C. The group itself should now become familiar with various alternatives in the continuum of care which could be offered to the alcoholic. Based on the severity of the symptoms that the alcoholic is presenting, they should then agree which alternatives will be offered. They, however, should be aware of the need to press for a “What if” clause agreement should the alcoholic reject all of their alternatives on the claim that “I can quit on my own.” By getting the alcoholic’s commitment to accept their alternative if this self-remedy fails, they have outlined a definite course of action should a resumption of drinking occur. By exploring all of these alternatives, they have gained group support, unity of purpose, and a specific goal to be achieved during the intervention session.

D. At this point, the group should predict what will be the alcoholic’s most likely excuses for not accepting the choices being offered and attempt to meet them in advance. Examples: “I can’t go to treatment now because my work will not allow me to be absent” or “I can’t go to treatment now because there is a very important family commitment we have made” and the like. When the group is prepared in advance to answer such excuses, the likelihood of his accepting treatment is greatly enhanced.

E. Finally, the chaplain should rehearse the group by simulating the forthcoming intervention session. This session would not require the individual group members to report specifically the data that they had written on their lists. Rather this session is designed to answer any last questions about the future intervention session. Also, since the group members already have their lists of data prepared, the chaplain can ask them to review them once more and make sure that the data is all specific in nature and tied directly to the drinking. Lastly, during this session, the chaplain needs to select a chairperson for the group and to define his role. The chairperson is chosen because he (or she) is the most influential with the identified alcoholic. This person, very often, will be instrumental in seeing to it that the alcoholic will be present at the time and place appointed.

The chaplain will instruct the chairperson in the following duties:

1. Open the meeting by stating clearly and directly what its purpose is. “Joe, we have asked you to meet us today because we feel that it is necessary for us to share with you a specific concern we all have about your health.”

2. Summarize how these people were gathered for this purpose. “So—and—so went to the chaplain because his concern had become so great that we wanted counsel. The chaplain in turn called the rest of us in and we planned how we could most usefully share our concerns with you. That’s what brought us together today.”