

TOO FUNNY



The Oakland Mediation Center has contracted with Northern Community Mediation to do two “The Mediator’s Health & Well-Being” sessions, one of Friday, September 10 and the other on Friday, September 24. Fifty minutes of this training is done asynchronously prior to the training. Part of the assignment is to find three jokes or cartoons to share with the class. The above cartoon was sent in by one of the participants. I could not resist sharing this with you. Do you sometimes feel that your best bet as a mediator is simply to spin the roulette wheel?

SO MUCH IS HAPPENING

The Michigan Community Mediation Association (MCMA) is a professional organization made up of the executive directors of the 17 Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers in the state of Michigan. MCMA in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), Community Mental Health (CMH) and the Oakland Mediation Center has been awarded a grant to “develop and implement a statewide system of local mediation services to resolve disputes related to behavioral health services provided by Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP) and their contract providers. Northern Community Mediation is one of three trainers for this specialized mediation. For more information about this program, go to https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692_71696-558013--,00.html

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The Dalai Lama, when asked what surprised him most about humanity, answered “Man. Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived.”

USELESS FACT

Alaska is the only state whose name is on one row on a keyboard

HOW ARE MEDIATORS ASSIGNED?

In last month’s newsletter, we shared with you the various factors that go into determining who the mediators will be for specific mediations. One factor that we neglected to include was the fact that when appropriate, we make certain that at least one of the mediators has specific knowledge in a subject area. For example, if a case relates to complex construction issues, we try to have one of the mediators have at the very least some basic expertise in that field. It is not a matter of giving advice. Rather, it is a matter of having the background to know what types of questions to ask.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Thanks to the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Northern Community Mediation had the funding to contract with Sommer Poquette of Keep It Real Social. The purpose of this grant is for NCM to create a social media presence. By capitalizing upon the use of Facebook, Instagram and blogs, NCM anticipates that awareness of NCM and its services will be expanded. Presently, NCM is posting every Tuesday and Thursday at the very least on Facebook and Instagram. Weekly blogs are forthcoming. We are encouraging you to look NCM up through these social media platforms and like us, make comments and share with your friends.

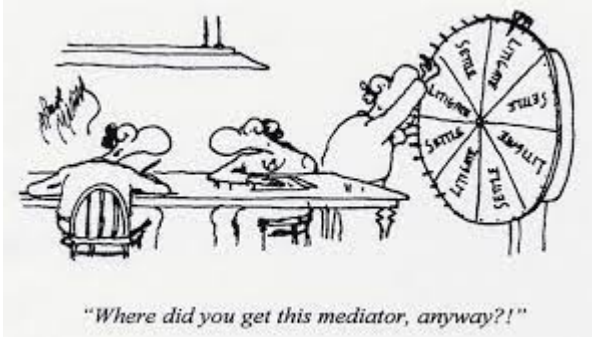
BOARD ACTIVITY

Since its retreat in February, Northern Community Mediation’s Board of Directors has been busy working on its strategic plan. Each Board member is serving on one of four committees: facilities, funding, marketing or staff compensation. It is difficult to say which of the four is doing the most work because all four have come up with great ideas. All four committees have focused not only on the present but also projected into the future while maintaining a balance or practicality and reasonable expectations.

ELDERCARING MEDITATION

The Southeast Michigan Senior Regional Collaborative is working with the CDRP centers to implement an Eldercaring Mediation Program. Unlike Elder Care Mediation that functions like a normal mediation in that the parties come together generally only once to resolve one issue, Eldercaring Mediation is a long-term commitment. The Eldercaring Coordinator meets on a somewhat regular basis with the elder persons, their families and the appropriate professionals who interact with the elder individuals. Although the NCM Executive Director will be taking the training in January, it will not be available to the general mediator population until well into 2022.

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