



TIHC Coordinating Council

Minutes

April 10, 2025

Present: Heather W, Laurie L, Sheila M, Jenifer U, Ruth E

Regrets: Chase, Heather C, Ariane

Agenda:

- Upcoming events Updates: Conference, Longer Tables, Roadshow, next full meeting
- Funding issues

We discussed the next May 8 meeting coming up and agreed to have a presenter at that meeting. Among the speakers we discussed: the new director of the Division of Community Care within DHHS, Donovan Gibbs to update us on the latest information about the DCC. Perhaps along with someone from CRESS, and maybe a co-responder (like we had a few years ago, the social worker from Northampton) to get updates on their activities?

Also, Lee Shuer, who is a peer specialist and national expert on hoarding and the role of trauma in healing from clutter. Art Pharmacy is being piloted in MA right now and it might be an interesting time to hear about this program which is a business model of prescribing art and other “alternative” types of healing for mental well-being.

Ruth will follow up with Lee since we’ve had interest in this topic and it might make more sense to have the Art Pharmacy presentation closer to our November gathering which is art focused.

The conference planning team is no longer calling it a conference, but a gathering or event and has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the year. We are holding two afternoon weekends for this gathering, on Nov. 8-9 and looking into the center for the Arts, or Smith Conference Center or similar type places for the venue. We are applying for grants from MCC and sponsorship from Community Foundation and co-sponsorship from others like CSO and NWDA in the near future. Mass Brigham and art Pharm were also suggested as potential co-sponsors and supporters.

This flowed into a more general conversation about funding for TIHC. Ruth finally sent out about 8 letters requesting funding and co-sponsorship of TIHC’s work this year. She will follow up with several of them, and others volunteered to contact the following:

Finck and Perras: Heather W

Whalen Insurance: Jenifer U

Greenfield/Noho Bank: Laurie L

Florence Bank and Easthampton Savings were not on the list which had to be approved by the Consortium so we aren't overlapping too much, but Ruth will check with Alice the grantwriter to see if we could approach them as well.

Ruth will send a copy of the letter that went out to everyone on CC.

Ideas:

Could we step up our investment in Giving Tuesday this year and try to generate more revenue from it?

Could we seek other sources of income that do not rely on soft money from grants and foundations since this is going to get even more competitive than it already is and we are not in a strong position to compete right now.

Could we start charging for our services on a sliding scale? This would include our Resilience Roadshow, the parent training, the assessment tool which is worth reviving as we believe there is still a need and interest from small businesses and nonprofits. We could call it a "good will" offering of \$0-500?

Could we feature local artists at the Nov. gathering, and let them sell their work and ask them to donate a piece for a fundraiser for TIHC?

We also discussed becoming more a part of another agency's infrastructure like the DMH, the City Nurse, the Division of Community Care. We agreed to reach out to Tayler McAndrew as a starting point there for a conversation about it. Northampton's departments are more county focused now which aligns well with our mission.

The assessment tool could be combined with the roadshow, for a fuller package. We might be able to get an evaluator to partner with us, from Smith and maybe approach the Beveridge Foundation for funds. Or possibly Public Health Institute of Western MA? We'd need a new team to spearhead this, and Ruth could see if the UMass summer intern could help with this.

Submitted by Ruth Ever