



16, Dr Thirumurthy Nagar Main Road, Suite 2A, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 034
info@storytellinginstitute.org, www.storytellinginstitute.org
98403 94282, 044 4208 0890
Eric Miller, PhD, Director

29 Nov 2013

Dear Hospital Administrator,

Greetings from the World Storytelling Institute!

"Storytelling and Healing" is the theme of the 2014 Chennai Storytelling Festival (CSF), scheduled for 7-9 (Fri-Sun) February 2014, at the Goethe Institute in Nungambakkam, Chennai.

CSF 2014 is presented by the World Storytelling Institute, in collaboration with the East-West Center for Counselling and Training.

CSF 2014 would feature three days of free Workshops for adults. The schedule is at www.storytellinginstitute.org/2.htm .

Thus, first of all, I am writing to invite your staff members to attend any of these Workshops.

I am also writing to ask if your Hospital might possibly be interested in being involved with CSF 2014, "Storytelling and Healing", in any other way, such as,

- 1) Being a Sponsor of CSF 2014.
- 2) Considering using storytelling in your Hospital, possibly with assistance from the World Storytelling Institute and/or the East-West Center for Counselling and Training. This could involve performances, workshops, etc.

To give some background:

The World Storytelling Institute (WSI) was founded by myself and others in Chennai in 2007. The WSI is dedicated to developing storytelling as a form of communication, and to making this form of communication useful to the public.

In February 2013, the WSI presented the first Chennai Storytelling Festival, which we call a *teaching-and-learning festival*. CSF 2013 featured Workshops for adults regarding ways storytelling could be applied in fields such as Cognitive Development of Children, Education, Business, Tourism, and Healing.

To give additional information about CSF 2014:

Numerous terms refer to the use of story and storytelling to help people feel better and get better. These terms include Storytelling and Healing, Therapeutic Uses of Storytelling, Storytelling Therapy, Narrative Therapy, and Narrative Medicine.

We are hoping Chennai Storytelling Festival 2014 might help Storytelling Therapy to become further acknowledged as a mode of Expressive/Creative Therapy, alongside Dance Therapy, Music Therapy, Drama Therapy, Art Therapy, Play Therapy, etc.

When using storytelling to improve a patient's health, the emphasis may be on encouraging the patient to tell autobiographical stories -- such as the story of his/her life, and the story of his/her illness. In other cases, the stories may be Folklore stories, original created stories, or other types of stories (told by the care-giver or the patient). Using storytelling to improve health may involve the patient exploring and sharing his/her self, moreso than anyone performing for and entertaining others.

The Guest Co-Host of CSF 2014, "Storytelling and Healing", would be Susan Perrow of Australia. Ms Perrow is the author of *Healing Stories for Challenging Behaviour* (2008), and *Therapeutic Storytelling: 101 Healing Stories for Children* (2012). She is a leading expert in Therapeutic Uses of Storytelling.

CSF 2014 would offer introductory training regarding both traditional local, and modern global, approaches to using storytelling for psychological healing. The free Workshops of CSF 2014 would include sessions on,

- 1) The Use of Metaphors in Story-making.
- 2) Art Therapy and Storytelling.
- 3) Dance Therapy and Storytelling.
- 4) Telling Indian Folktales to Give Comfort and Guidance (mostly in Tamil, with English translation).
- 5) Creating Inspirational, Transformative, and Healing Stories.

CSF 2014 would also feature ticketed storytelling performances for people of all ages on each of the three evenings of the Festival, at a nearby venue.

Incidentally:

In the USA: One Medical School that is pioneering the use of storytelling is Columbia University Medical Center (New York), which offers a Masters Degree Program in Narrative Medicine. Info is at www.narrativemedicine.org .

In Chennai: Women's Christian College, and the East-West Center for Counselling and Training, are offering a one-year Diploma Course in Expressive Arts Therapy. Expressive Arts Therapy involves the use of a combination of the arts for therapeutic purposes, and this course utilises story and storytelling as unifying principles. Info is at <http://centerforcounselling.blogspot.in> .

Myself and Magdalene Jeyarathnam (Director, East-West Center for Counselling and Training, and my wife) would be happy to visit your office to discuss any of the above.

Many thanks,

- Eric

Dr Eric Miller (PhD in Folklore)
Director, World Storytelling Institute

PS

Links to my CV and Life Narrative can be found near the top of my personal website, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com .

Three newspaper articles about Chennai Storytelling Festival 2013 are,
"The Tale Trail", www.storytellinginstitute.org/37.jpg .
"Nurturing the Art of Spinning a Yarn", <http://tinyurl.com/bchjj6n> .
"How to Spin a Yarn", www.storytellinginstitute.org/71.pdf .