



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

June 2004

Vol. 1 No. 6

IN THE NEWS

At a conference at Boyne Highlands this past month, the state's Family Independence Agency awarded Charlevoix and Emmet Family and Probate Court its Balanced and Restorative Justice Award of Excellence. This statewide recognition acknowledges an exemplary program that adopts "a philosophy that looks at how crime affects people and relationships. It engages the victim, the offender and the community in a process that promotes healing."

Whether it is through the Lakeview Academy, B.A.S.E.S., the Public Schools of Petoskey or any of the others who are partners in this unique and effective approach to dealing with the youth of our community, the results are proving to be beneficial to the youth of our community. They begin to experience success both academically and in other aspects of their rehabilitation.

Kudos go to all of the individuals who are dedicating themselves to those young people who are in need of their services. Particular praise needs to be given to the Honorable Frederick Mulhauser for his vision and perseverance to make such a program come to fruition and sustain over time.

ALSO MAKING THE FRONT PAGE

The tenth anniversary celebration with Chief Justice Maura Corrigan was a delightful evening. It was an honor to meet her and learn how much respect she has for mediation. She drew particular attention to the success of Northern Community Mediation, one of the most successful centers in the state. She also praised Kathy Lane and her efforts with the PPMP program.

SPEAKING OF PPMP

As of June 30, Northern Community Mediation will be the only funded PPMP program in the state of Michigan. SCAO can no longer afford to underwrite those programs that are marginal in their performance in relationship to permanency planning. Our program, however, is lauded by SCAO. The fact that NCM has been so successful while other centers have not is attributable to one component—Kathy Lane. If it were not for Kathy, we would probably be in the same boat as the other centers. Thanks, Kathy.

ORIGINAL AGREEMENTS

Based upon dialogue during a meeting with our judges and court administrators, NCM will maintain all original, signed agreements. Therefore, unless there are extenuating circumstances, the original agreements should be placed in the mediation packets and returned to Pat. Call if you have any questions. Small claims is an exception to this rule.

SPEAKING OF SMALL CLAIMS

As a reminder, each of the small claims courts has a packet which contains the following documents: CDRP 03 face sheet (yellow), Mediation Consent form, Mediation Follow-Up form, Wage Assignment Order. All cases that are mediated in small claims should include the first three documents in the case file. If an agreement is reached, it should also include a copy of the agreement, either a judgment or dismissal form, and a Wage Assignment Order if appropriate.

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the forty-hour training scheduled in June. We will, however, have a forty-hour training in the fall.

The dates for that training will be two of the following Thursday, Friday, Saturday combinations:

September 16, 17, & 18

September 24, 25, & 26

September 30, October 1 & 2

If you know of anyone interested in participating, call Pat at 487.1771 so that she can contact those individuals.

For those individuals who are willing to mediate for NCM, there will be no charge.

OFFICE PROCEDURES

We are in the process of writing office procedures. This document will include procedures for the mediators to follow. Once we have it fine-tuned, we will be sharing those portions that pertain to mediators with you so that we can get your input. Hopefully, I will be able to send this to you in June. At the latest, you will receive this information the beginning of July.