



## September 8, 2020 Consortium Meeting Minutes

(Held over Zoom)

**Attendees:** Appleby, Peggy; Bailey, Sarah; Baxter, Jim; Brandenberger, Mary Fran; Burden, Sharon; Fulmer, Becki; Gibney, Maggie; Gilbert, Karin; Grant, Tom; Himschoot, Mary; Horn, Theresa; Huerta, Dalila; Irwin, Randi; Lassen, David; Laudeman, Kent; Long, Josh; Luckey, Velshonna; Marek, Courtney; McBride, Sharon; Moore, Dezha; Nowak, Christine; Okanlami, Bunmi; Peters, Denise; Pinter, John; Robinson, Emily; Rose, Rebekah; Rupchock, Emily; Sanders, Jenny; Sida, Maribel; Sims, Kimberly; Stanley, Debra; Syzmanski, Sharon; Tawadros, Kristin; Thomas, Ben; Torres, Amanda; Vida, Robin; Western, Olivia; Zakowski, Becky; Zornig, Terri; Strawberry, Dana; Smith, Meadow; Faulkner-Jones, Jenn; Walker, Kathy; Washington, Yolanda

**Welcome:** Becky Zakowski welcomed attendees with a special greeting to new attendees. A few opening announcements: The meeting was being recorded, minutes will now be available on the SJC Cares website, and the focus of this meeting will be reconnecting and sharing. Attendees were asked to share their name via chat for attendance and invited to share announcements over chat at any time during the meeting.

**1:1 Activity** – Modeled after the opening activity for Be Strong Family Parent Cafes, attendees were randomly put in breakout rooms in pairs. Each person had an opportunity to answer the following questions: Who are you, Why are you here, and What is one thing that hope happens this month?

**Resource Spotlight: IUSB Civil Rights Heritage Center Culturally Responsive Curricular Support:** SJC Cares member Dalila Huerta shared a brand-new culturally responsive website resource she's been involved developing with IUSB's Civil Rights Heritage Center. The site is designed to responsive resources and support for educators and others who work with youth, with some content relevant for adults as well. It is available through the CRHC's website, [clas.iusb.edu/centers/civil-rights/](https://clas.iusb.edu/centers/civil-rights/); on that page it can be found by clicking on 'educator resources', or by using this specific link: <https://clas.iusb.edu/centers/civil-rights/culturally-responsive-educational-resources.html>. Many community organizations such as The LGBTQ Center and La Casa de Amistad consulted and collaborated, resulting in a one stop shop of resources that put youth and their needs front and center. Digital resources include community organizations that may help with cultural resources; there is a link to submit additional resource recommendations. Additional resources including reading lists, pedagogical supports, education on specific cultures, anti-bias resources, and an opportunity to utilize the CRHC's lending library. There are plans for a newsletter, and those who'd like to subscribe can submit their email through a link on the website. There are post-Covid plans to offer a submersive experience for educators to visit and have a 'deep dive' into five local organizations including The Civil Rights Heritage Center, La Casa de Amistad, The LGBTQ Center, The Jewish Federation, and The Islamic Society of Michiana to learn specially about each community and current issues impacting each, and participate in dialogue circles about how to create inclusive communities. For more information or to offer suggestions, the email address is [chrc@iusb.edu](mailto:chrc@iusb.edu). This project was funded through a grant by The Women of IU South Bend. Consortium members can also support this project by sharing it widely within their networks. A formal announcement of the project is coming soon.

**SJC Cares Update:** Becky Zakowski shared the following-

- Oaklawn is offering a free educational series called Transforming Trauma which will have five sessions that focus on caring for those who work with people who've experienced psychological trauma. The first four sessions will feature national author Laura van Dernoot Lipsky of the Trauma Stewardship Institute; the final session will feature Notre Dame Professor Dr. Nancy Michael. Dates are September 11, 16, 22 and October 5 and 16<sup>th</sup>; times and registration is available at [Oaklawn.org/events](http://Oaklawn.org/events)
- SJC Cares website has been undergoing updates and currently has new local resource sheets and information on it. This will soon be where people can access meeting minutes as well. It can be found at [www.sjccares.org](http://www.sjccares.org)
- SJC Cares and Elkhart's System of Care organization The Source are collaborating on a project that will be facilitated by Developmental Neuroscience students of The University of Notre Dame. The project consists of focus group conversations with pastors who lead predominantly African American congregations and the conversations will focus on mental health, stigma, trauma, and suggested ways to reach members of the African American community on how to access formal and informal mental health support. Additional focus groups will be conducted, and results will be used to inform a social media campaign that will span both counties. Becky is asking SJC Cares members to share suggestions of pastors who may be interested in participating.

**SJC Cares Committee Updates:**

**Building Resiliency:** Dalila Huerta is the leader of this new committee. Those who have expressed interest should have received an email from Dalila with a survey about a potential meeting time; they are hoping to have their initial meeting in September. Those are considering joining, please reach out to Dalila.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** H.R. Jung is leading this committee, and he is on vacation this week. There is still an opportunity to become involved; let H.R. or Becky know of your interest.

**Outreach:** Next meeting will be Thursday, September 10. Accepting new members and there are many ongoing projects this group is involved with, including the future social media campaign.

**Breakout Groups:** Attendees were randomly assigned to breakout groups, and discussion focused on current needs and concerns during this phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic and ongoing social and physical distancing and a majority of local students returning to school as mandatory e-learners. Highlights of the discussions as shared with the larger group:

Breakout Group 1: Children not receiving the services that they need; many organizations providing e-learning support are not properly staffed with people who've been trained in how to assist students with e-learning; high stress levels; rent assistance is capped at a rate too low to meet the need; need for more mental health & social supports

Breakout Group 2: Very hard for those organizations and professionals who typically provide support to plan or know what type of support is helpful as needs and expectations are continually changing (moving targets); training volunteers is challenging; balancing safety with traditions/ people want to

hold on to how and when things are normally done; loss of a 'safe space' that comes with meeting face to face (telemed has limitations); huge concerns about checking into the needs of the children.

Breakout Group 3: Adult learners balancing e-learning demands for their children with their own schooling; social work students missing out on being able to have hands-on learning experiences in the community; glaring disparities between those who are better resourced and those who are not with e-learning, including choices parents who are not given the option to work from home must make. For example, having older children left to supervise younger children while parents work. This pandemic is impacting everyone, including those who provide services; question remains about how the quality of services provided are impacted; lack of needed services available, recognizing the other major events that are impacting our society and giving people the space they need for support and processing.

Breakout Group 4: There is so much going on in addition to Covid with e-learning and the things happening in society – so much to do, and so much need. It is overwhelming, and those with hearts to serve others have a lot on their shoulders. Things are heavy and workers and leaders have to keep their heads up. (Do we send encouraging notes and pick-me-ups to those doing the work?) Interest in supporting each other, moving forward, and showing impact.

Breakout Group 5: Shifting to virtual work has shifted focus and how the work is done; Continuing to connect with people when everyone is 'Zoomed Out'; How do we do the work safely yet reach those who need to be reached with important work; continuing to do the work we do – focus for many has shifted to organizations just surviving Covid but now that Covid is continuing, how do we get back to doing what we need an managing Covid (shifting out of 'crisis mode' and into adjusting – challenging for organizations and individuals.

Breakout Group 6: Need for tutoring; lack of access for women who need protective services – this typically requires a lot of paperwork and people who need services are unable to access equipment such as a fax machine; likewise it is difficult for services to access the people who need their help; Struggle to take care of students when parents need to work; how do e-learning sites keep those environments safe.

The following resources were discussed during whole group discussion of the breakout conversations:

1. SJCPL has recently created a survey for parents that was shared on their website. The survey is still open and Theresa Horn will check into whether we can share the opportunity to take the survey within our networks and will let us know how the information will be shared once that is known.
2. Registration for Oaklawn's Transforming Trauma session on Friday, September 11 is full; Becky will check within Oaklawn to find out if SJC Cares members can still attend.
3. Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns is intent on developing resources that truly make sense for the community and David Lassen, the Center's Community Engaged Learning Program Director, would like to hear from SJC Cares members about what might be helpful and needed. They are developing ways ND students can support e-learning needs and the organizations providing e-learning support, and looking for ways ND students can retain and attain connection with the community during this time of necessary physical distancing. David can be reached at [dlassen@nd.edu](mailto:dlassen@nd.edu).

4. Tutoring support can also be received remotely through Indiana's Rose Hulman Homework Hotline (<https://askrose.org/email/>; 1-877-ASKROSE, or chat at <https://askrose.org/chat/>). More information about this service is at [askrose.org](http://askrose.org). Individuals who have a card with SJCP can access support through Tutor.com, which is a service of The Princeton Review. SJC residents can apply for a digital card at [www.sjcpl.org](http://www.sjcpl.org)

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, at 8:30 a.m. over Zoom

The following resources and announcements were shared over the course of the meeting and after the meeting:

1. Catholic Charities has an opening for a master's level therapist who is licensed in the State of Indiana. This can be a full or part time position- for more information contact Director Chris Nowak, [cnowak@ccfwsb.org](mailto:cnowak@ccfwsb.org).
2. The University of Notre Dame is developing a new tutoring program to connect a large number of ND students with community organizations who are providing e-learning support. Please contact Dave Lassen, [dlassen@nd.edu](mailto:dlassen@nd.edu), if you are interested in learning more about this.
3. St. Joseph County Public Library has temporarily suspended charges for faxing and copying up to 20 pages.
4. September is Suicide Prevention Month, 9/6-9/12 is SP Week, and 9/10 is Suicide Prevention Day. Kent Laudeman, Director of the Suicide Prevention Center of UHS, shared that 22 Veterans, 13 youth, and 132 adults in this country die every day from suicide. He encourages all of us to take a minute to pause this month and think about mental health and what each of us might do for suicide prevention.
5. The Body Keeps the Score Relevant Reads series begins on September 22. There will be evening sessions led by local experts on topics that are relevant to the book and psychological trauma on five consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Register on Facebook; reading the book is encouraged but not necessary to attend these sessions.
6. The YMCA of Greater Michiana can provide sessions for staff on stress management; these can be conducted over Zoom. Contact Denise Peters: [dpeters@ymcagm.org](mailto:dpeters@ymcagm.org) if interested
7. Registration is still open for Oaklawn's Transforming Trauma series remaining sessions on September 16, 22 and October 5 and 16<sup>th</sup>; times and registration is available at [Oaklawn.org/events](http://Oaklawn.org/events). Register @ [www.oaklawn.org/events](http://www.oaklawn.org/events); if an event is closed when you register, please email Marketing Director Alicia Sisk: [Alicia.sisk@oaklawn.org](mailto:Alicia.sisk@oaklawn.org).
8. SJC Cares members are encouraged to share St. Joseph County Public Library's Parent Survey to local parents within their networks – please share this link: <http://surveys.librarycustomer.org/s3/5776756/>. Here is the email message the library shared with the link; feel free to copy this as well: ***Hi Parents and Caregivers, \*How are you? You are probably doing a lot right now for your family, and we would like to learn more about what you need.***

*We want to hear from you—whether you are caring for one child or many, whether your kids are teenagers or toddlers (or teenagers who act like toddlers). We want to hear about your experience homeschooling, eLearning or*

*sending your child back to school/daycare. And we'd like to know how it is going for you working from home or working at work.*

*Thank you so much for taking five minutes to fill out this short survey.*