

Conscience Project Meeting 7-8-06

The meeting was conducted at Patricia Garcia's home, hosted by Patricia. Present were Meg Gaffney, Matt Galvin, Patricia Garcia, Sue London, Sister Mary Satala, Barb Stilwell, and John Sullivan.

The minutes from the previous meeting in April were approved.

Sister Mary reported on her recent activity directing a retreat in which a participant had endured maltreatment experiences. She distributed copies of an article by Snyder et al., appearing in **Rehabilitation Psychology** Vol. 51, No. 2, 89-112 entitled *Hope for Rehabilitation and Vice Versa*. She said the subject matter included how hope differs from both optimism and self-efficacy. She indicated that the first author was a neuropsychologist.

Sue reported on the exhibition of **Conscience Works** at the Indiana Library Federation annual meeting, which was 4/12-13/06 at the Convention Center. Sue was assisted by other members of the Conscience Project in maintaining a presence at the booth. Several dozen libraries from around the state were represented. Sue was pleased with the quantity and quality of the encounters we had with interested persons. Sue also attended a Medical Library Association meeting in Phoenix. She met with participants in a special interest group of Mental Health librarians. She was made aware that this autumn there would be a meeting of the Mental Health Librarians Association. Patricia wondered if we could represent the Conscience Project and **Conscience Works** in meetings of organizations of school counselors.

Barb followed up with Sue in establishing Internet access to library articles and resources from her home. Barb indicated she had donated her copies of the journal **Developmental Psychopathology** to the Medical Library. Barb agreed to deliver to Matt the CD on which were recorded Barb's hand-outs, distributed at a previous meeting, on Conscience Functioning Disorder (CFD), CFD Questionnaire and From CD (Conduct Disorder) to CFD, a Rational Journey. Matt wanted to prepare these to go up on **Conscience Works**. Barb reported that the proposal to the **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry** for a presentation, in which she would have introduced the concept of CFD, had not been accepted. Barb said she would, however, proceed with the case study of a boy, apparently treatment refractory, in a secure residential program. She had decided she could organize her thoughts around the question of disposition: e.g. should another foster home be tried? Sister Mary inquired about conscience work with foster parents. Matt agreed that such an application of conscience sensitive group work seemed highly desirable and pointed out that the recommendation for it appeared in at least one **Conscience Works** article. Proposed operation of a conscience group for foster care parents in parallel or in tandem with conscience sensitive work with their foster children could, to some extent, be modeled after the actual operation of, what is in effect, a conscience group for freshman medical students (embedded in their Introduction to Medicine I course) in tandem with conscience sensitive work with youth in a secure residential program. Barb brought up the status of Katie Pedersen's paper, which Katie presented at the last meeting. Katie had made revisions in accordance with suggestion made at the time. Meg indicated she would take responsibility for following up with Katie Pedersen to see if Katie (who was expected very shortly to be occupied with the labor and delivery of her first baby) would like to have her paper put up on the **Conscience Works** website. Barb distributed her outline of Edward Tick's book, **War and the**

Soul, Healing Our Nation's Veterans from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Barb remarked on subject matter contained in the book on the mythology and tasks of the warrior, and PTSD as spiritual as well as psychological trauma. Listening to Barb's comments and perusing Barb's synoptic treatment of the book, Patricia was appreciative as she had been on the look out for books on the interaction of spirituality and racial identity. Barb wanted those present to know about favorable travel deals for several destinations available at <Megabus.com>.

John had completed his Conscience Autobiography with remarkably detailed and deep reflections on formation and functioning of his conscience with special references to Islam. In his narrative John strives to make comparisons between his conscience development before and after his conversion to Islam at age 28. He said he was particularly challenged by an inquiry regarding what changes had unfolded in his conscience that did not obviously correlate with life changing events. John provided a hard copy and a floppy disk. He indicated that he was glad to submit his responses to the editorial staff of **Conscience Works** for review and consideration for electronic publication. Barb, Matt and Meg offered to review the work (subsequent to our meeting Sister Mary also agreed to review the work as a guest editor). Matt took responsibility to make and distribute copies. It was thought the work would best be positioned under *Conscience and Ethics* on the website, as it seemed to be in keeping with other work there, namely, *Trying on the Rings of Glaucon* and would be a ready resource for health care professional students, especially those who live according to Islam, and might be seeking models of professionalism and ethics grounded in, or compatible with, their convictions.

Meg indicated she envisioned soon providing an update to the editor's column on **Conscience Works**. Although the last update appearing on the website was back in 2002, a much more recent editor's comprehensive summary of the offerings on our website had been created. However it currently appears only on the website for The Center of Bioethics, which is linked to **Conscience Works**. One possibility discussed was to obtain the material (probably from Amy) and put it up directly on **Conscience Works** with the date of its appearance on the Bioethics website. It was suggested that Meg not proceed with a new update until she could use it to highlight the new look of the homepage, progress on which Sue reported later in the meeting. Meg reported she was progressing with plans to include suggestions for preceptors and learners to utilize two conscience sensitive techniques (the moralized genogram and the value matrix) in the **Introduction to Clinical Medicine I** (ICM I) course book. These techniques were seen as dovetailing nicely with the sessions on the family and on adolescence, respectively. She said this year's course book would include the website address and cite the appropriate references that illustrate the techniques. She also reported that the Conscience Autobiography had been used as part of a remediation plan for a medical student who had been cheating on exams. Meg gave a recommendation for reading **Radical Acceptance**, by Sarah Brock. She liked especially the chapter on fear. Sister Mary had noted John in his lectures had remarked 'acceptance in the key to change.' John added that making changes was only a part [of what might be required]. He said acceptance was needed when a person was unable to make changes in patterns.

Matt mentioned ongoing work on another conscience sensitive psycho-educational book entitled **Grandma Grady's Grade A Gray Day**, the subject matter of which is explanation of a parent's depression to the parent's children. Matt's sister Debbie Galvin is illustrating this work. Sister Mary, Patricia, Barb and Meg agreed to review the work in progress. Patricia expressed interest

in asking her older daughter to collaborate with her on a translation into Spanish of **Carlotta Learns About Her Medicine**. That book is about ADD with co-morbid anxiety as it occurs in girls. A cover illustration was made consisting of the two wonderful images of Carlotta and Rodrigo created by Sandy Laramore, a long time collaborator in the **Conscience Project**. Otherwise the book is not illustrated. Matt indicated he had been thinking about offering a version, which would afford the child reader spaces to make her own drawings, for example to depict her own inner states and “afraid-I-mights.” Matt asked of Sue if technology was readily available such that the child could create her illustrations on-line, then print them out with the text or would it be better simply to provide hard copies on demand and have children illustrate them in the office or at home as the clinician or parent reads the story with them. Sue indicated the programming required for the first proposed alternative would be prohibitively complex. Matt’s list of projects, pursued at what others might understandably regard as too leisurely a pace, also included completion of the study guide for **The Otters of Conscience-Berg** on which he had collaborated with Sister Mary.

The next meeting of the Conscience Project will be at 2113 W. 42nd Street, October 14, 2006 1000-noon. Intentions to attend or regrets can be conveyed to Matt at: 347-8947.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Galvin,
9/23/06