

COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

JULY 2008

SPRING MEDIATOR CLASS OF 2008



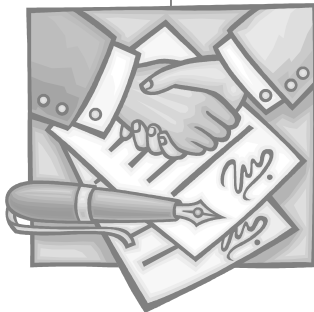
Graduating Oscoda Class of April 2008

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating our newest mediators. The recent spring graduating class completed their training on April 19th in Oscoda. Each of them are now working on completing their observation time. Pictured above with their lead trainer is Angela Bruning, Alan Couture, Christine Siler, Wayne Stine, Vicki Nunn, Paul Herndon, Sandy McCargar, Sally Voshell, Teri Quinn, Vera Middleton and Judi Doan.

Special Thanks to all the mock disputants for sharing your experience as mediators and providing the opportunity to role play!

Our Mission

To assist people in resolving their disputes in a confidential, affordable and peaceful manner by providing trained mediators in a neutral setting.



Our Vision

To make conflict resolution, through the process of facilitative mediation, available and affordable to all people in the area served by Community Mediation Services.

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Community Mediation Services

Board of Directors

Paul Sabourin— President
Mason Buckingham— VP
Doug Drapal— Secretary
Clark Bates— Treasurer

Members at Large

Betty Allen
Hazel Ashworth
Dennis Bodem
Chris Brzezinski
Arlene Hansen
Jetre Ormsbee
Dennis Palmer
Robert Strong
Pamela Tavernier

Staff

Grant Bliss— Director
Judi Doan— Assistant Dir.
George Bour— Victim Youth Offender Coordinator
Dianne Howell— Statistician
Annette Wells— Assistant

“FOR WHAT IT’S WORTH” BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GRANT BLISS

Headline News for the 3rd Quarter, April 1st through June 30th

Community Mediation Services, mediators deliver once again. Thank you for your continued dedication and outstanding work!

The CMS case load continues to increase, as we maintain our status of number ten of twenty centers in the state.

Due to the growth CMS staff has been challenged using dated, worn out equipment. We needed to upgrade. This task was given to Annette Wells, who negotiated with a local computer business and Verizon, which resulted in three new computers, printers, and high speed internet. Great Job Annette!

CMS newsletter follow up; if you have any type of information you would like to see included in future newsletters, please mail or email them to attention: Annette.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CMS BOARD

We want to take the this opportunity to share with all of you a few of the projects we have been working on, recognize the contributions of everyone involved in CMS and invite you to join us at our next board meeting.

The following are just a few of the projects we have been working on. The Board has been reviewing the operating procedures and by-laws as we transition from an advisory board to a 501(C)3 governing board. We are also studying an adjustment in our meeting schedule and meeting locations to better accommodate our board members. The Board authorized the purchase of new computers for the center. Training and familiarization to the updated software will take a little time. The Board and staff will continue to expand our relationship with the area courts and judges, thereby getting an increase in the number of referred cases.

CMS continues to operate on a tight budget, but survives due to the generosity of many volunteers. A special thanks goes to the many mediators who donate their mileage in these times with high gas prices. If you have any suggestions or ideas on “fund raising” as an additional source of income, please call the CMS staff.

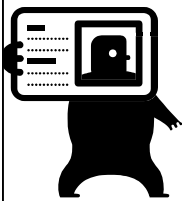
We would like to THANK our skilled mediators for the high rate of success that we continue to maintain. We urge all mediators to take advantage of the update training sessions, and to expand their skills through the periodic specialized training opportunities. It is required that all mediators take at minimum an update training once every two years.

Additionally, please don’t hesitate to call and tell our staff what stupendous jobs they do for CMS.

We continue to need mediators trained for cases scheduled in Iosco County, if you know anyone who maybe interested, please share with them the upcoming new mediator training scheduled for September.

Finally, we would like to invite you to attend our board meetings as an observer. Your suggestions and ideas on how we might improve our services are ALWAYS welcome. Feel free to contact any Board member at any time. The next CMS board meeting is scheduled for September 17th, dinner is at 6:00pm and the meeting will begin at 6:15pm.

POSTING NEEDS/UPDATES



ID BADGE

Every mediator should have one! If you need one, please let George Bour know !

PHONE BOOKS NEEDED

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CURRENT PHONE BOOK FROM EACH COMMUNITY. IF YOU HAVE ONE OR COULD PICK ONE UP WHEN YOUR MEDIATING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT!

Please return completed agreements and paperwork to CMS promptly! Judges are waiting.
Thanks,
Judi Doan

NEW FORMS

Forms have been updated in 2008, please be sure that you have the newest forms. If you need some, please let us know.



SPREAD THE NEWS START RECRUITING TODAY

UPCOMING NEW MEDIATOR TRAINING

Please talk about it with friends and colleagues and encourage area residents to participate in the training.

Information/registration brochures are available, please let us know if you need some.

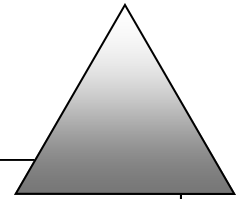
Date— September 18th, 19th, 20th and 25th, 26th, and 27th in Gaylord

Time— Thursday from 1-5pm and 9am to 5pm on both Friday and Saturday

The Training will be held in Gaylord at our offices in the United Way Building.

What Can We Do As Mediators? Recruit new mediators and assist with training- role plays are crucial to the mediation process and your role really makes a difference. Call today to schedule a time you can help with role plays scheduled for September 26th and 27th.

FEATURED SPECIALIZED MEDIATION



Access and Visitation Mediation Domestic Relation Mediation Custody and Parenting Time Mediation

(All three combined become ACVS)

Currently Community Mediation Services has 17 mediators trained to conduct ACVS mediations in our service area. To date in 2008, we have processed 65 ACVS cases and mediated 33. In 2007, we processed 96 and mediated 53 cases.

These cases mostly are referred or ordered from the Friend of the Court or Family / Probate Court. After a family has participated, occasionally they self-refer for another mediation to amend or change their agreement.

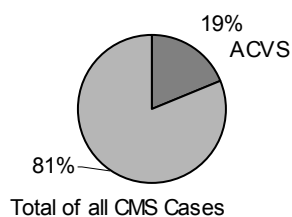
The issues in these mediations vary greatly and are directly related to the relationship of the parents with each other. Sometimes the first agenda item is to assure the parents that they are in EQUAL control and that they CAN work together for the best interest of their kids.

The most important topic in this kind of mediation may be a specific parenting time plan. Much detail in the agreement is helpful in reminding parents of the time of pick up or drop off and which days or holidays are to be spent with which parent. Sometimes we, as mediators, may not agree with the parents or think the issue is worthy of so much time and energy, but we must always remember that the agreement belongs to the parents.

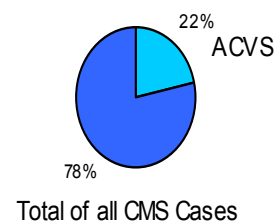
In June we held an Update Training for ACVS Mediators. Amy Neubecker, the Friend of the Court, attended and gave us much praise for our work. Amy stated that she had read some great agreements.

In Otsego, Crawford, and Kalkaska Counties we are participating in a program where the State Court Administrative Office pays our center \$75 per mediation held. In other counties where we provide this kind of mediation the participants are each charged the regular admin fee of \$30. We are working with Judge Kathryn Root in 23rd Circuit Court in Oscoda County to add her courts to the SCAO program.

ACVS Cases 2007



ACVS Cases to date 2008



JANUARY 1ST THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2008

Case Disposition Totals	
Conciliated	32
Mediated to Agreement	106
Mediated without Agreement	27
Facilitated	0
Arbitrated	0
Total	165



Case Disposition 6 month Total 1/1/08 Ending 6/30/08



MEDIATION AWARENESS– COMMUNITY DIVORCE CLINIC

Dianne Howell and Judi Doan attended a Divorce Clinic March 20th and May 15th. They spoke to the group on average of 25 participants sharing what mediation can do to help with their divorce and all of the other services that CMS can provide. Also in attendance was Paul Slough as an attorney, he is also a trained mediator for CMS. Melissa Goodrich was there as an attorney. She has participated as an attorney in many of our Cheboygan Permanency Planning Cases and approves of the mediation process. Kevin Hesselink attended as an attorney in May and has participated in several mediations. We plan to attend the Divorce Clinic Gaylord/Grayling on a monthly Rotation basis. Christine Brzezinski attended the Grayling clinic in June, Thank You! We will be sharing information about how CMS can help in the Divorce Process. Additionally, this was a great opportunity to share with the community about many of the other types of cases we can mediate– landlord tenant, property, credit card issues, etc.

Community presentations are a great way for us to recruit new mediators, earn support for the program and create a Buzz in the community. If you are part of a group or know of a group that we could share with, we would love to know about it!



COMMUNITY MEDIATION
SERVICES

Phone: 989-732-1576 and 800-873-7658

Fax: 989-705-1337

NEW E-mail:

communitymediationservices@verizon.net



Thank You for your dedication to
Community Mediation—
The volunteers are the heart of
our organization!

Check Out Our Website

www.otsego.org/cms/

Community Mediation Services

116 East Fifth Street
Gaylord, MI 49735

