

Therapists for Social Responsibility (TSR)
Minutes for May 15, 2005

Present: Ray Bacigalupi, Sue Bollig, Norma Koropp, Nicole Laubach, Diana Martinez, Sandra Marvel, Shauna Smith, Jean Rosenfeld, and Mary Williams,

1. Welcome and introductions. Shauna reported TSR has about 100 members now. She shared the TSR tri-fold, which is in draft form. We are looking for a graphic designer so that the brochure can be put on a computer program that can be changed, centered, etc., as needed.
2. Announcements and Updates.
 - * TSR Organizational Structure. Shauna reviewed our structure. She and Ray facilitate the meetings. She is coordinator and there is a steering committee that meets quarterly. Elizabeth Bower is able to provide CEU units for those attending our meetings. We need to form a symposium committee.

 - * Data Base. Sue volunteered to put names and information on a database. Right now we can't manipulate the data. She is working on it and thinks that File-maker Pro may do the job. It will be ordered for her at work. We need to put the information on compatible programs so that we can maintain financial records and make the transfer of information more efficient. It was suggested that we establish a phone tree to expedite communication amongst ourselves.
 - * Contributions. Right now Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) holds our money. They are a non-profit so members can write off donations. One may join both groups (PSR & TSR) for a yearly fee of \$25 to \$50, depending on what one can afford. Some examples of ways we use the funds include supporting activities such as Eyes Wide Open and the symposiums.
3. Our areas of interest. We discussed our areas of interest and how to get them addressed through TSR. Shauna shared her News & Review op-ed piece. The article was also featured in the California Society for Clinical Social Work newsletter. Jean is the editor and she invited members to submit articles, cartoons, etc. (Jean asked about a group for clients with anxiety disorders and got some leads from the group). We filled out a Networking Survey and had a discussion

regarding our database and what kind of information to include. This led to a discussion about the focus of the group. Norma stated she was interested in connecting with other folks who are working on peace issues. She asked about the benefits to joining PSR (speakers, increased credibility for TSR, social events, newsletter).

4. Skills and talents. All present shared what he/she would like to get out of TSR, areas of interest and skills.

Sandra A. Wants to be around like-minded people. Another member introduced her to TSR. Interest: special events.

Norma wants to be politically active and proactive, like in the '60's. Finding an avenue to have her voice heard. Wants to work for peace and the environment and for children and families. Interests: outreach, phone tree.

Jean: Education, having speakers now and then. Affiliation with like-minded people. Activities outside of her business practice. Inspired by Shauna's action steps. Clinical concerns on how to deal with clients affected by world events. Children & family. As grandma, reminded of importance of raising children properly. Speaking & presenting. Can help edit and write letters and with events planning.

Mary. Motivated by Bush and birth of 1st grandchild. TSR is a home to keep hope alive. Be able to mobilize for action, such as "Eyes". Consciousness raising, environment, children. Phone tree, special events.'

Sue. Networking, information and action. Issues of war and peace, the environment and sustainable practices. She mentioned the Run for Earth Day event in June. Can also volunteer for Pops in the Park events to help with recyclables. Computer, database, phone tree.

Nicole. Blend profession with social activism. To be around like-minded people. Issues: Cost of war, the environment, and children. Has organizational skills.

Ray. Inspired by Shauna. Support and like-minded people, hope, engaging in grassroots activities. A generalist, can help to ground the group. Representing the male voice. Speaker. Writing articles. Issues: the benefits of peace, special events. Skills: a "workhorse", computer skills.

Shauna. Support, help in changing the world. Issues: war and peace and the Patriot Act. TSR wrote a letter to BBS asking them to inform members about the provisions of the Patriot Act, including the gag order. This Thursday the BBS has the item on their agenda. The meeting is on May 19 at their offices. Diana will talk to Edie regarding CAMFT & their position on the Patriot Act.

Diana. Wants to be around like-minded folks and looking for an avenue to take political action. Skills: people, host a meeting, phone tree, article/letter writing, speaking.

5. Putting it all together. Jean and Norma have offered their homes for a summer party and/or regular TSR meetings. We talked about locations for future meetings. Suggestions were people's homes, a restaurant (Black Cat), or the Arden Library on Fridays. Sue suggested having list of meeting dates and having folks sign up for hosting meetings. At the next meeting we can sign up. As we grow we may want to split up in sub-committees. The Nevada area has a group that would like to have meeting in their area. Ray suggested listing "chairing a subcommittee" on the skills list.

6. Symposium. Planning is in beginning stages. The planners are Jean, Shauna, and Ray. We may hold it at the Unitarian church for \$350 if they co-sponsors. The focus will be "Hope and Healing in These Times of War and Uncertainty". This can be a community event, not just for physicians and therapists. Jean may compare and contrast parenting (Dobson) or parenting styles and the creation of rigid neo-con political affiliations. She is exploring the research. The planning committee will need lots of help as the event gets off the ground. We want someone very well known for keynote speaker, such as Helen Caldecott. She'll be in San Francisco next week. Do we need to reach out to others, rather than just preaching to the choir? Sue suggested developing an objective for the symposium so that the focus does not get watered down. One focus may be physicians and therapists talking to other therapists and like-minded folks about how to deal with the world and maintain our balance. Who is our target audience? (Other physicians and therapists and folks who would be receptive or are looking for like-minded professionals)

6 a. Announcements. Shauna talked about "Peace in the Precincts". They presented at PSR and asked PSR and TSR to support their efforts to bring an end to the war in Iraq.

She talked about the book, “Green Parrots”, by Dr. Gino Strada. He is a surgeon who works in war-torn nations and writes about how land bombs disguised as toys such as green parrots, have been dropped in 65 different countries. The US and Great Britain are alleged to be involved in the practice. Shauna is writing an article about this. There was some incredulity within the group due to the insidiousness of the practice. It is sounds so outrageous that the group wanted more information and talked about ways top get the word out. Jean suggested contacting Oprah. Could we get the speaker for our symposium? For more information go to www.emergencyusa.org

7. Closing words. “Inspired, unsure about how I will be involved, in shock about the “Green Parrot”, learned something new, appreciative, grateful for having a place to dialogue, hopeful because there are thing to do, grateful & hopeful, trying to balance Pulitzer Prize winners exhibit and current events, how to maintain hope and action and world events, a little undone, just began about symposium, dealing with hypocrisy, not getting despondent, teach-ins, (2-5 town hall meetings), pensive, encouraged, grateful, journeying together, trying to get in touch with anger and rage to use the energy proactively.”

Acknowledgments were given to Diana for taking notes and to Shauna for being “the glue”.

CEU topic for this meeting: “**Using Our Lenses As Therapists As We Deal With Social Issues**”.

Next meeting Friday, June 10 from 12:00-2 p.m., location TBA

NOTE: Meeting postponed. Summer picnic/social/meeting TBA instead.

Regular meetings will begin again in September.

