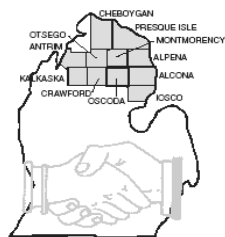


COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2008

THE HONORABLE JANET ALLEN RECOGNIZED AS A WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

The Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay held their 14th Annual Women of Distinction event honoring 6 women who exemplify excellence in business, education, philanthropy and /or leadership in their communities. The award recipients exhibit through their career and/or volunteerism, a philosophy and a desire to inspire girls to become self-confident and resourceful community and business leaders. Although some of the recipients have been Girl Scouts, it is not part of the criteria for selecting the honorees.

We were delighted that,

Judge Janet M. Allen was recognized as a "Women of Distinction". Janet completed Mediation training with us in 2004 and was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the 46th Circuit Court bench in September of 2005. She serves in Otsego, Crawford, and Kalkaska counties. Judge Allen's participation in civic organizations includes the R.S.V.P., Legal Services Program for Senior Citizens, American Association of University Women, and Otsego County Friendship Shelter. She also served as the past board president of the Women's Resource Center.



Judge Janet Allen

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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

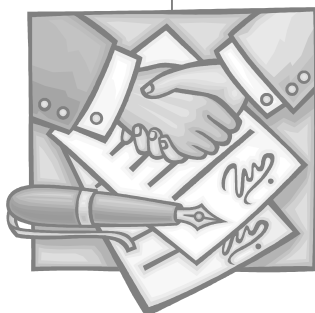
Betty Allen
Hazel Ashworth
Dennis Bodem
Chris Brzezinski
Arlene Hansen
Jetre Ormsbee
Dennis Palmer
Greg Rotter
Robert Strong

Staff

Grant Bliss— Director
Judi Doan— Office Manager
Dianne Howell— Statistician
Annette Wells— Assistant
George Bour— Victim Youth Coordinator

Our Mission

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

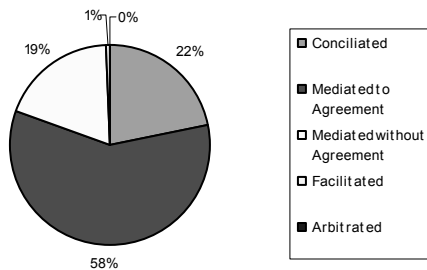


Our Vision

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

2007 YEAR END REVIEW

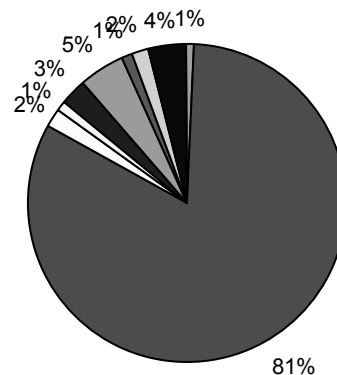
Case Disposition Year End



Case Disposition	Year 2006	Year 2007
Conciliated	77	65
Mediated to Agreement	178	174
Mediated to Partial Agree	0	0
Mediated No Agreement	64	56
Facilitated	2	2
Arbitrated	0	0
Total	321	297

WHO REFERS THE CASES WE MEDIATE?

Referral Source	Year 2006	Year 2007
Business/Corporation	4	1
Community Organizations	7	8
Courts	359	349
Friend, Family	4	4
Government	12	5
Legal Organizations	3	4
Marketing, Advertising	4	0
Police, Sheriff	10	9
Prosecutor	3	2
Educational Institution	5	5
Self	18	12
Other	2	15
Total Referred	431	414



**DID YOU
KNOW THAT
81% OF THE
CASES ARE
REFERRED
BY THE
COURTS?**

A special Thank You to the following Courts for referring cases to us!

Judge Root from Mio, Judge Yenior from Tawas, Judge Butts from Cheboygan, Judge Burmeister from Grayling, Judge Allen from Grayling, Judge Morse from Otsego, Judge Hamilton from Tawas, Judge LaCross from Alpena

Cheboygan Small Claims Court, - Alpena Small Claims Court

Friend of the Court from Otsego, Crawford, Kalkaska, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties.

2007 YEAR END CONTINUED

SUMMARY OF TOTAL CASES REFERRED BY DISPUTE TYPE

Dispute Type	Year 2006	Year 2007	Increase/Decrease
Child Protection	2	26	24
Criminal	1	1	=
Breach of Cont.	168	201	33
Employment	8	7	-1
Guardianship-Adult	0	5	5
Guardianship-Child	0	1	1
Landlord/Tenant	29	19	-10
Neighborhood	27	15	-12
Domestic Matters	107	62	-45
Ordinance/Statute	2	0	-2
Public Policy	0	1	1
Post Judgment Domestic	4	34	30
PPO- Not Domestic	0	1	1
PPO-Domestic	1	0	-1
Property	16	12	-4
Real Estate	22	7	-15
Schools	10	8	-2
Youth Victim Offender	33	13	-20
Other	1	1	=
Case Total	431	414	Decrease Overall of 17

PLEASE NOTE THE LARGE INCREASES IN CHILD PROTECTION AND POST JUDGMENT DOMESTIC, THESE INCREASES LEAD TO A NEED FOR MEDIATORS TO HAVE CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING AND ACCESS AND VISITATION, DOMESTIC RELATIONS TRAINING!

CASES PROCESS BUT NOT MEDIATED

No Mediation Held	Year 2006	Year 2007
Settled Prior	6	4
Respondent Refused	45	57
Initiator Failed to Show	6	3
Respondent Failed to Show	6	7
Both Failed to Show	6	1
Case Dismissed by Initiator	25	36
Unable to Contact	13	8
Unamenable	3	1
Total	110	117

This year we are experiencing an increase in cases that are requiring an

attorney representing an organization, to have the authority to negotiate and enter into the agreement. Scheduling these case have been a little more difficult and we have already experienced a few No Shows.

You can help make a difference by volunteering to make reminder phone calls for the upcoming scheduled cases. You would be appreciated by other

mediators, staff, board, and would be helping assure that mediation is held.

YEAR END MEDIATOR INVESTMENT



The Year End, in review information provides a summary of the cases that we received and the cases that were mediated. Have you ever wondered just how much time is put in by the volunteer mediators to make that happen?

Well, thanks to Dianne Howell, we can provide you that information.

Last year, there was **1,125.75** hours invested in mediating the 297 cases that were processed. There was **774.75** hours of travel time invested into those cases. Mediators traveled a total of **38,215** miles to provide mediation services.

We truly appreciate the time all the mediators have invested into Community Mediation Services. We thank you very much for supporting our Mission Statement and the Vision of the organization. And on behalf of Dianne, thank you for providing your Mediation Time Summaries, so that she can provide the information necessary to the State Court Administrative Office for our funding.

UPCOMING TRAININGS AVAILABLE

NEW MEDIATOR 40HR INITIAL TRAINING

Due to the increase in referrals and mediations scheduled in Tawas, we are organizing a training for new mediators in the area. We could use your help in recruiting new mediators in the Tawas, Oscoda and Mio areas. Please talk about it with friends and colleagues and encourage area residents to participate in the training.

Date— April 10th through April 19th

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 April 18 & 19th.

UPDATE TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINED MEDIATORS

We would like to thank Loreen Potter, Bob Strong, Pam Luce, George Bour for registering for this update. Judi Doan will also be attending, she will be part of the training team.

Access and Visitation with Domestic Relations Training

Date-May 7th & 8th

Where— Lansing, State Court Administrative Office

Adult Guardianship Training

Date—June 17th * 18th

Where—Lansing, State Court Administrative Office

**The Trainings above are available for any Mediators that have completed their 40 hour training, observation time, and have at least 20 hours mediating*

We are required to provide 8 hours of update training every two years. We are looking at a few different ways to provide 4 hour trainings at different times through out the year, so that everyone can receive the necessary training. We have a few ideas, but we would really like to know what your thoughts are and what would work best for you.

Give us a call or email us, subject update training, at mediation@voyager.net

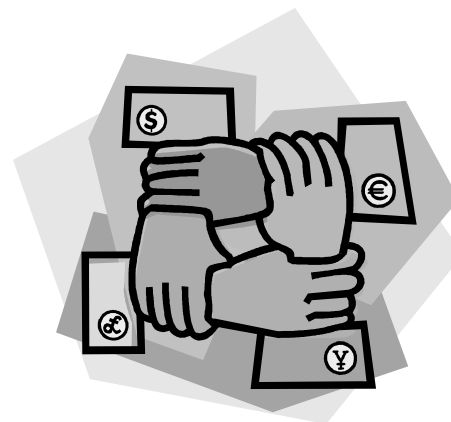
Your Donations Make a Difference!

We receive partial funding from the State Court Administrative office, a small fee for mediation service, a donation from you can make a big difference!

You make it possible to:

- Provide an effective alternative to the courts
- Train community mediators
- To Have a Staff Member available 8-4 Monday through Friday
- To cover scheduling expenses— phone, letter, postage
- To provide resources for Community Awareness and Cultivation

Your support today, makes a difference locally for us and the community members using our service. Call today, to make your tax deductible donation!



Community Awareness Presentations

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!

And if you would be interested in helping with community presentations, please let us know!



Communicating via Email?

We have received requests and are interested in utilizing email more at Community Mediation Services. If you are interested in using your email more with us, please email us at

mediation@voyager.net.

Use the subject line, Email, and let us know!

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

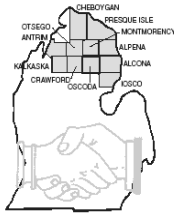
Together, we work hard to prepare and schedule mediation cases. Judi Doan has maintained for two years, the average of intake to disposition of 15 days. However, we have had initiators, disputants, and attorneys that in that time forget to mark their calendars and attend. You can make a difference for the Community Mediation Center, the Mediators, and the outcomes of the cases. If you have a few hours a week and enjoy talking to people, you can make reminder phone calls for scheduled cases.

If you would like to help but are not available during the day, we are also looking for some help with Grant Writing. We have assembled some possible grants that could assist us with additional trainings, community awareness, general office expenses, recognitions and so much more. If you have experience or an interest in helping with Grant Writing, please let us know.



Together, we can do it!

Phone: 989-732-1576 and 800-873-7658
Fax: 989-705-1337
E-mail: mediation@voyager.net



www.otsego.org/cms/

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

We are looking forward to seeing all of you back in town!



116 East Fifth Street
Gaylord, MI 49735

