not make calls for them

***Key questions**

Tell me your story.

Drug of choice?

What are you hoping for?

Have you been to detox/rehab before? /How many times?

When was the last time?

Do you have insurance?

● **Finances**

Donations and fund-raisers

United Way

Churches, Businesses, Individuals

Clubs, groups, organizations, Sororities

3 or 4 monthly supporters

Grants

Administrative costs are limited to one part-time secretary of 20 hrs./week @ \$15.00 & 1 assistant secretary @ 10 hrs/wk @ \$11.00.

Unless earmarked for administration, 100% of donation goes to enable our addicts to work and walk the road to recovery.

● **New Chapter Guidelines**

At least 2 Team Hope members (leadership)

Other leadership members

Team Help - Meals

Team Support - Prayers

Team \$\$ - Grant writer

Have as many as you wish but two should be noted as the go to people.

Because we are faith-based, we require letter of recommendation from one member's pastor.

At least one should be an addict in recovery

Location - Best if not a church - we meet in a church, as most chapters do.

Support unit.

Leadership must attend a Training and Info session.

At least two of your leaders must attend a Redkey meeting before Chapter opens.

We will talk about a night for your meetings.

All meetings should run 6:30p - 8:00p

Meetings will follow same format, so attendees can feel at home.

Welcome

Opening Poem/Reading or Prayer
 Opening Thought/Mini-lesson
 Positive
 Inspiring
 Information/Announcements
 Overcomer's Report
 Celebration
 3rd week t-shirts
 Victory tags
 Brianna's Prayer
 Mini-lesson
 BREAK
 Lesson/Discussion/Speaker
 Word of Challenge
 Word of Inspiration
 Closing Scripture
 Prayer

Once established use/study Brianna's Prayer for 6-12 weeks.

Study notes will be provided but DO NOT have to be followed.

We are presently putting together additional study guides/starters.

Suggestion - Week 4-6 bring in a guest speaker that has been there, done that and has the scars to prove it.

Your chapter must be approved by our board before it is accepted as a chapter of ABLBH.

Feel free to use any of our ideas - no copyright but don't call yourself by our name.

Each chapter will be responsible for their own t-shirts.

Must be one of our three designs-
 Color of Believe may differ.

● **Hints for your meeting leadership.**

Engage your attendees

Ask questions while you are speaking.

Involve your attendees.

Get community involved - meals.

Get it on Facebook.

In the beginning do not use names.

Build trust.

LEAD but encourage and allow participation.

- **What Your Chapter Can Expect From ABLBH**

24/7 support and guidance.

Leadership training.

Names of speakers.

Resourcing/Networking.

Access to web page and Facebook page.

(Making improvements on this at present).

Financial assistance to get those interested into detox/rehab.

For one year we will do all we can do to help.

Yes, we can use your \$\$ support.

Year 2, we need you to step up.

- **Startup Packet**

Pamphlets (25 - 50)

*3x6 Banner

\$180.00

Forms

Cash pay-outs/Attendance forms.

Rehab/detox/transitional facility info.

Guideline sheet for all chapters.

*Letterhead

*1st round of Victory Tags

\$240.00

T-shirts

\$200.00

10 ABLBH yard signs

\$120.00

We have liability for your leadership/Team Hope.

\$ 75.00

TOTAL =

\$815.00

WARNING - Once your ministry/effort starts to click this will take more time than you ever imagined.

Calls at midnight and 6am.

Discerning what is legit and what isn't.

Get ready to find out what your community is about.

Get ready to be a resource and a go to person.

- **ABLBH Expects From Your Chapter**

Use Brianna's Prayer every meeting

Follow meeting agenda.

Financial support when possible.

Raise up leadership.

Remember

We are about the individual, not the chapter.

We are about the struggler, not the struggle.

We are a 501c3 so along with that, we have some forms/records you must maintain.

- **Contacts**

Facebook

Email

Website

Phone Number

- **QUESTIONS??**

I have one for you.

Are you ready to fail?

Only when you are ready to fail, are you free to succeed.

Now, the Big questions-

What if this works?

What if you start to make a difference?

What if your community starts to change?

Order Of Meeting

(Follow closely/Not exactly. Never omit Brianna's Prayer).

Welcome & Announcements	12mins
Reading/Poem/Positive scripture	
Word From Team Hope	
Announcements	
Information for the evening	
Review of Past Week	
What's Happening	
Save A Friend	
 Brianna's Prayer	 2mins
Read together/One person read/Have on screen/Ask for volunteer	
 Victory Reports & Presentation of Victory Tags	 10-12m
 Mini-Lesson	 15mins
 Break	 10mins
 Lesson/Sharing by someone "That Has Been There, Done That And Has The Scars To Prove It"	 25-30m
 Closing Remarks/Words of Inspiration	 10mins
 Prayer	

THE MAN IN THE ARENA

It is not the critic that counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done then better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, for there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory or defeat.

Teddy Roosevelt April 23, 1910