



Dispute Resolution Center Newsletter

March 2017

Dispute Resolution Centers Merge

by Melissa Capone

As most of our mediators have probably heard, the Dispute Resolution Centers of Herkimer and Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie Counties merged with the Dispute Resolution Center of Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego Counties at the beginning of this year. The new program is Catholic Charities Dispute Resolution Center serving Chenango, Delaware, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. This merger has brought several changes in management and staffing.

Christy Houck is the Program Director and her home base is in the Oneonta office. The Coordinator for Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties is **Lois Hubbard**. **John Graham** is the Case Manager for Chenango and Otsego Counties, and the Case Manager for Delaware County is **Diana Halstead**.

Natasha Daniels is the Coordinator for Herkimer County and **Tom Pullybank** is the Case Manager for Herkimer. **April Rando** is the Coordinator for Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie Counties. The Case Manager for Fulton and Montgomery Counties is **Melissa Capone**, and **Allison Briggs** is the Case Manager for Schoharie County.

DRC Staff Attend Basic Mediation

Training by Allison Briggs

In January, three Catholic Charities staff members traveled to Suffolk County Long Island to attend a thirty-hour basic mediation training course. Allison Briggs, April Rando, and Natasha Daniels spent four days learning about mediation at the EAC Network office. The training covered the mediation process, ethics, and included multiple role-playing scenarios.



From the
Program Director

Greetings!

As you are probably aware, our program is now Catholic Charities Dispute Resolution Center serving Chenango, Delaware, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties. These first two months have been busy.

It was our intention to have a meet and greet with the staff and mediators in each location in February. That meet and greet has been delayed by the weather. Perhaps in March there will be less of a chance that we will have to cancel due to bad weather. Stay tuned for more about that.

On March 11th, we are scheduled to have our Advanced Training in Amsterdam. We will have a wonderful training on being mindful when we mediate. We had this training in November in Oneonta and the response from participants was very positive, plus you will have met your annual training requirement by attending this 6 hour training.

Working with the New York State Dispute Resolution Association, we will host a

Special Education Mediation one-day refresher training for mediators who have had the training and a two-day training for new Special Education Mediators. The details for this training will be sent out soon.

We would like to have a Parenting Plan (Custody/Visitation) training. We are trying to arrange for that to happen in the spring, at no or very low cost to those who need it. Please let us know if you would like to be on the list for that training. We will keep you up-to-date on this as it develops.

Annually, we have a Volunteer Appreciation Event. Invitations will go out soon, please RSVP and say that you will join us to celebrate all of the wonderful work that our volunteers accomplish for us all year long.

I look forward to working with you and hope to see you at the upcoming events. In the meantime, stay warm and think spring.

Christy Houck



Catholic Charities Programs

by Allison Briggs

Catholic Charities is now offering a Dispute Resolution program in Schoharie County. Dispute Resolution offers alternative dispute resolution services to individuals and groups for the peaceful resolution of conflict. Services include mediation and conciliation. All services are voluntary, impartial and confidential.

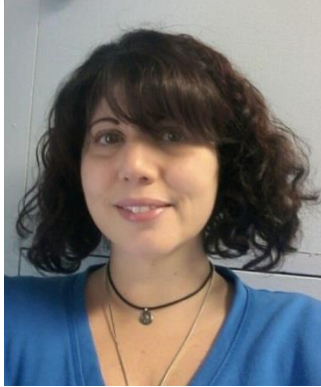
In addition to the newly added Dispute Resolution program in Schoharie County, Catholic Charities has an Emergency Assistance program that is offered to individuals and families who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Assistance includes a listening ear, referrals to existing services and when appropriate, material goods and financial assistance. Additional assistance is provided through a client's choice Food Pantry as well as a Thrift Shop that provides individuals with household goods at a very reasonable price.



Each month we will feature articles about staff and volunteer mediators.



My name is **Allison Briggs**, and I have been with Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie County for a year. In that time I have moved from being the Thrift Shop Manager into the Emergency Services Advocate position. I am also the Dispute Resolution Case Manager for Schoharie County.



Melissa Capone has been with Catholic Charities and the Dispute Resolution program for 9 years now, serving Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie counties. Currently she is the Case Manager for Fulton and Montgomery counties. Melissa sits in Fulton County Family Court and Amsterdam and Gloversville City Courts, mediating on-site cases referred by the judges. Prior to working at Catholic Charities, she worked as a legal assistant and marketing assistant in New York City. Outside of work, she enjoys being involved in the local community theatre scene and performing on stage.



My name is **April Rando**, and I was just recently hired as DRC Coordinator for Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties. Before coming to Catholic Charities, I had worked as a legal secretary for the Legal Aid Society. I will be working to increase the public's awareness of the DRC programs, expand services, and recruit more volunteer mediators. In my spare time, I like to study foreign languages, play my French horn, and go hiking in the Adirondack Mountains.



Everyone is invited to submit articles that might be of interest to mediators. If you have something you would like to share for the newsletter, please email your article by March 22nd to April Rando at arando@charitiesccd.org. Thank you!

Advanced Mediation Training
“On Becoming Mindful Mediators”



**An Advanced Training for Mediators with
Trainer Kim Reisch of The Center for Dispute Settlement**

Saturday, March 11th

Registration 8:30 A.M.

Training 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Location: Catholic Charities

1 Kimball St., Amsterdam, NY 12010

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

***Attendance is mandatory for all active mediators who did
not attend the session that was held in
Oneonta in November.***

**Please contact Lois Hubbard at (607) 432-0061 or
lhubbard@charitiesccdo.org to sign up.**

An alternate date has been reserved for 03/18/17 in the event of cancellation.