

Presentation to MANO Members – 1.5.05

Report on proceedings of the 11.30.04 Mediation Summit Meeting (Columbus, OH), attended by Bart Bixenstine and Dave Waldorf

I. Background/Objectives of the Mediation Summit

- Proposed by the Ohio Mediation Association Executive Committee
- Summit of organizations in Ohio that are interested in mediation
- Discussion of how we can work together to advance the field of mediation
- Three representatives invited from each organization

MANO (northeast and northwest Ohio)
Mediation Council of Cincinnati
OSBA Dispute Resolution Committee
Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Section
Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution
Ohio Minority Professionals in ADR
Ohio Community Mediation Association

II. First meeting attendance – 11.30.04

All invitees except for Mediation Council of Cincinnati sent representatives

- MANO (northeast) – Bart Bixenstine and Dave Waldorf
- MANWO (northwest) – Dick Altman
- OSBA Dispute Resolution Committee – Dick Altman and Shirley Cochran
- Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Section – Bruce Heckman
- Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution – Maria Mone
- Ohio Minority Professionals in ADR – Christy Cumberlander
- Ohio Community Mediation Association – Teresa Cusma
- Ohio Mediation Association – Shirley Cochran, Jay Patterson and Sheri Center

III. Organization overviews (who they are, what they are doing)

- **OMA** is a membership organization of all those who mediate or are interested in mediation in Ohio. We have organizational as well as individual members and have over 125 dues paying members at this time. We see the OMA as a statewide organization for mediators and mediation

advocates from a broad range of disciplines and diverse areas of practice that serves as a forum for networking, dissemination of information and the education of its members and the public. Each April, OMA holds its annual meeting and luncheon. This daylong conference consists of a special advanced mediation-related training for which continuing education credits for psychologists, social workers and attorneys are usually provided. At the luncheon new officers are installed, association business is conducted and the "Better World Award" is presented. The "Newscaster", OMA's bimonthly newsletter presents information about the Association and its members, trainings, and other news in the mediation field around Ohio. Anyone wishing to submit notices or articles for this publication is encouraged to do so.

- **Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Section** – Assists courts in developing dispute resolution programs tailored to the unique needs of the court and the community. Provides resources to evaluate mediation efforts and maintain quality services through training/education. In the process of expanding mediation programs to all 88 counties. They have \$100k funding available for new projects. Mediation programs are already in place in 2/3 of the general divisions of the courts of common pleas. The Ohio Supreme Court website displays the types of cases that are mediated and resolutions, by county. A follow-up study is being done to get attorney impressions re: the mediation programs; last done in 1995.
- **Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution** – Funded under the Governor's budget. Have existed for 15 years. Have no regulatory authority; they exist to educate the public and agencies regarding dispute resolution programs, collaborative problem solving. They support court connected as well as public programs, including state government employment mediation programs. They program education for public schools, state agencies, community mediation programs. Will soon have a powerpoint presentation available re: dispute resolution in the media kit at the commission's website.
- **MANWO** – Membership is very low. There are few private mediators in the northwest region; most of the mediation activity is court connected, which is free of charge to the litigant. There is a large need to educate the public about mediation, as well as a need for funding of the programs through the courts. Data is needed to support the argument to the county commissioners that mediation saves \$\$.
- **OCMA** – Have 14 community mediation programs in membership. Very diverse funding sources. Connections to the courts (domestic relations, juvenile). Work with neighborhood disputes, schools, city government, police departments. Have hard data on the success of police referrals (family disputes). Currently evaluating the truancy programs for cost

savings to the schools. Opportunities exist for mediation of condominium disputes.

- **Ohio Minority Professionals in ADR** – 35 members, mid to southern Ohio. Promotes mediation careers for minority group members.

IV. Brainstorming results – ideas for promotion of mediation across all regions, specialties, styles and settings.

- Conflict Management Week 2005 (ongoing group meeting through coordination by the Court). Expand beyond Columbus.
- Consistent slogan about mediation (for marketing, education)
- Video about mediation to community access channels
- Consistent Award on a yearly basis (for mediation excellence?)
- Lobbying to funders (of mediation research, programs)
- Documentation and data collection for evaluation
- Contact decision maker organizations to educate them on mediation (e.g. Ohio Chamber of Commerce)
- People's Law School presentation
- State-wide Conference in 2006 or 2007 for National Promotion possibly on Mediator Quality Assurance
- Targeting younger consumers
- Advanced training for mediators

V. Identification of projects (2) for the summit to focus on

Given that a key area of need is education of the public and courts and promotion of mediation as a cost effective alternative.....

1. Develop a consistent slogan for promotion of mediation to the public and courts, etc.
2. Documentation and data collection for evaluation of the benefits of mediation (hard facts on the value of mediation)

VI. Next meeting – February 14, 2005 – Columbus