



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

September 2014  
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### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEDIATION



Pictured from left to right: trainers Jane Millar, Diane Heinzelman, Frances Paris

For the past two years, Northern Community Mediation has been partnering with the Pellston, Alanson and Boyne Falls School Districts for a pilot program focusing on school attendance. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the School Attendance Mediation Program will be made available to all school districts in the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District service area. In order to prepare for this expansion, 11 NCM mediators met at the Char-Em ISD for a two-hour training. Those in attendance were Kristyn Balog, Carolyn Belknap, Herb Carlson, Analisa Charlton, Hugh Conklin, Susan Hannah, Dick Hendrian, Steve Judd, Scott Kingdon, Connie Saltonstall, and Joel Wurster. Additionally, staff members Terri Sevenser and Bert Rousseau participated.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 16 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm  
The Access & Visitation roundtable will address issues that impact Access & Visitation cases, also known as Parenting Time.

Tuesday, October 7 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm  
The Child Protection Mediation roundtable will focus on specific information and knowledge necessary for facilitating Child Protection Mediation cases.

To register for either or both of the above roundtables, call NCM at 231.487.1771 or e-mail [jane@northernmediation.org](mailto:jane@northernmediation.org)

### QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.” ~ Roy Disney

### THE IMPACT OF LISTENING

As mediators, one of our most valuable skills is the ability to listen. The impact that listening is demonstrated in the narrative below:

*Victor Frankl, who survived Auschwitz and went on to create a new form of psychotherapy based on “man’s search for meaning,” once told the story of a patient of his who phoned him in the middle of the night to tell him, calmly, that she was about to commit suicide. He kept her on the phone for two hours, giving her every conceivable reason to live. Eventually she said that she had changed her mind and would not end her life. When he next saw the woman he asked her which of his many reasons had persuaded her to change her mind.*

*“None,” she replied.*

*“Why then did you decide not to commit suicide?”*

*She replied that the fact that someone was prepared to listen to her for two hours in the middle of the night convinced her that life was worth living after all.*

As all of you are aware, so often in mediation once someone feels that he/she is being given the opportunity to be heard, resolution is near at hand.

### BACKGROUND CHECKS

Under direction of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), all mediators and staff members for the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) Centers in the state of Michigan are required to have background checks every two years. NCM is presently updating all background checks. For those of you who have turned in your consent forms, central registry clearance requests and copies of your drivers’ licenses, thank you so much. For those of you who have yet to turn in those documents, please do so as soon as possible. Mediators whose background checks are not up to date will not be able to mediate, and we do not want to lose any of you over a technicality.

### USELESS FACT

When Disney’s Magic Kingdom Park first opened its doors on October 1, 1971, adult admission cost \$3.50.

As an aside, I was living in Winter Park, Florida at the time and was there on opening day. It was not crowded, and there was virtually no traffic on the roads getting into the park. Six months later, the scene was quite different.