

## Minutes of the New Jersey Association for Multicultural Counseling

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Lawrenceville Public Library

Attendees: Jennie Chiaramonti, Aida Hernandez, Carol Evangelisto, Inspira Joyce Williams, Susan Brody, Roberto Schiraldi, Sheritta Hughes, Maricarmen Rodriguez

Minutes taken by: Jennie Chiaramonti, revised 8/1/17

- I. Roberto opened the meeting with a Native American blessing and sage ceremony.
- II. The group presented Maricarmen with thank you gifts for her work as our past-president, which included an art print and a crystal statue. Anyone wishing to contribute toward gift costs should contact Jennie or Roberto.
- III. May meeting minutes taken by Joana Couto were unanimously approved.
- IV. Inspira is working with NJCA to send a mailing to approximately 200 NJCA members who expressed interest in our division.
- V. Inspira asked each member to introduce him/herself in terms of the work we do outside of NJAMC and our ideas, hopes, and goals for the work of NJAMC going forward. Feedback included:
  - a. Trainings (ongoing, not just annual conference)
  - b. Focus on CEUs, particularly as this is a goal for NJCA overall
  - c. Retreats
  - d. Psychodrama
  - e. Trainings that focus on both the mind and the soul (the observation was made that our conference has been successful because of the attention paid to the soul, which many trainings leave out with a strictly intellectual focus)
  - f. Whistle-blowing, confronting systems and persons of power and oppression
  - g. Healing strategies guided by those who are oppressed
  - h. Decreasing internalized oppression
  - i. Aligning our power with our values
  - j. Truth and reconciliation work
  - k. Future meetings that combine NJAMC business with training for NJAMC leadership, possibly one hour of business with one hour of professional development
  - l. Opening dialogues around social issues we feel are being ignored – Susan's example: Race, gender, and sexual orientation in the prison system
- VI. There was discussion around healing work needed to address the rift with NJCA over our fall conference and other issues. In particular, there is a serious disconnect between how our division conceives the purpose/vision of the fall conference and the recent interpretation given to the fall conference by the NJCA board. It was also stated that our association seems to be experiencing a microcosm of leadership changes like those happening at a macro level in our country right now.

VII. Sheritta and Aida are able to make additional meeting and training space available to us in Somerset and Oakhurst, respectively. Thank you!

VIII. The group decided to schedule an extra meeting on August 26 for planning for the work of our division. The meeting will be held from 11am-1pm at Sheritta's office.

605 Franklin Boulevard Suite 2B, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Somerset, NJ

IX. Fall NJAMC conference is Friday, November 3, 2017 at Mercer County Community College. NJCA has communicated that this will be the last year we can host the conference at this location.

X. Previously scheduled meetings remain on the calendar at the Lawrenceville library at 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648: September 9, October 14, and December 2. All will be held from 11am-1pm. Conference calling can be arranged through Jennie.

XI. Inspira stressed that the meetings need to start and end on time to respect the schedules of those who attend.

XII. Suggested reading: *Brainwashed* by Tom Burrell