



To whom it may concern:

We are the all-volunteer Planning Committee of Rethinking Psychiatry (RP), a recently born Project of the Economic Justice Action Group of the First Unitarian Church in Portland, Oregon. While not yet formally organized, we look forward to being integrated in the mutually supportive network of numerous other organizations with whom we share overlapping interests and goals. Our working mission statement is as follows:

“Mental health disorder labels often act as a cover for societal and situational problems. This paradigm is encouraged and exacerbated by powerful financial interests. By providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive space for the sharing of the wealth of information, tools and experiences available to us all in meeting the challenges of mental, emotional and spiritual wellness, Rethinking Psychiatry is working to create a more hopeful, humane, and effective mental health care model.”

We are a fully responsible and autonomous entity, independent of any other organization. As clearly stated on our web site: *We accept no funding or control from, nor do we promote any religion, other organization, government entity, corporation, or drug company.*

We greatly value our volunteers and their commitment to our values and to sharing the workload burden of a start-up organization. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, religion or any other group affiliation or identity. We are also fully compliant with the individual rights of freedom of association and assembly as provided for under the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It has come to our attention that concerns have been expressed, questioning at least our "perceived" independence from other groups, specifically the Citizens Commission for Human Rights. We hope this letter is sufficient to put to rest any concerns you may have re such matters.

We look forward to working together in the future to help redirect mental health care to the least harmful, most holistic and effective system we can co- create.

Sincerely Yours,

The Rethinking Psychiatry Planning Committee:

Marcia Meyers, Grace Silvia, Harriet Cooke MD, MPH, Sarah Smith, Ron Hatteberg, Diana Ospina, Cindi Fisher, Ricardo Lara, Steven McCrea