

# Discovery Meeting #14

## October 18, 2010

### Minutes



Photograph by Jennifer Roth

**Present:** Pamela Amiralian, Jean Basiner, Susan Bayley, Severyn Bruyn, Holly Campbell, Susan Collyer, Linda DeHart, , Carol Gallagher, Hugh Gallagher, Chris Graefe, Joan Horgan, Nancy Lippincott, Betsy Pillsbury, Adelaide Smith, Arthur Stowe, Pam Wilkins

**Attending Via Skype:** James Cavanaugh,

**Attending Via Conference Telephone:** Amy Dunion, Gail Ellison

#### **Welcome to new participants:**

**Pamela Amiralian**, Artist, Interior Decorator, colleague of Adelaide Smith, has expertise on "getting thing done."

**Hugh Gallagher**, Retired High School Counselor, introduced to Meeting by his wife Carol Gallagher.

#### **INQUIRY OF THE DAY**

James Cavanaugh opened with a status report on the proposal for Donald Berwick, Administrator of Medicare and Medicaid Services: It was delivered to Anne Avidon, Vice Consul for Healthcare, British Consulate Boston, who is meeting with Berwick on October 19.

Severyn Bruyn said that he has met Donald Berwick and would be willing to open a conversation with him on how art can influence the functioning of the healthcare economy, and bring the Art of Health Documentary into the discussion. Severyn and James to talk later in the week,

[Update: Anne reported that the proposal was received "with great interest" and she will follow up with Berwick and his assistant in two or three weeks.]

James then focused the conversation on how artists can influence healthcare by "using mystery, employing doubt, to turn 'I don't know' into 'What can happen...?' as a communication and healing process.

Susan Collyer said that we need to work to change the relationship of "Doctor VS Disease" from an adversarial one into a partnership.

Adelaide Smith noted that the Smithsonian Magazine article reports that artists will be major players over the next 40 years.

And the RI School of Design is turning its attention the role of the arts in healthcare, reported Susan Bayley.

Holly Campbell said that while healthcare is understood to be treatments to people, the real inquiry is what does it take to invoke the healing response, to create something out of nothing.

"I have dealt with health challenges and made no progress until I understood that I am on a healing journey. Instantly I had a change in my way of being and (made progress)," she said. "Caregivers are mentors – they don't deliver, they assist us on our way."

Gail Ellison: so much of the cost of healthcare is the search for answers. Once you own being in control, rather than looking for answers from a healer, but taking control for yourself, it becomes less costly. "In (the pilot documentary) 'Healing Words,' you can see people come to that point, to find a new approach to one's own care. Once one woman took the creative role of telling her own story, she was no longer hospitalized."

Severyn: In his study of evolution he has realized that everything begins from the inside. A fundamental principle of nature is self-direction.

Gail: there is a fundamental reorganization occurring in how medicine happens, Students are in transitions on how care is being delivered.

Linda: I'd like to focus a whole meeting around this subject. Can we do this for the next meeting?

Severyn: Composed an oratorio on the history of evolution, being presented next Friday at Boston College. Will be recording it. May be helpful to discussion.

### **TAKING CONCRETE ACTIONS**

Gail: What are people really interested in? Forming committees for fundraising and proposal versus interest in metaphors and philosophy? How do we move toward greater action by individuals among us? Can we talk about specifics, about how we do that?

Severyn: Recently had a fundraiser organized around the passing of Howard Zinn. We had a name, and we raised \$240,000. Can we find someone in our field with a name?

Susan: Will try to contact Bill Moyers again.

Pam Wilkins: Offers to research the Comer Hospital in Chicago, Children's Hospital in Boston, and Mrs. Bing of Stamford University Arts Program as possible banner names/causes. Mrs. Bing is the single largest donor to healthcare in the world. Will lead effort with James and Gail to contact Mrs. Bing by October 31.

Joan Horgan: Jack Connors was recently featured in Boston Magazine as a powerful and influential figure in Boston, chairman of the board of Partners Healthcare. Joan will follow up with Linda.

## **WEBSITE/PR/FUNDRDAISING**

Holly Campbell said that she has set up a blog on the Discovery Meeting website, but it is not yet live. She sees two separate websites: [discoverymeeting.org](http://discoverymeeting.org) and [artsinhealth.net](http://artsinhealth.net).

Question of who will manage the blog. It will be interactive and the manager is to moderate and stimulate conversation. It will provide a place to work through ideas between meetings.

Pam W: The blog can be listed on the website of the Society of the Arts in Healthcare (SAH).

Discussion about the two websites and their functions:

- Are the Art of Health (AOH) interns available to handle the AOH website?
- Will the websites be used to collect stories for AOH?
- Should there be a call for stories on the SAH website?
- How does AOH website work with generating PR, articles, events and outreach?
- What are the most powerful functions of the website(s)?

Severyn: Alan O'Hare is a professional storyteller. He will be at the Friday performance of the oratorio; maybe he can help. Linda and Joan Horgan agree to network with Alan O'Hare.

Pam W: suggest call to SAH members for stories. Could be an article in the SAH newsletter. Also suggest renewing our sponsorship request to SAH.

James: Want to create a few trailers to present to the SAH national conference in April in San Francisco. Agrees that we need to generate PR.

Suggestions for contacts: Matt Damon's mother attended the Howard Zinn fundraiser, Severyn can look into potential there.

Templeton Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation suggested. James will pursue both.

Amy Dunion: "I'm inspired in hearing you talk about the larger story. Patients are ready for this conversation." Suggested topic for the next meeting, "What is the definition of THE ARTS?"

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

November 15

December 13

**2011 meeting schedule is being confirmed. Watch for dates in agenda for November 15 meeting.**