



Mediation & Domestic Violence

Ignorance is *NOT* Bliss

An Interdisciplinary Conference
Building Bridges, Building Partnerships



Blodgett Hall, Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, New York

May 11 & 12, 2006

Conference Schedule—Day One

Thursday, May 11, 2006

8:30 – 9:00 am

Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 am

Welcome

*Honorable Damian J. Amodeo, Family Court Judge and
Acting Supreme Court Justice, Dutchess County*

9:30 – 12:00 pm

A Model for Collaboration – Genesis of the Domestic Violence and Mediation Safety Project

Jody Miller & Dee DePorto

The Domestic Violence and Mediation Safety Project has garnered nation-wide attention for its unique and groundbreaking work. What was the impetus for the Project's creation? How did the different disciplines cross barriers and individual agendas to unite toward a common goal? What were the 'aha' moments that deepened each partner's understanding of the other? What resources were necessary to undertake such a collaboration? During this plenary, the Project's creators will discuss the early planning stages, the initial implementation and the evolution of the Project. We will also discuss the philosophies, purposes and practices that created a strong partnership focused on victim safety through 'voice and choice.'

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Buffet Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Workshop Series I

Session 1.1 Domestic Violence: What we can't see
might hurt her

Dee DePorto & Gwen Wright

Through the dramatic re-enactment of the unfolding dynamics of abuse within an intimate relationship, this workshop will provide attendees with an increased understanding of the complexities and often hidden identifiers of domestic violence. The long-standing position that mediation is not appropriate with domestic violence cases and the underlying rationale for this position will be discussed. We will explore critical safety issues inherent in mediating cases with a history of domestic violence. Questions such as "What do victims need to increase safety?"...."How does domestic violence victimization impact capacity and agency within the mediation process?" will be explored. *We strongly encourage mediators to attend this workshop.*

Session 1.2 Mediation "101": Different mediation models and their goals

Robert A. Baruch Bush, J.D. & Duke Fisher

This workshop will offer an introduction to mediation for those who are not completely familiar with the process and with the different models of practice in common use today. The understanding gained from this workshop will provide a more solid basis for examining whether and how mediation should be used in cases involving some history of domestic violence. We will cover the basic elements of the facilitative, transformative and evaluative models of mediation practice. This is not a skills workshop, but a basic overview and orientation. *We strongly encourage domestic violence professionals to attend this workshop.*

3:15 – 4:45 pm

Workshop Series II

Session 2.1 Courts, Mediation and Domestic Violence: What role does each play in partnerships?

*Joan S. Posner, Esq., Lisa E. Rubenstein, Esq.,
Mark Collins & Pamela M. Kravetz, M.A.*

What is the historical policy of the courts toward mediation in cases with a history of domestic violence and is this policy changing? How can courts accommodate a partnership between disciplines and still preserve the role of impartial decisionmaker? With both large and small group discussions we will explore the court's role, the development of partnerships between disciplines, identification of barriers to partnership and ways to overcome them.

Session 2.2 Ethics in Mediation: Dilemmas and Standards of Practice

Robert A. Baruch Bush, J.D. & Andrew Schepard, J.D.

This workshop will identify some commonly recognized ethical dilemmas facing mediators, and discuss how different codes of practice address those dilemmas. The aim is to provide a basis for further discussion, in other workshops, of similarities and differences in the ethical principles of mediators and domestic violence counselors and advocates.

Session 2.3 Ethics in Domestic Violence Advocacy

Lórien Castelle & Pat Ferraioli

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of how the ethics of domestic violence advocacy evolved out of the philosophical underpinnings of the Battered Women's Movement. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of honoring the victim's voice; viewing the victim as the expert; confronting power dynamics and focusing on safety; countering the historical cultural norms that have given men permission to dominate and control women. Panelists will present on the principles and practices critical to providing quality advocacy without compromising safety.

Conference Schedule—Day Two

Friday, May 12, 2006

8:30 – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 am

Voices of the Victims

Hear from domestic violence survivors who have experienced the Domestic Violence and Mediation Safety Project process.

10:45 – 12:15 pm

Workshop Series III

Session 3.1 Measuring Success

Pamela M. Kravetz, M.A.

What does “success” mean? Who defines it? What does it look like? How do you measure it? This workshop will explore answers to these questions from various perspectives including: the mediator, the domestic violence advocate, the Court system, the victim, and the abuser. In addition, the workshop will also examine the implications of how success is defined and measured for collaborative relationships and projects between the mediation and domestic violence communities.

Session 3.2 How effective is any screening protocol?

Dee DePorto & Joan S. Posner, Esq.

The growing effort to design and implement screening tools for the identification of domestic violence will be discussed. We will review the historical impetus for this effort and explore present day struggles regarding efficacy, who should implement screening, and when to screen-in vs. screen-out. We will grapple with key questions, such as “Is it really possible to effectively screen for domestic violence?”... “Whose agenda is being served by screening?”... “Can we redefine the concept of ‘screening’ to allow for more accurate domestic violence identification?”

Session 3.3 In-depth: What is Transformative Mediation?

Jody B. Miller & Judith A. Saul

What makes transformative mediation different from other models of mediation? Why does it work with the Domestic Violence and Mediation Safety Project? Join us for a more in-depth discussion of the model’s premises and principles.

Session 3.4 Ethical Issues in Collaboration between Domestic Violence and Mediation Communities

*Helen D. Dickerson, M.A., Kathryn S. Lazar, Esq.,
Deb LeFebvre and Kathryn Graham*

Historically, mediation and domestic violence communities have been worlds apart. The domestic violence community embraces voice and choice as its standard while the mediation community embraces neutrality and impartiality. The workshop will explore questions such as: “How does a mediator maintain neutrality and impartiality while holding information about the history between the parties?”... “Can a mediation process that recognizes and addresses safety issues remain fair?”... “How do these disciplines address the question of party capacity?”

12:15 – 3:00 pm

Lunch & Closing Plenary Session

Partnerships and Victim Safety: Don't Do This At Home...

Facilitated by Dee DePorto and Jody Miller

If you are considering trying this at home, you must attend this plenary session. In this session we will discuss the necessary components of a mediation and domestic violence community partnership and why mediating without them puts domestic violence victims at risk. We will also explore whether any model of mediation can incorporate these critical components. Join us for this meaningful dialogue and important closing remarks.

Presenters

Damian J. Amodeo, Family Court Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice, Dutchess County

Robert A. Baruch Bush, J.D., Professor of Law, Hofstra University School of Law. Fellow, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, Inc.

Lórien Castelle, Trainer, New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Mark Collins, Assistant Coordinator, New York State Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

Dee DePorto, Associate Director, Battered Women's Services of Family Services, Inc.

Helen D. Dickerson, M.A., Family Program Manager, Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc.

Pat Ferraioli, Director of Education, Resource and Education Development, New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Duke Fisher, CEO/Lead Trainer, Learning Laboratories

Kathryn Graham, Director, Battered Women's Services of Family Services, Inc.

Pamela M. Kravetz, M.A., Project Coordinator, Universal Response to Domestic Violence, Dutchess County, NY.

Kathryn S. Lazar, Esq., Founder & Mediator, Mid-Hudson Divorce and Family Mediation Center.

Deb LeFebvre, Certified volunteer mediator, Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc.

Jody B. Miller, Executive Director, Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc.

Joan S. Posner, Esq., Principal Court Attorney for the Hon. Damian J. Amodeo, Family Court Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice, Dutchess County

Lisa E. Rubenstein, Esq., Principal Court Attorney for the Hon. Valentino T. Sammarco, Family Court Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice, Dutchess County

Judith A. Saul, Executive Director, Community Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. of Chemung, Schuyler and Tompkins County, New York

Andrew Schepard, J.D., Professor of Law, Hofstra University School of Law. Director of Hofstra University's Center for Children, Families and the Law.

Gwen Wright, Director, Training and Policy Development, New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV).

Additional Conference Information

Location

The Conference will be held at Blodgett Hall on Vassar College Campus, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604. Parking on the Vassar campus is limited. If you intend to drive to the conference, please arrive early and be prepared for a walk, if necessary. Handicapped parking is available at Blodgett Hall.

Lodging

The Days Inn, 536 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie
\$106/night plus tax

This hotel is within walking distance of the Vassar campus. Reservations can be made by calling 845-454-1010 and referencing the Domestic Violence & Mediation Conference. Reservations must be made by April 19th.

Holiday Inn Express, 2750 South Road, Poughkeepsie
\$94/night plus tax

This hotel is 3.5 miles from the Vassar campus. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle for all hotel guests attending the Conference. To make a reservation, visit www.hiexpress.com and enter the group rate DVM or call 845-473-1151. Reservations must be made by April 26th.

Cancellations and Refunds

Requests for refunds of tuition must be made in writing and postmarked by May 5th, 2006 for a full refund, less a \$25.00 administrative service charge. Cancellations after May 5th will receive 50% of fees paid. No refunds will be made after May 10th, with the exception of medical emergencies with documentation. Substitutions are permitted upon written notice from the original registrant. All changes in registration must be received by May 5th or they will be handled on-site.

Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs

The Conference Committee is committed to providing individuals with disabilities equal access to the Conference. To this end, participants in need of accommodations should self-identify on the Conference registration form. The Conference Committee will make every effort to provide required services for participants with special needs.

Cell Phone Recycling Program

No longer have use for a used cell phone? Donate it! Bring a discarded cell phone to the Conference for recycling. Proceeds from this recycling program will be donated to Battered Women's Services of Family Services, Inc. and Grace Smith House, Inc.

Clothesline Project

On exhibit at the Conference will be a local Clothesline project of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The Clothesline Project displays T-shirt artwork of domestic violence survivors and their loved ones bearing words of encouragement, remembrance and healing.

Questions

Contact Jennifer Jorgensen at 845-471-7213 ext. 3055 or e-mail jjorgensen@dutchessmediation.org.

Can the domestic violence and mediation communities collaborate? Under what circumstances is it safe or advisable for a victim of domestic violence to engage in mediation? Come to this conference and learn more about this important issue. Hear one community's solution to this complex problem that confronts victims, mediators, lawyers, and domestic violence advocates. Join us and brainstorm about how these two communities can work together. This conference will provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue between the Domestic Violence and Mediation communities around the possibilities of building collaborative relationships to support victims of domestic violence.

PRESENTED BY The Domestic Violence and Mediation Safety Project: A Collaboration between The Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc. and Battered Women's Services of Family Services, Inc.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS This conference would not have been possible without the generous support of the Dyson Foundation. We also extend thanks to Vassar College for their generosity and hospitality and the following sponsors for their support:

Platinum	Hofstra Law School Center for Children, Families and the Law Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, Inc. at Hofstra Law School Vassar College, Field Work Office	
Gold	Lester's Auto Sales & Towing McCabe & Mack, LLP Vassar College, Office of Disability and Support Services	Vassar College, Office of Equal Opportunity Vassar College, Sociology Department
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Contributor	The Haven Spa Marlene Weber Day Spa	Vassar College, Office of the Dean of Students

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 11, 2006

8:30 - 9:00 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Welcome and Opening Plenary Session
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 pm	Workshop Series I
3:15 - 4:45 pm	Workshop Series II

Friday, May 12, 2006

8:30 - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 am	Voices of the Victims
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Workshop Series III
12:15 - 3:00 pm	Lunch and Closing Plenary Session

Registration Form

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An Interdisciplinary Conference: Building Bridges, Building Partnerships

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Organization: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name as it should appear on Conference Badge: _____

Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs: _____

(Please specify services you require to attend this conference)

Conference Fees

Thanks to our generous sponsors, tuition for this Conference has been subsidized to allow for diverse and balanced participation. Tuition for the two-day conference includes plenary sessions, selected workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and printed conference materials. Scholarships are limited.

	On/before April 26	After April 26	After May 5th/On-site
Individual	\$95.00/person	\$110.00/person	\$135.00/person
Group Rate	\$75.00/person		

Organizations registering 3 or more attendees receive a \$20 discount per person.

Registrations must be submitted in one envelope to receive discount. Each attendee should fill out an individual registration form. Deadline for group registration is April 26th.

Domestic Violence & Mediation Agency "Team" Registration \$60/person

Team up with your local counterparts - reach out to your local community Domestic Violence or Mediation organization. When both of your organizations register, members from each team can register for \$60. Multiple registrations from one agency must be submitted in one envelope. Deadline for team registration is April 26th. Begin your partnership today!

Name of agency you are teaming with: _____

Affiliation

In order to allow for balanced conference participation, space is limited in each discipline. Space will be filled in each discipline on a first come, first served basis. If spaces are filled, you may be wait listed. Please indicate the discipline(s) you are affiliated with:

Community Mediation Private Mediator Court Personnel

Domestic Violence Coalition Domestic Violence Service Provider Attorney

Other _____

Workshop Selection

In addition to the numerous general sessions, participants may choose from the following concurrent workshops. Please refer to the workshop schedule and circle each workshop you plan to attend. Choose only one in each series.

Thursday, May 11th	Workshop Series I *	1.1	1.2		
	<i>*We strongly recommend that mediators attend Workshop 1.1 and domestic violence professionals attend Workshop 1.2.</i>				
	Workshop Series II	2.1	2.2	2.3	
Friday, May 12th	Workshop Series III	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4

Mail Registration form with check payable to:

Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc.

Attn: Jennifer Jorgensen

29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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29 North Hamilton Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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