Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

June 12, 2018

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231 487 1771

## **Advanced Mediation Training**

On Friday, June 1, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) hosted an Advanced Mediation Training titled "Potpourri—A Review of the Basics." Executive Director Jane Millar was the trainer. The topics included analyzing opening statements, the essential components of an agreement, and the importance of paying attention to body language and tone of voice.

Since it is an often overlooked subject, the issue of safety and security was included in the agenda. For example, what happens if a fire breaks out during a mediation session? There was also considerable discussion of "sticky wickets," those situations for which there are not always clear cut answers. The same type of conversation centered around ethical issues, such as is a mediator a mandated reporter.

Thirty-two mediators participated in the training. Of those 32, 24 are mediators for NCM, four mediate for the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) center in Traverse City, and four are private mediators, three of them being from Traverse City and one from Cadillac.

In order to be a mediator in the state of Michigan, whether it is for one of the CDRP centers or for private practice, a forty-hour, general civil mediation training is required, followed by an internship program, which consists of observing several actual mediations. Once someone qualifies as a mediator, he/she is required to attend at least eight-hours of advanced mediation training every two years.

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Seated left to right: Bill Malow, Caroline Smith, Karen Cole, and Terri Sevener. Standing left to right: Ingrid Tomey and Jim Raber

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