



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

November 20, 2018

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

Staff Retreat

On Friday, November 16, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) held its annual staff retreat in the board room of the Perry Hotel. Case Managers Karen Cole and Caroline Smith along with Executive Director Jane Millar spent a short time reviewing the accomplishments and challenges of 2017. They then focused on plans and strategies for the upcoming year.

They began with the straightforward tasks of establishing the calendar dates for the various 2018 activities, such as trainings and board meetings. They also spent time reviewing office procedures and the fee schedule. The majority of the day, however, was spent on brainstorming solutions for three major challenges facing NCM.

First, NCM is dedicated to continue offering quality services at little or no cost to the citizens of Charlevoix and Emmet counties. Although NCM receives one-fourth of its funding from the state and one-half of its funding from the local courts and counties, it still has to raise one-fourth of its income through fundraisers, grant writing, fees and the like.

A second challenge that NCM faces is to continue offering required training of mediators and staff at an affordable cost. Therefore, NCM hopes to get some grant money to develop eight, one-hour webinars, two of which will be on ethics. The remaining five one-hour webinars will be on agreement writing, communication, ways to handle conflict, basic mediation skills, and policies & procedures.

Time was also spent discussing the possibility of expanding the Restorative Practices (RP) Mediation Program in the schools by hiring one or two, additional RP Coordinators for placement in two middle schools. Grant funding will be pursued in order to accomplish this goal.

Social media was the fourth major topic. NCM plans to have a greater presence in the social media world by regularly posting on Facebook, tweeting on twitter, and making use of a blog to demonstrate the power of mediation blog. All of this will be connected to the NCM website.

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.

Pictured from left to right are Karen Cole, Caroline Smith, Jane Millr

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