

TIHC Coordinating Council Meeting

MINUTES

February 22, 2024 on zoom

Present: Jacqui O, Heather W, Heather C, Jenifer U, Ruth E, with Kristel Applebee and Terrie Thompson from the Consortium.

Regrets: Laurie L, Sheila M, Chase G, Ariane K

Work with The Consortium: Kristel, the ED and Terrie, the Development Director at the Consortium, were invited to join us today to reflect on the last year, since TIHC joined the Consortium in March 2023. Kristel highlighted the various ways that we interact with and get support from the Western MA Training Consortium (WMTC)—including in the areas of social justice, spiritual care, fiscal, IT, development, marketing and outreach. Ruth attends the monthly program directors meetings to stay connected, and meets with Kristel monthly for updates and support as needed. The Consortium continues to be delighted with our work and the relationships we have developed.

They reviewed the process for seeking grants and funding for TIHC. Generally we need 4-6 weeks of lead time to apply for grants. We have had to get clear on what we are doing and how to frame it to a funder. We are developing partnerships with others through the WMTC and still working on capacity building with individual donors and sponsors. We discussed the idea of creating other art focused or creative projects like photovoice to build interest and opportunities and a track record of success. We can start to identify our circle of giving and supporters. To look for the “low hanging fruit” as we build our clarity and success and visibility.

Their recommendation is that we work toward having about 50-80% of our funds come from grants; 10% from sponsors and 10% from individuals. But over time, we would aim to have each one constitute about a 1/3 of our funding.

Communities of Practice: Ruth gave a brief update on the 10 week training program she is doing through the International Trauma and Resilience Coalition and CTIPP (Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice), with its focus on building resilient community networks in the face of increasing climate crises and disasters. There are amazing community leaders presenting each week and opportunities to interact with participants from all over the country and beyond. Ruth would like to bring this back to our work and engage the CC and others with the practices and models being offered.

Interns: Ruth shared that she is meeting with students from the MPH program planning class at UMass, who are going to create a plan for us regarding our organizational

assessment tool that we want to reconstitute and offer again (it got squashed when Covid hit in 2020). They will effectively create an outline for a grant proposal, with a logic model, problem statement, etc. She continues to work with the Smith Fellow too, on doing outreach for the parent program.

Governance Structure Update: Focus groups are still being conducted, but the whole process is moving quite slowly. Four are planned, including the one with our CC, one with providers, and two with people in the community with lived experience (especially POC, and parents with history of trauma).

Training & Funding Updates: Ruth met with the staff at The Support Network this week to train them all in our *Building Resilience in Families* program, so that they can then offer it directly to their parent community.

Ruth is also meeting with Rachel Bond, PhD student from UMass who is working to revamp the parent program training for student teachers on how to create a more trauma informed classroom. She will be applying for grant funds to help cover costs and to be able to pay Ruth for her time in helping with the training next fall and in the planning.

Treehouse Foundation is applying for a United Way grant and will write TIHC into their grant proposal, to offer the parent program in tandem with their proposed program that will be training school staff on being more trauma informed in several school districts in Hampshire and Franklin county.

Submitted by Ruth Ever.