



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Milton L. Mack, Jr.
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 2016

TO: Governor Rick D. Snyder
Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

SUBJECT: Community Dispute Resolution Program 2015 Annual Report

It is my pleasure to announce the availability of the Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) 2015 Annual Report, in compliance with 1998 PA 260. The program, now celebrating its 26th year of service to Michigan citizens, was created to provide collaborative, problem-solving alternatives to the traditional adjudication of disputes in court. The report, available through the following link, provides an overview of the activities of the 18 community dispute resolution centers financially supported through this office to provide local dispute resolution services: <http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/Publications/Reports/2015%20CDRP%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.

The program's statewide dashboard appears here: <http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/Publications/Reports/Statewide%20CDRP%20Dashboard%202014-2015.pdf>.

Notable performance metrics for the program include:

- School related services now comprise of 19 percent of all cases. These cases include truancy prevention and suspension reduction.
- Agreements were reached in 3 out of 4 cases.
- Cases were concluded, on average, within 25 days of a party contacting a center; parties kept their agreements in civil cases 88.7 percent of the time and in family division cases 90.7 percent of the time.

If you have any questions regarding this document or the Community Dispute Resolution Program, please contact Doug Van Epps, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution, at (517) 373-4840 or VanEppsD@courts.mi.gov.



COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2015

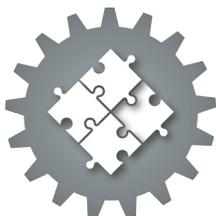
Since 1990, the Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) has functioned as a network of nonprofit organizations that receive grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) to provide Michigan citizens with a means to work out disputes outside of court. With almost 19,000 hours of mediation, training, and other types of volunteer services in 2015 (representing a market value contribution of over \$2.4 million dollars), CDRP is devoted to serving Michigan communities. Local centers may be contacted at (800)-8RESOLVE. The current statewide CDRP Performance Dashboard can be found online at: courts.mi.gov/cdrpdashboard.

3 out of 4 parties settle their disagreements

\$3,759 Avg. Amount
PER SETTLEMENT

Parties Kept the Agreements They Made

88.7% Civil Division Cases
90.7% Family Division Cases



25 Avg. Days to Disposition
1.5 Avg. Duration of Mediation (Hours)

Dispute Resolution Services at the Centers

Circuit Court Case Type

- Family Division
- Unrepresented Litigant Divorce
- Pre- and Post-Judgment Domestic Relations
- Truancy
- Child Protection
- Parenting Time Mediation

General Civil Claims

- Nondomestic Personal Protection Orders

District Court Case Type

- General Civil Claims
- Landlord/Tenant
- Small Claims

Probate Court Case Type

- Guardianships
- Conservatorships, Trusts, and Testamentary

School Conflict Management Services

- Restorative Practices
- Peer Mediation
- Truancy Prevention
- Restorative Conferencing
- Bullying Prevention

From the Judges...

“ On behalf of the 63rd District Court, I can personally attest to how valuable the volunteer mediators are to helping resolve cases in our court. The volunteer mediators are dedicated, committed, and well prepared in their duties, which directly impacts the success of our mediation program at the Court. In fact, if it wasn't for the volunteer mediators, we wouldn't have any type of dispute resolution. The statistics show that a great deal of money and time is saved as a direct result of the efforts of the volunteer mediators.

-The Honorable Sara J. Smolenski
Chief Judge, 63rd District Court

“ The probate and family courts often deal with cases involving emotional conflict and sensitive issues. We find that mediation helps resolve these personal concerns in a more private and flexible setting which then often leads to a long term resolution for the people involved.

-The Honorable Frederick Mulhauser
Chief Judge, 7th Probate and Family Court

“ As a busy family court judge, I have thousands of contested cases requiring decisions. Thankfully, the Community Resolution Center has been my partner for years in helping people look past the anger and stress in order to reach agreement through mediation. Instead of airing their grievances in open court, these caring and skilled mediators, all volunteers, work with the litigants to solve their own problems. This is in the best interests of everyone, but especially the children. What a wonderful service and a benefit to the community!

-The Honorable David J. Newblatt
7th Circuit Family Court

Types of Cases Disposed

