

Northern Community Mediation
Board of Directors' Meeting
May 24, 2012
The Bob-In Again, Petoskey

Board members present: David Leusink, John Marshall, Hon. Fred Mulhauser, Lisa Hoyt; Kirk Raymond, Ted Teller, Paula Welmers, Joel Wurster

Board members absent: Toni Arthur, Michelle Cortright, Bill Denemy, Dr. Roger Postmus, Jim Raber, Pat Seagmen

Staff Present: Jane Millar

Ted called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes:

The meeting minutes from March 8, 2012, were presented. John Marshall moved to approve, seconded by Fred Mulhauser. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

John Marshall provided an update on the monthly financial reports. The budget is tracking well so far this year. Although income is down slightly, expenses are being managed well. Treasurer's report accepted, moved by David Leusink, seconded by Fred Mulhauser. Unanimously approved.

President's Report.

Ted welcomed Jane back from her trip to Thailand and asked her to share during her report some of her experiences.

Executive Director's Report, presented by Jane Millar:

1. Case Reports – Provided a brief overview of cases to date. Cases handled are down slightly from last year. This corresponds with the reduced local court case filings this year. The limit for small claims cases is being increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 in September of this year. NCM may see more cases as a result of this increase.
2. Collection of Fees – Jane provided reports of the payments received and those outstanding this year. Only 3 payments remain uncollected this year.
3. Grants – NCM has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the United Way for the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program. The application process for the Bay Harbor Foundation grant is still underway. NCM did not receive a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation to begin a school attendance mediation program with the Pellston Public Schools. However, an individual donor to the foundation provided NCM with the \$1,000 it had been seeking for this program. This individual wishes to remain anonymous, but NCM has gratefully acknowledged the donor's gift.

4. Appreciation Luncheon – The second annual mediator appreciation luncheon was held on Monday, May 21, at the City Park Grill and was well attended. District Court Judge Richard May shared experiences from humanitarian trips he has made in recent years to Guatemala and Haiti, as well as some of his plans for further trips in his recently announced retirement. Lisa Hicklen received the Rookie Mediator of the Year Award, Kendal Taylor received the Veteran Mediator of the Year Award, and Tom Schraw received the Advocate of the Year Award. In addition to serving as the guest speaker, Judge May was awarded the Leah Award for his outstanding support of the mediation process.
5. New Employee – Terri Sevenser has filled the intake coordinator position previously held by Wayne Tri. Wayne left this position to spend more time at his local business, although he will still serve as a volunteer for NCM. Terri has helped to coordinate some difficult cases in her initial weeks at NCM and is adapting well to this position.
6. CDRP Meetings in Lansing - Jane will be travelling to Lansing next week to attend meetings of both the CDRP Directors and of the recently formed CDRP Centers' Association – the newly-formed statewide association for Community Dispute Resolution Programs.
7. Chula University – As a culmination of her year serving as a District Governor of Rotary International, Jane traveled to Thailand earlier this month to participate in international Rotary activities. During her trip, she was also able to spend time with the leaders of the peace and conflict resolution program offered at Chula University. This international program is one of only a few offered throughout the world and provides opportunities to obtain a degree or a shorter-term certificate in peace and conflict resolution studies. These programs incorporate significant concepts of mediation that are applied by NCM mediators. An area resident was able to participate in the certificate program last year through a Rotary scholarship, and the board discussed encouraging and supporting a future application by one of NCM's exemplary mediators for such a scholarship.

Highlights of Jane's trip also included her visit to an elephant refuge and the cultural and fashion experiences that she and her husband encountered as a result of a luggage delivery delay.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Wurster, Secretary