



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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WE WILL MISS YOU

Just a reminder. The reception in honor of Kathy Lame is this Thursday, August 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the center. Feel free to bring a card or say some parting words to her.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jeff Higgs completed an 18-hour, adult guardianship training. He did this through The Center for Social Gerontology.

June Jackson and John Campbell completed a 13-hour Business to Business training, which was sponsored by the Michigan State University College of Law in conjunction with the ADR Section of the State Bar of Michigan. This is a new project created by the Dispute Resolution Association of Michigan (DRAM).

Melissa Ludwig has completed her 10-hour internship.

SPEAKING OF TRAININGS

If you know of anyone who is interested in taking the 40-hour training, let one of the staff members know so that we can contact that person. We will be offering the 40-hour training on the following dates:

Thursday, January 18	5:00-9:00
Friday, January 19	8:00-5:00
Saturday, January 20	8:00-5:00

Thursday, January 25	5:00-9:00
Friday, January 26	8:00-5:00
Saturday, January 27	8:00-5:00

Consideration is being given to offering the 20-hour PPMP training in February, March or April of 2007. The time schedule would be as follows:

Thursday	8:00-5:00
Friday	8:00-5:00
Saturday	8:00-Noon

If you are interested in taking this training, let us know. Also, let us know which month would work best for you, and if there are certain times that would be better than others for you, give us that information as well.

ADR PLAN

Judge Pajtas has submitted an ADR Plan to SCAO. We are awaiting final approval. This is an exciting step for NCM. A big thanks is in order to Judge Pajtas for all of his hard work in making this come to fruition.

UPDATE TRAINING

On Friday, November 3, Anne Bachle-Fifer will present a workshop at the Perry Hotel. Assuming you have been an active mediator or volunteer for NCM within the past year, you will be able to attend at no charge.

You will receive a flyer with the details of the workshop. I do want to remind you that it is required that mediators participate in eight hours of update training every two years in order to maintain their certification.

IN THE NEWS

In a letter to the editor in the *Petoskey News-Review*, board member Bill Lovett called for scientists to “unpoliticize science.” Bill called for those “scientists employed by or under contract with our government to be free to publicize and act upon their research findings.”

On a lighter note, another one of our board members convinced the Charlevoix County road commission to close the Boyne City-Charlevoix Road at Horton Bay for 50 minutes at dusk on Labor Day in order to ensure the safety of the participants in the annual bridge walk. According to the “Czar of the Horton Bay Bridge Authority,” somewhere between 150 and 1,000 people cross the creek during the event.

REMINDER

For those of you who do parenting time/access & visitation mediations, remember that your primary purpose is to address the parenting time issues. This is particularly true of those cases that are court referred. Without the make-up, parenting time being addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as far as the court is concerned; we have not done our job. This holds true whether or not an agreement is reached.

Also, when people show up to a mediation who are not on the list of attendees, unless there is approval from each and every participant who is listed to be in attendance, you should not allow those individuals who merely show up and are not on the list to be in the mediation room.

MEDIATOR OF THE YEAR

In the future, we will be using a panel of past recipients of the Mediator of the Year Award, staff members and board members to determine the Mediator of the Year. Additionally, the decision will be based on numerous factors, not merely on the number of mediations or amount of time in mediations.