

NORTHERN COMMUNITY MEDIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1999

WE HAVE A NEW NAME!!

One of the last items of business the former board finished was to decide on a new name for our center: Northern Community Mediation- *"Where the solution is up to you."*

SMALL CLAIMS COURT: CASELOAD TO RISE IN JANUARY

As of January 1, 2000 the maximum allowable amount recoverable in small claims court will rise from \$1000 to \$3000. This means that not only will our caseload rise dramatically, but also our need for mediators who can cover small claims court. So, to all you mediators out there, here is your chance!

The benefits of doing small claims:

- 1) You can get your internship hours in.
- 2) Small claims happens at the same time and place every week; you can schedule it.
- 3) It's quick.
- 4) Doing small claims will help keep your mediator skills fresh.
- 5) You'll be helping your fellow citizens.

Small Claims court happens at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday for Charlevoix County and every Wednesday for Emmet County. We are looking for people to sign up to mediate at small claims court. If you would be willing to take a long lunch hour once a month, on say the fourth Tuesday or third Wednesday of the month, or if you would like to be a small claims "regular" please contact the center and let us know. We are looking for all the help we can get. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE: UPDATE MEDIATOR TRAINING TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 14TH

An update mediator training will be held on Friday, January 14th at 5:30 p.m. We will be awarding the "Mediator of The Year Award" at this time. There is no cost for the training. It is simply an opportunity for us to update you on what's new in terms of policies

and procedures, mediation techniques, advanced training opportunities, and the general world of mediation. It is also a great opportunity for all of you to get together again. Please call the center and let us know whether or not you plan to attend.

MEDIATION TIDBITS

In an effort to make sure that we have current and complete information, we will be calling everyone for their daytime phone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses. We are hoping to catch up with the new millennium and be on-line next year!

Mediation packets containing all of the necessary forms can be picked up at our office for mediations taking place in Charlevoix. For all out of town mediations a packet will be mailed to one of the mediators. Please make sure all forms are filled out and sent back to our office promptly.

There are two new forms in use at the center. These are:

- 1) The consent form. A consent form must be filled out during the "Beginning" of each mediation. It covers confidentiality, neutrality, and the agreement.
- 2) Probate case agreement form. Agreements on all cases referred by Probate Court are to be written up on the green "Family Court Mediation Program" forms.

BOARD MINUTES

We bid "Good Bye" and "Thank You" for their many years of service to: Judge Charles Johnson, Murray Kilgour, Nancy Goalen, and John Dixon.

The new board members are: Judge Fred Mulhauser, Lyn Jenks, and Lou Fantini. We welcome the new members to the board.

The new officers of the board are: Cathy Neff, President; Marilyn Hall, Vice-president; Joe Kanine, Treasurer; and Jim Perricone, Secretary. We look forward to their active involvement and leadership.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

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FEBRUARY, 2000

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS...

The Northern Community Mediation Center increased its annual caseload 53% in 1999. We mediated 149 cases, conciliated 18 cases, and facilitated 5 cases. Of the cases mediated and conciliated, 78% resulted in an agreement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please call the center to register for any of the following events:

Adult Guardianship Mediation Training

March 20-21

Ann Arbor, MI

Domestic Violence Seminar

*This seminar will be facilitated by Kathy Lame

March 23 6-9 p.m.

Community Health Education Center, Petoskey

40-hour Training-Ann Arbor

Mar. 24, 25, 26, 31, Apr. 1, 2

40-hour Training-Canton Twp

March 31, April 1, 7, 8

Balanced and Restorative Justice Conference

May 15-17

Grand Traverse Resort

Traverse City, MI

40-hour Training-Ann Arbor

October 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22

BOARD NEWS

Judge Mulhauser has let us know that court appointed guardians are needed. If anyone is interested in becoming a court appointed guardian, please contact Cyndie Lieberman at 547-7214 or Rita Brubacker at 348-1764. They will be able to explain the limited time requirements involved and answer any questions you may have.

Even though we have received funding for this year, we continue to look for long term funding sources. If you have knowledge of such sources, please contact Lyn Jenks, 2000 Funding Committee Chair, at 487-4845.

MEDIATOR CORNER

The update training, held January 13th, provided an opportunity for mediators to brush up on their skills and visit with one another. Kudos and Thanks to *Judy's Restaurant* of Charlevoix for providing the wonderful hearty winter meal which followed the training.

The Volunteer of the Year Award for 1999

was awarded to Leah Green. Leah has been mediating for the center for almost six years now. She has taken all of the advanced trainings offered. Leah has been specially trained to conduct the 40-hour trainings. She has also trained to do Special Education, Permanency Planning (PPMP), Postal mediation. Leah has gone beyond the call of duty this year mediating a total of 100 hours and donating 50 more hours of her time to help train our new mediators last spring. She is a tremendous asset to the center. Congratulations, Leah!

During some of her work with the new mediators, Leah suggested that we print up some sample statements and questions that the new mediators can use to help get them started:



Cut out and paste to an index card



Reflect feelings....

How did you feel about that?

You really feel...

It sounds like you are...

What would make you feel better about....

If you were the other party, how would you feel about...

Reflect agreements...

It sounds like you both see this...

You seem to agree that...

I hear you both saying...

You have both tried to...

Probe for solutions...

How could this be better?

How would you have done this if you were (the other party)?

How would you like to see things improve?

What would you like to see happen?

What is a solution you could live with?

What is important to you?

What do you hope to accomplish?

OTHER BUSINESS:

This year is the 10th Anniversary of the Community Dispute Resolution Program in Michigan. I would like to celebrate with an open house in the spring. Any and all ideas are welcome.

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