

**Northern Community Mediation
Board of Directors' Meeting**
Thursday, March 12, 2015
Charlevoix Country Club, Charlevoix, MI

Board members present: John Marshall, President; Kate Scollin, Vice-President; Paula Welmers, Secretary; Kirk Raymond, Hon. Fred Mulhauser, David Leusink, Stuart Fenton.

Board members absent: Bill Meengs, Treasurer; Julie Kuchnicki, Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Ed Engstrom, Pat Simmons-Ackerman, Christian Smith.

Staff Present: Dr. Jane Millar

Guest: Cheryl Levine, Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

Call to Order:

John Marshall called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: Paula Welmers

The meeting minutes from January 22, 2015, were presented. Leusink moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Raymond. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Meengs

Bill was absent. Jane reported that finances showed "standard activity" in the first 2 months of the calendar year with nothing outstanding to comment upon. Scollin moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mulhauser. Motion carried.

President's Report: John Marshall

John reported that members of the newly formed Resource/Budget Task Force Committee, per our Retreat decisions, met Tuesday of this week. Those present, in addition to John, included Kate Scollin, Christian Smith, and Jane Millar. SCORE members, Kerry O'Toole, along with the individuals who led our Retreat, Margo Johnson and Chris Smith, were also present to help committee members refine the Mission statement and articulate 2 or 3 goals: fundraising, marketing, and community awareness. These goals will be discussed at the April executive committee meeting, for further discussion at the regular May board meeting. It is felt that a fundraising/marketing sub-committee might be better able to handle these specific goals.

Executive Director's Report: Jane Millar

1. Case Reports – Jane reported that NCM has handled 40 fewer cases this year compared with the same period last year. Breach of contract/Small Claims filings have been down.

2. Collection of Fees – \$675.00 has been collected to date with additional outstanding billings.

3. Board Retreat – Evaluations – Jane asked for input relative to suggestions from the evaluations collected to date. It was decided to keep the Retreat timeframe the same and to serve dinner at some period, to allow members to socialize; to consider alternating strategic planning topics with special presentation topics every other year.

4. Theatre Party - Monday, March 9 – This year’s event proved to be a better friend-raiser than a fund-raiser, with Sponsor dollars up and ticket sales down compared to last year. A future fundraising/marketing subcommittee will address this.

5. Facilities Task Force Meeting – The executive committee, during its Thursday, April 9, meeting will begin the conversation about facilities, per the recommendations from the Retreat.

6. Sustainability/Succession Planning Task Force- TBA

7. Credit Card Payments- Jane has checked on the system used in the Emmet County courthouse and will pursue this in mid-April. If instituted, the card user pays the “courtesy” fee and if the credit card bill is not paid, it is the card user, rather than NCM, who is held responsible.

8. Forty-Hour Training- The next training takes place in April and in May, 2015. Board members who wish to go through the training are responsible to pay \$100, which is refundable at the end of training.

Guest Presentation: Cheryl Levine, Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) Cheryl traveled from Lansing to present information on special education mediation services. MSEMP has a strong outreach process – information about the service and how to access it. This service comes from federal dollars that the state of Michigan disperses through grants via Special Education.

Cheryl handed out brochures and data. 80% of cases come to an agreement using this service with a 92% satisfaction rate.

The major issue brought to mediation deals with “delivery of services” to children (defined as birth to 26 years of age) – frequency and sufficiency of services from school districts/ISDs.

The benefit for NCM is financial: MSEMP reimburses for services, including presentations, when local mediation personnel are involved.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14 at, at noon at City Park Grill, Petoskey.

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Welmers, Secretary