

Ohio Mediation Summit Minutes  
April 25, 2005

**Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting started at 10:15 am. Present: Shirley Cochran, Jay Patterson (Ohio Mediation Association); Bruce Heckman (Ohio Supreme Court); Dave Waldorf, Norma Delp (Mediation Association of Northeast Ohio); Dick Altman (Ohio State Bar Dispute Resolution Committee & Mediation Association of Northwest Ohio). Meeting room arranged and provided by Michael Senger, Mediation Coordinator Richland County Court of Common Pleas.

- I. Discussion of (data) information collections.** We discussed that courts will have statistics of numbers of cases, maybe types of cases and settlement rates, community centers will collect information differing depending upon what they believe they need to present to funders, etc., and private practitioners rarely keep any statistics or information of the cases.

**Bruce said that document outcomes are what we claim they are. There is a new subcommittee on research at the Court. It is looking into mediation case versus non-mediated settlements. Currently they are looking at satisfaction of the parties with mediation but might also look at settlement conferences to compare timing/speed, costs, satisfaction, durability (will be different depending upon the type of case).**

**Programs such as REDRESS and EEO already have some information and community mediation centers should have information on on-going relationships as they are more likely to have that situation rather than the one-shot mediations most courts (common pleas general division) have.**

**As an addition to our discussion, Bruce commented that he attended the ABA conference in April. We should be proud of Ohio's position in mediation and he became aware of the paucity of research in this area other than in legal research. The challenge is that too much is going on to do this as well. He is developing a RFP and will be real clear as to exactly what it will collect. Costs will have to be reviewed as an order including costs may include things other than just what the court charges. After mediation will clients be willing to send in their bill from their attorney? Question is how are we going to measure costs? Operationalize it and each component will face the same challenge.**

**People giving thought to measures as to these areas: Timing/speed, Party satisfaction (have most already), Cost, Durability. Ideas of what measure and how be measured with the more concrete the better. Bruce can then put together the RFP. He will need responses within the month or by the**

**end of May.**

**II. Development of slogan/Tagline/Jingle:** Want to make sure Mediation is in the front of the phrase regardless. Give selections and ask for comments and suggestions. Worked on bringing a good list and then suggest it be said out loud, mulled over and rank them 1, 2, and 3. Can modify or think of a new one as well. We will bring the top three as to rank back to the meeting to discuss and decide what should be done. Top ten slogans are:

Mediation: come to the table and help yourself  
Mediation: helping people help themselves  
Got a beef—get mediation  
Mediation: let your voice be heard  
Mediation: help yourself  
Mediation: it's your thing, do what you want to do  
Mediation: high performance problem solving  
Mediators bring good lives to people  
Mediation: it brings good lives to people

Once we decide what/how it is we can use it: brochures, letterhead, screensavers, notepads, etc., Suggested uses include web site and what other ideas?

**III. Conflict Management Week.** This year is May 8-14, 2005. Bring people together and do more locally. Summit group should take this over? Will become an agenda item and have a review after this year's programs are finished.

**VI. Conference/Symposium.** Like the Wisconsin mediators do each year. November 2006 for possible timing. Not just one day—workshops with requests to present. Bring in universities and other groups to help. Take this idea back to our organizations and see what the entity sees as pluses and minuses of doing it and what type of commitment it might be willing to make.

**VII. Next meeting** to be held at the Supreme Court sometime in July. Bruce and Shirley will coordinate.

**VIII. Adjournment at 1:30 PM (no lunch break).**