

Mediation Center

Providing Community Based and Court Connected Mediation Options

Mediation News

July 2018



Center Updates

- 482 cases were mediated in FY18 with a 90% agreement/settlement rate. The Center also received 218 individual referrals aside from the cases mediated.
- All our mediators from the previous fiscal year were retained, and five mediators were added to the roster this year. Four of the new volunteer mediators also took the Basic Mediation Training in May.
- Our Family/School Mediation Program mediated 46 student disputes this year with a 95% agreement/settlement rate.

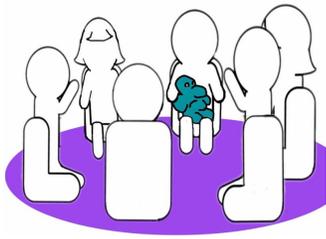
Recent Training Courses

Basic Mediation Training

The Center successfully completed our third annual Basic Mediation Training in April. Center Coordinator, Kayla Wendling, facilitated the course for the first time with a total of 7 participants.

Our next Basic Mediation Training will take place in spring 2019.
Stay tuned!

Restorative Practices Training



Kayla Wendling facilitated the second advanced training of this fiscal year on Restorative Practices. Ms. Wendling attended two training courses over the past year presented by the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University so that Center staff and volunteers could learn about Restorative Justice and how we can implement these practices.

One of our FY19 goals is to conduct harm circles when deemed fit for the student portion of our Family/School Mediation Program.

Family/School Mediation Program

A Look Back at our Year

After having established a relationship with Reid Middle School by offering conflict resolution to parents and teachers, our Center started the school year by asking administration who could benefit the most from our mediation program. They indicated that the students could really find meaning in being able to talk through their issues with a neutral third party, so that is just what we did. Unaware of how successful this program would be, we projected that the program would yield 18 intakes and 10 mediations as well as 6 outreach initiatives and 2 trainings. As noted above, we ended up with 46 mediations!

At the start of the year, the concept of mediation was new to most students, but to my surprise, also very meaningful for them. Because individuals want to be in good relationships with one another, this was a great opportunity that still allowed teachers and administration to perform their key roles all while referring situations they saw fit for mediation.

At the half year mark, we had mediated 19 student disputes. At this point, students who engaged in our services began recognizing us and would request mediation for other situations that had come up. They were beginning to address their conflicts in an effective and preventative manner that wasn't serving as just a temporary fix to the problem. We wanted to make sure that students weren't simply using mediation as a way to get out of class, and that was clear by the way they began working through the issues in the session rather than just sitting there waiting for their least favorite class to be over. I started realizing that students were really benefiting from this program and appreciating the opportunity even just to sit down in a room with the person they were fighting with to respectfully communicate face to face about how to move forward.

Looking back on our year, we are beyond pleased on what this program has done for not only the students, but the community as a whole. These students have a lot going on for them and do a phenomenal job articulating their interests and issues, something that we tend to shy away from as adults. Our Center looks forward to what this year will bring.

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