

## Notes from Open Space Topic Convenors

What was your topic or question?

### **Urgency? Are we ready for collective action?**

What were major discussion points?

- Do we need to move our action outside the personal and local community to a larger arena?
- How do we empower ourselves to speak up?
- Is this health care crisis a metaphor for the global crisis—issues of the U.S. involvement in war with Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and other world issues were linked to this crisis of principles and life values.
- What is our manifesto, and how will we market it? Should the [Association of] Healing Healthcare Projects link to other organizations or expand its outreach?
- The personal is political. Our modeling this life will be the political action we must continue to take.
- Concerns about access to health care: the financial model that turns people away must be addressed.
- Time shift – we can look at other models of time, like the Mayan lunar calendar. The 13 months in the lunar year offer a day, July 25<sup>th</sup>, a day out of time. What if we choose that day for a national or global day of consciousness about healing?
- Accountability is political.
- We must face our fears and feel supported by this community. Several people expressed feelings and observations and then felt fearful that they could threaten their job security. This must be addressed in the larger group. How can we move forward and face this reality?
- We should live from our heart and less out of our heads.

What did you learn?

- We all share similar concerns regarding changing the health care system and have met similar obstacles.
- The word “urgency” provoked different reactions for everyone, but an agreement was made that we need to do this work out of growing fears for our colleagues and ourselves. A number of stories were shared about nurses grieving for the ability to practice nurturing and nursing.
- The conversation is not complete. We left with more questions and should continue this dialogue. Perhaps we aren’t ready for collective action – like getting on the bus to Washington, D.C. or staging protests in our communities.
- One member of the group shared this quote that she heard the poet David Whyte say recently: “Healthcare has no enemies, but it is hated by all its friends.” She commented that we chose to be here in health care because we care for people; we need to reconnect to that.

Whom should we contact for more information?

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