

Establishing a new AMCAP Area Chapter

An AMCAP area chapter is a local group of LDS mental health professionals, who meet together regularly to promote AMCAP's mission to integrate the gospel and our professional work.

Establishing a new area chapter:

Step 1. Identify local LDS mental health professionals who belong to or are interested in joining AMCAP. Then meet as a group to review the AMCAP mission statement and area coordinator job description (found on the AMCAP website). Please check the area coordinator page of the website. You may discover there is already a group in your area. If not, identify 2 individuals who would be willing to serve for 3 years as an area coordinator and an assistant area coordinator. Please remember when identifying an area coordinator, that coordinators need to be willing to invest some time and energy to make the local meetings happen.

Step 2. Contact the assistant area supervisor for your area to request approval for a new area chapter. The assistant area supervisor will present the request to the area coordinator supervisor, and the request will be reviewed at the AMCAP Board Meeting the following month. In all likelihood the request will be approved and the area chapter will be assigned Phase 1 or Phase 2 status. Also, please remember to e-mail minutes to the initial meeting to both the assistant area supervisor and the area coordinator supervisor.

Phase 1 area chapters denote chapters with fewer than 5 dues-paying AMCAP members. The primary focus is on networking and strengthening fellow members and on recruiting additional members.

Phase 2 area chapters have 5 or more dues-paying AMCAP members. These chapters are strongly encouraged to have regular "formal" meetings at least twice a year. Providing outreach services is likewise strongly encouraged. The board is currently working on guidelines for area chapter to provide continuing education credits at their area meetings. Until those guidelines are completed, area coordinators should submit request to the board, specifically the continuing education/ethics board member.

For contact information on the current assistant area supervisor for your area or the continuing education/ethics board member email B.J. at mail@amcap.net.

Step 3. Meet together. Make friends. Motivate. Inspire. The goal for each area is to help the members have an AMCAP experience year round. Some of the activities that chapters do include 1) networking with fellow AMCAP members within the area, 2) developing local newsletters (printed or e-mail), 3) holding workshops and seminars locally, 4) holding informal "brown bag" lunches, 5) consulting with fellow members on difficult cases, research projects, or other issues, 6) developing working relationships with LDS Family Services and local ecclesiastical leaders to assist in providing resources as requested, 7) developing speaker's bureaus based on the expertise and interests of local AMCAP members to provide resources to the community, and 8) recruiting LDS graduate students in the helping professions to join AMCAP.