

Mediation Center

Providing Community Based and Court Connected Mediation Options

Mediation News

January 2018



Center Updates

- 265 cases have been mediated this fiscal year with a 92% agreement/settlement rate, serving over 500 clients.
- Our Family/School Mediation Program has grown significantly this fiscal year, mediating 19 cases since October. Volunteer and staff mediators have been present at Reid Middle School two days per week, primarily mediating student/student disputes. When asked for feedback on the program, one student said, "It made my future look brighter" while another stated "...it helps [to] talk out the problem and try to make different solutions."

Upcoming Training Courses

Third Annual Basic Mediation Training

Dates & Times

April 20, 21, 27, 28 & May 4th
9:00AM - 4:30PM

Location

1 Fenn Street
3rd Floor Conference Room
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Cost: \$300*

*Discounted rate with one year of voluntary mediation services at BCRHA. The full

rate, without a commitment to volunteer, is \$650.

For more information, please contact:

Kayla Wendling

Mediation Center Coordinator

P:(413)443-7138 X212

Email: KaylaW@BCRHA.com

[Click here to register](#)

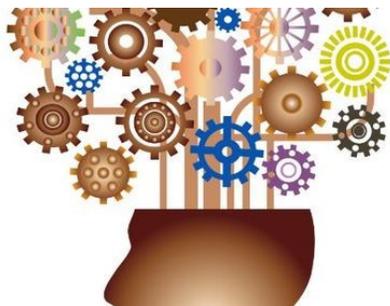
Restorative Practices

This coming March, our center will be streaming NAFCM's Restorative Justice webinar which will provide an overview of restorative practices and peace circles in schools. If you are interested in attending, please contact our center at the number listed below.

[Link to NAFCM](#)



Recent Training Courses



Challenging Mediation Situations

Ten mediators participated in the first advanced mediation training of this fiscal year on difficult mediation scenarios. Individuals created their own toolbox to help with challenging situations related to the five principles of mediation. Participants shared numerous personal examples and engaged in roleplays that demonstrated multifaceted positions and various ethical dilemmas.

Going Along To Get Along

Deciding to live with a partner or roommate is a choice that typically isn't taken lightly. When deciding to cohabitate there are several personality traits that have the potential to clash, so individuals must have some level of compatibility. However, what happens when you have neighbors who you don't choose, let alone know?

NBC News wrote an article about why neighbors can't always get along. They wrote that people are usually fighting over small issues such as parking, animal noise, general noise and garbage. Although each topic seems small, not being able to have peace and quiet in one's home is a large issue that usually leads to negative feelings towards those around them. The article also mentioned that most times the conflict between neighbors is driven by resentment over unresolved conflicts rather than simply treating others badly.

There are various tactics that neighbors can use to get along with one another. The parties

involved can avoid each other even though that doesn't necessarily help the relationship. Although a relationship at some level isn't necessary, it can certainly make living near each other easier. It seems that the most beneficial tactic would be cooperation of some sort. If neighbors can work together towards a mutually beneficial solution, then they can go about their lives in a calm manner. Avoidance doesn't address the matter that caused strife between parties, but perhaps getting together to talk about one's issues and interests can help gain peace and quiet at home. NBC noted that it is a "missed opportunity" not having a relationship with a neighbor because one day their help may be needed.

Our center offers these types of mediations **for free** including, but not limited to, neighbor disputes. If parties can get together to explain their side of the conflict and also brainstorm creative solutions with those involved, all interests and issues can be addressed in a respectful manner. If you are experiencing a less than ideal situation in your community, please call our center at the number listed below to schedule a mediation intake.

Manning-Schaffel, Vivian. "Why we argue with neighbors over the stupidest things." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 30 Oct. 2017, www.nbcnews.com/better/health/why-we-argue-our-neighbors-over-stupidest-things-ncna814971.

Visit our Website

The Mediation Center | TheMediationCenter@BCRHA.com
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