



Heartland Mediators Association

Newsletter for Midwest Mediators

October 2006, Vol XII No. 3
8826 Santa Fe Drive, Ste 208
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FORENSIC INTERVIEWING

October 20, 2006 in Wichita

YOU HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO ATTEND TRAINING LIKE THIS, PROBABLY EVER

*Retired Kansas Bureau of
Investigation Special Agent,
Kelly Robbins to present*

What is it that mediators do more than anything else? If you said, "ask questions and listen to answers," you are right on. But, who taught you to ask questions and how do you know that you're asking the right ones to enable you to get the truth; maybe more important is knowing what to not ask, whether it is a child or an adult.

Heartland's October 20, 2006 meeting in Wichita will feature training presented by Kelly Robbins, a well experienced forensic investigator.

This training will be of great value to all mediators as we learn how the most careful of investigators go about their delicate task.

The protocols and interviewing skills used will be of value in every type of mediation and will have other life applications for you.

Kelly Robbins retired in 2005 after twenty years service with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Her last seven years were as a Special Agent investigating child abuse cases in western Kansas.

Kelly is the past president and the current Executive Director of Finding Words of Kansas. Finding Words is a leading nationally recognized effort to train forensic investigators in the RATAC protocol. This is a widely-recognized protocol for interviewing

children believed to be victims of child abuse. The Finding Words training also prepares the learner to prepare the child for court appearances.

Kelly will also acquaint us with the multi-disciplinary team approach to dealing with the dynamics involved with these cases. These are dynamics we should learn to recognize as mediators and mandated reporters.

Kelly will discuss mandated reporting legal requirements and give us tips on our role if child abuse is discovered or suspected.

The emphasis in questioning is to get the truth through an "interview," as opposed to interrogation.

Come join us.

Learn the difference and get started on building some greater skills.

October 20, 2006

Member - \$30 including Lunch,
Non-members - \$40 including Lunch

Noon to 1pm - Meeting and Lunch

1pm to 4 pm - Training Workshop

Sedgwick County Extension Education Center

7001 W. 21st St.
(Corner of 21st Street and Ridge St.)
Wichita, KS 67205
316-722-7721

3 hours of CME credit

registration form on back page

(866) 381-4458 • www.heartlandmediators.org • mediation@grapevine.net

From the President

Hello HMA members,

I want to tell you what your board members have been doing for the last several months. We have met and discussed how we could better serve you and how we can make you feel more a part of this association.

We made a decision to create a Certificate of Membership for our 2006 HMA members. We are placing the year you joined HMA on the certificate. Our records go back to 1993 and HMA was started in 1989 so we know that several of our members predate our records. If you fit in that category please email or call me to help correct our records. My email is JANETL312@everestkc.net and the director phone line is 913-888-3550.

HMA will also send out a letter with your pin number on it so you can access the HMA website.

Your HMA board members also decided to transfer the HMA VCR video to DVD. We are contacting the person who created the video and once we receive the original copy we are going to go forward to make a DVD copy for each of you so you can show it to your clients.

Your board feels that HMA should be a great resource for new and established mediators. We want to place the training facilities and practicum options on the HMA web site for mediators to contact but first we need a disclaimer on the HMA web site. So I am requesting that one of our attorney mediators write a disclaimer for us and email it to me. Once that has been accomplished we will place all training and practicum options on the HMA web site for Kansas and Missouri.

HMA has a great workshop and meeting coming up in October 20, 2006 in Wichita. The board members were all very excited to be able to bring a special speaker to the workshop. She is a retired female KBI Special Agent who had extensive crime lab experience. She is currently with the Child Advocacy Center in Scott City, Kansas. What was interesting about her is that she has completed Core Mediation training and is familiar with what we do and can speak our language. She told us that her interviewing techniques are useful for adults as well as children. See page 1 for more information.

I had the pleasure of being a part of Peg Nichols' book launch at the Writer's Place in Kansas City, MO for her new book, *'Mediation Survivor's Handbook'*. I have not had a chance to read it yet but I am told that it is not for mediators but for individuals looking into mediation. It focuses on the opportunity to raise self-determination.

As you probably already know, every member of HMA is going to receive a signed copy of Peg's book. So please join us in Wichita.

I hope my emails to you have enlightened you with what is going on in the Kansas and Missouri mediation field. My goal is to keep you abreast of all the information that crosses my desk.

Please call or email to let me know what else you would like for us to do for you. We created the direct phone line for you to talk to us. If we can not answer the phone at the time of your call, please feel assured that we will return your call.

I hope to see you in Wichita October 20th.

Janet Lhuillier, President

Attention newsletter editors

The Board of Directors of Heartland Mediators Association is seeking bids from its members or others interested in editing, designing and publishing the HMA newsletter which is published four times a year.

Anyone interested in providing bid information may contact Linda Laird, Association Secretary and Communications Committee chairperson, 785-806-4735 or paliaison@yahoo.com.

EEOC Seminar

The City of Lawrence, Kansas Human Relations Commission and Department will be conducting it's annual Equal Opportunity Law Update Seminar on October 17-18, 2006 at the Lawrence Holiday Inn/Holidome. The seminar includes 3 mediation classes held on October 18th. The three mediation classes are geared specifically for Kansas approved mediators to obtain the 6 CME's needed each year for recertification. Earlybird registration fee is \$69 per person for all 3 classes and includes snacks/beverages as well as the luncheon with keynote speaker David Adkins, Vice Chancellor, External Affairs, University of Kansas Medical Center. After September 15th, the fee is \$79 per person. The classes are as follows:

Mediation: Beyond the Basics

Techniques for Breaking Impasses

The Ethics of Mediation

For additional information and to register go to <http://www.lawrence-humanrelations.org/registration.shtml>

Ten Years of Restorative Justice

By Kathleen Bird

Respect, a restorative justice program supported by the Clay County Juvenile Office and Juvenile Court (Missouri), is beginning its 10th year of operation.

The program uses direct dialogue between the crime victims and juvenile offenders, facilitated by mediators, to provide opportunities to understand the harm caused by the offense and discuss arrangements for making things right.

Youthful offenders must take responsibility for their participation in the offense as a pre-requisite to entering the program.

Although offenders are held accountable for their conduct, special care is taken to support and respect all people involved.

Crime victims choose to voluntarily participate in directly getting answers to their questions about the offense and determining appropriate reparations.

The program is especially useful in resolving neighborhood disputes and interpersonal conflict constructively.

The focus on restoring all those impacted by the offense as functioning members of the community has an impact beyond the "trail 'em nail 'em, jail 'em" goals of traditional criminal justice.

The rate of recidivism for youth who participate in the program is Very low. Less than 10 percent of offenders referred to the program will have another referral to the Juvenile Office within a year.

The rate is just one percent for youth who engage in face-to-face meetings.

An average of 60 to 70 cases were mediated each year and face to-face meetings resulted in apology and/or reparation arrangements in 93 percent of cases this year.

Community service agreements and payment arrangements for restitution were completed in about 90 percent of these cases.

The Community Mediation Center in Independence provided screening and mediation services for the Respect program. At various times funding for the program has been provided in part by The Conciliation Center, Missouri Department of Public Safety and the Missouri Division of Youth Services. Participants receive services free of charge.

Kathleen Bird is director in the Office of Dispute Resolution, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Liberty, MO., and may be reached at (816) 736-8402.

K-State Now Has Conflict Resolution Certificate Program

At K-State you can now earn a graduate or undergraduate certificate in conflict resolution. This program is ideal for people who may be getting or already have a bachelor's or master's degree, and would benefit from academic study of conflict analysis and resolution so they can apply their knowledge in their current field or profession.

Conflict resolution skills are skills that everyone needs in their repertoire in order to address the complexity of

individual and collective lives. Used effectively, these particular skills can promote individuals' capacities and responsibilities for making decisions about their lives, build a sense of community, foster mutual respect and cooperation, and develop the use of fairness rather than power as a basis for resolving disputes.

On a personal level, those who learn how to effectively manage/resolve conflicts are able to manage different demands, personalities, and behaviors, while setting a positive example to others. When conflicts do occur, they are able to intervene early, prevent disputes from escalating, resolve them comprehensively, and repair broken relationships.

The certificate program requires four, three-credit-hour courses, for a total of 12 credits. The courses are offered by K-State's School of Family Studies and Human Services in the College of Human Ecology, and are facilitated by K-State's Division of Continuing Education.

For more information, please contact Terrie R. McCants, Program Coordinator, Certificates in Conflict Resolution at K-State, 309 Justin Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506; 785.532.1477; terrie@ksu.edu. More information is listed on our web site: <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/conflictresolution>.

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Peg Nichols' Book Launch a Success!

'Mediation Survivor's Handbook'

Approximately 75 people attended the celebration at the Writer's Place Saturday evening September 9.

El Gene Ver Dught was the main speaker, then followed Rhonda Harris, Janet Lhuillier, Judge Trigg, Ronnie Beach, Kathleen Bird, and Bill Ryan. Two groups of people attended the book launch, her mediation colleagues and her writers club members.

Peg seemed happy to see four HMA Presidents attend her book signing party. Peg said her writers club members were quite surprised about her life in the mediation field. It was all new to them except through her book.

Peg's family was there supporting her with wine, soft drinks and appetizers. A beautiful portrait of Peg was on an easel next to the podium. Peg spoke for a short time explaining the purpose of her book is to de-mystify mediation for people.

The book is not for mediators but for the parties in mediation. El Gene received the copy of Peg's book the night before the party and said he sat down and read the whole book in one night and found the one main theme was self determination.

It was a wonderful celebration. Congratulations Peg, to one of our own, we are proud of you!

Peg plans on attending the Wichita HMA meeting October 20 with signed copies of her book.

OCTOBER 20, 2006 REGISTRATION

Name _____

Firm/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration fees: \$30 for members, \$40 for nonmembers

Payment by check made payable to "HMA"

Charge \$_____ to Visa/Mastercard No. _____

expiration date _____ Signature of cardholder _____