



Maryland Collaborative Practice Council

resolving disputes respectfully

Message from the President

MCPC has continued to work this spring and summer as a hub of the Collaborative wheel that supports, connects, and unites practice groups in Maryland.

Please hold the date for the Maryland Leadership Summit on September 11 at 5pm at Turf Valley in Ellicott City. At this meeting, we will be gathering the Collaborative Leadership of Maryland to talk about everything going on with Collaborative Practice in the state. The MCPC Board as well as the current president, past president, and president elect of all the Maryland Practice groups have all been invited to this event as well as other special guests. This will be a unique opportunity to meet other leaders in our collaborative community, share information, and find out about what is going on around the state.

MCPC is also working on enhancing the website. Soon you will see a statewide calendar of events, shared resources such a training DVD's, and a list of speakers available for Practice Group programs.

We are also continuing our work to support the Maryland statewide programs such as the Community Project (low and pro bono), UCLA passage, ethics research, and public education through the Collaborative Road Show. We can always use help on these and other projects. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know.

Finally, we are working on our first ever Maryland Forum in the Spring of 2013. The date will be announced soon. I promise that this will be a not to be missed event!

Margie Hofberg

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marylandcollaborativepractice.com

Improve the Financial Position of Your Clients – Make Sure They Know About “HARP II”

By Margie Hofberg

In many cases separation and divorce result in very difficult financial circumstances for the parties. With household budgets strained, every dollar of expense reduction is a help. Most homeowners are aware that current mortgage rates are at their lowest in over 50 years, and Residential Mortgage Center has helped many of them substantially lower their monthly mortgage payment.

However, there exist a sizeable number of homeowners who want to refinance to a lower rate, and have the income and credit to enable them to refinance, but because their home has decreased in value in the last few years they have not been able to do so. Now they can, using HARP II (the Home Affordable Refinance Program, Version II).

HARP II allows homeowners who have made their payments on time, maintained their credit rating and have sufficient income, to refinance down to today's super low interest rates even if the current value of their home is no more than their mortgage balance. Or even if the value is a few percentage points below the mortgage balance.

In our experience, we have found that many of these “home value challenged” homeowners had tried to refinance earlier but were prevented from doing so by their home's value. Many became discouraged, and many are still unaware of the recent expansion of the HARP program which would make it possible for them to refinance.

Other program features offered by HARP II as compared to HARP I include the ability to remove one of the owners (very important in divorce situations!), higher qualifying ratios, and unlimited combined loan-to-value ratios, which is relevant when there is a second mortgage on the property.

We recently were able to obtain a HARP II loan for one client, after he had been turned down for a refinance because his loan-to-value ratio was 105%, meaning his mortgage was 5% higher than the current value of his home. With his new HARP II loan he is now paying approximately \$450 less per month on his mortgage.

So keep HARP II in mind while you are reviewing your clients' financial situation, and if they have not refinanced recently, be sure to tell them about the benefits of HARP II. And of course, for additional information please call or email me anytime.

2012 Calendar of Events

aug

Friday, Aug 10 – Sunday, Aug 12, 5:00pm *Family Mediation: Child Access Training @ 12573 Ansin Circle Drive, Potomac, MD*

sep

Friday, Sep 14 - Saturday, Sep 15, 8:30am – 4:30pm *Basic Training: Introduction To Multidisciplinary Collaborative Practice @ Hilton Garden Inn, Owings Mills, MD*

Wednesday, Sep 19 - 6:00pm *Financial Neutral Collaborative Divorce Advanced Training @ JSSA, 200 Wood Hill Rd, Rockville MD*

Monday, Sep 24 *CDRP Monthly Meeting @ Timpano Chophouse, Rockville, MD*

Monday, Sep 24 - 11:30am-1:00pm *Meeting of the Howard County Collaborative Professionals @ Union Jack's, Columbia, MD*

Thursday, Sep 27 - 6:00pm *Collaborative Divorce Association Fall Kick-off Meeting @ Shulman Rogers, Potomac, MD*

oct

Monday, Oct 22 *CDRP Monthly Meeting @ Timpano Chophouse, Rockville, MD*

Thursday, Oct 25 - 6:00pm *Collaborative Divorce Association Monthly Meeting @ Location TBD*

nov

Thursday, Nov 8 - Sunday Nov 11, 8:30am – 5:00pm *30 Hour Mediation and Interest-Based Negotiation Skills Training @ Collaborative Practice Center, Washington, DC*

Thursday, Nov 22 - 6:00pm *Collaborative Divorce Association Monthly Meeting @ Location TBD*

Monday, Nov 26 *CDRP Monthly Meeting @ Timpano Chophouse, Rockville, MD*



Collaborative Council of Western Maryland (CCWM) and Association of Collaborative Professionals (ACP) members spent time networking at a recent presentation of the Collaborative Road Show at Brewer's Alley in Frederick.



Members of the Association of Collaborative Professionals (ACP) and the Collaborative Council of Western Maryland (CCWM) enjoy dinner with MCPC President, Margie Hofberg, prior to the Collaborative Road Show Presentation.

Highlights from the 49th Annual AFCC Conference

By Teri Heger

As ACP President, I recently attended the 49th Annual Conference of the Association of Families and Conciliation Courts, on June 6-9, in Chicago, Illinois.

The theme of the conference was "Attachment, Brain Science, and Children of Divorce: The ABCD's of Child Development for Family Law."

Dr. Allan N. Shore, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, was the keynote speaker during the opening plenary session. Dr. Shore presented his research on the impact of attachment on human brain development and emotional regulation. His research supports John Bowlby's theory on attachment, in that there are time sensitive, critical periods of human brain development during the first three years of life that are the building blocks of psychological, social, and behavioral health. Dr. Shore's research is published in his recent book, *The Science of the Art of Psychotherapy*.

The conference workshops included topics such as "Fathering and Father Involvement after Divorce: Current

Collaborative Project of Maryland Update

By Teri Heger

The Collaborative Project of Maryland was recently awarded a Special Projects Grant from Maryland's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to help fund the program's new fiscal year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013).

Project Coordinator Vega Subramaniam reflected on the significance of this milestone. On July 1, 2012 the project stopped "being a Pilot and start[ed] being Special". Subramaniam went on to reflect that "perhaps we still have some work to do before becoming Extraordinary, but we can take pride in now being bona fide, anyway!... we have all of our systems and protocols in place, have numerous cases in our pipeline, and are getting a steady stream of referrals on a weekly basis."

Collaborative Project Board members and Subramaniam have also been working closely with the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland and AOC to connect with legal service providers throughout the state. Subramaniam notes "the excitement in the referral sources we meet with when they learn about our project and know that we're a resource for so many of their clients that they otherwise couldn't help." Our collaborative community has also risen to the call for volunteer attorneys, mental health professionals and financial neutrals. Subramaniam says the volunteers she has spoken with are "enthusiastic and engaged."

Social Science Research" by Joan Kelly, Ph.D. and Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., MSL; "Timeless Attachments: Shared Residential Parenting – Research and Policy Implications", a panel discussion of experts; "Assessing Parenting Skills for Family Court", by John A. Moran, Ph.D. and David K. Weinstock, JD, Ph.D., and "Has the Pendulum Swung? Revisiting the Psychological Needs of the Child" by Bram Fridhandler, Ph.D., Jennifer B. Rhodes, PsyD, Eddie Yu-Wai Chiu, PhD, and Dana Iscoff, MA, MFT.

Attachment theory is a helpful way to understand child development, but it is not definitive. There are concerns regarding the "over-application" of attachment research and the return to a gender specific, archaic understanding of parenting in terms of child custody. It is important for legal and mental health professionals to understand the developmental needs of children as they assist parents through their divorce process and create parenting plans that are uniquely tailored to the needs of their children.

For more information, visit www.afcc.org.

MCPC Board Members

Full Board Members

Margie Hofberg, President
Jolie Weinberg, Past President
Karen Robbins, Past President
Steven Weisbaum, President-Elect
Stacey Andersen, Secretary
Tom Burns, Treasurer
Ron Bergman, At-Large
Elizabeth Stup, At-Large
Suzy Eckstein, At-Large

Practice Group Representatives

Dan Kennedy, ACP
Nancy Weller, AACCP
Brian Kane, CCWM
Bruce Avery, CDRP
Steve Gaba, CDA
Mary Stengel, CRAB
Scott Holzman, HCCP
Kathleen Wobber, MCLA

For more information on the Collaborative Project, or to refer individuals or volunteer, please contact Vega Subramaniam at vega@collaborativeprojectmd.org.

Note: Collaborative Project of Maryland is the trade name for the Collaborative Practice Community Project.

Maryland Collaborative Practice Group Updates

Anne Arundel Collaborative Professionals

The Anne Arundel Collaborative Professionals' Board of Directors are discussing revitalization of the group and adopting membership requirements. If you are interested in further information or would like to join, please contact President Nancy Weller, LLC at (410) 263-3660, or nlw@nancyweller.com, 22 1/2 West Street, Annapolis, MD.

Collaborative Council of Western Maryland

The Collaborative Council of Western Maryland, Inc. ("CCWM") is pleased to announce the launch of its new website at www.gocollaborative.org. CCWM is a nonprofit association of financial professionals, mental health practitioners and lawyers formed in 2011 to spread the word about collaborative practice in Western Maryland and the surrounding four-state region.

CCWM's website, designed and produced with the help of DatAchieve Digital of Hagerstown, will be a primary medium for public outreach and education about the benefits of collaborative practice as a respectful, cooperative alternative to litigation as a means of dispute resolution. As a source of educational materials for those new to the concept of collaborative practice, and as a broadcast medium for informational programs, the website will leverage the broad audience available via the internet in a cost-effective way for the organization.

CCWM is proud to include among its founding members seasoned mental health care professionals with broad experience in family systems theory and practice, as well as the legal dimensions of modern mental health practice such as parent coordination and forensic evaluation. In addition, CCWM's financial and legal practitioners have depth of expertise and experience in all areas of family law, business work-outs and intergenerational estate and financial matters, all of which lend themselves readily to the Collaborative approach. All practitioners are trained in interdisciplinary and traditional models of collaborative practice.

For more information about CCWM, please direct your browser to www.gocollaborative.org, or contact Ron Sulchek, CPA, at rsulchek@sulchek.com or Brian Kane, Esq. at brian.kane@poole-kane.com.

Collaborative Divorce Association

The Collaborative Institute 2012, held on April 20th at Lakewood Country Club, featuring Dr. Gerald Monk, Janice Green and Kris Algert, was a great success, thanks to the joined efforts of CDA, CDRP, the Collaborative Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association and the National Family Resiliency Center.

Incoming CDA Co-Presidents, Stuart Skok and John Lefkowitz hosted the annual Planning Retreat on Friday, July 27th, from 9:00 am – noon at Avenel Country Club. All incoming Board members and those interested in joining the Board attended.

CDA monthly member meetings will continue on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. The fall kick-off meeting will be held on September 27, 2012, 6:00 pm at Shulman, Rogers. All members are encouraged to come.

Please contact Stuart Skok at sskok@houlonberman.com or John Lefkowitz at john@suburbanpsychology.com for more information about joining CDA or becoming more involved. CDA, Inc.'s website is www.collaborativedivorcemd.com.

Collaborative Divorce Resolution Professionals

CDRP held its election for the 2012-2013 program year. The following people were elected: Debbie May, President; Leslie Terner, President-Elect; Vicki Viramontes-LaFree, Past President; Sara Scott, Secretary; Russell Bregman, Treasurer; Annemarie Wall and Sharon Ballard, Education Committee; Roger Hayden, Civil Practice Committee; Debbie Goldstein, Membership Committee; Julia Kirvan, Meetings Committee, P. Lindsay Parvis, Public Education Committee; Bruce Avery, MCPC Representative; and Susan Soler, At-Large.

CDRP united with CDA to put on the Spring Collaborative Institute. It also hosted tables at the Bar Association of Montgomery County Law Day and at the Maryland State Bar Association annual convention.

The CDRP Board met in late June to review its Strategic Plan and make adjustments for the 2012-2013 program year. It first evaluated the program year just ending. Overall CDRP accomplished 90% of the tasks it had developed in the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan. It also accomplished some things that were not identified at the beginning of the year, but that came up later and needed to be done. One of the biggest things accomplished was developing a reporting system for cases so there will be some firm information about how many cases are being done.

One of CDRP's strategic goals for the new year is to increase professional awareness of collaborative practice. The audience is not just family lawyers or lawyers whose practices are in areas where collaborative practice is more likely to be used, but all professionals, attorneys, mental health professionals and other professionals from whom a potential client might seek an opinion about their situation. CDRP is separately seeking to increase public awareness of collaborative practice and to increase its membership's involvement in this effort. It will be seeking input from its members as to where word can be spread and will be seeking members to do the spreading. CDRP is going to explore whether a brief version of the Road Show can be created and how it could be used.

Another goal is to reformat monthly meetings to increase educational, networking and process value to all members and guests. The final goal is to coordinate with the larger collaborative community. As the Maryland Collaborative Practice Council changes its focus to working with practice groups rather than with individual practitioners what will be CDRP's role? There also needs to be coordination in the DC metro area to share ideas, information, and programs.

CDRP will continue to evaluate its plan throughout the year and make changes as necessary to improve the climate for collaborative practice which, in turn, should mean that more practitioners will be doing more cases.

CDRP meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Its new location for meetings is Timpano Chophouse, 12021 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. The next meeting will be on September 24.

If you would like further information on CDRP, please contact Bruce E. Avery at (301) 762-7644 or bea@averyuptonlaw.com, Avery & Upton, 51 Monroe Street, Suite 701, Rockville, MD.

Collaborative Divorce Resolution Professionals Book Club

The CDRP Book Club is open to all practitioners whether collaboratively trained, members of CDRP or not, and other interested parties. Everyone, regardless of practice group is invited. The purpose of the club is to read some of the books we meant to read and to get to know one another. Our next book is *Money Harmony* by Olivia Mellan. It is available on Amazon [here](#). The next book will be announced as soon as it is decided on.

The CDRP Book Club meets monthly on consecutive days so members have two chances to discuss the book. The next meetings will be August 13th at 8:15 am and August 14th at 12 noon. The August 13th meeting will be held at Karen Robbins' office at 2919-B Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, MD. The August 14th meeting will be held at Bruce Avery's office at Avery & Upton, 51 Monroe Street, Suite 701, Rockville, MD. To RSVP for the upcoming meetings or for more information on the CDRP Book Club, please contact Karen at (301) 260-0223 or Bruce at (301) 762-8744.

Collaborative Roundtable at Baltimore

At CRAB's monthly meeting in May, it had an incredibly informative presentation by Ida Reis (www.idareis.com) on the topic of "Alimony & Child Support: How to Qualify Your Client for a Mortgage." CRAB's meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month and alternate breakfast and lunch. For more information, please contact Mary Stengel at 410-660-9198 or mmstengel@comcast.net.

Frederick Association of Collaborative Professionals

It has been a busy season for the ACP in Frederick. A new slate of officers was elected during the group's annual

meeting on June 12. Officers for 2012-13 are Teri Heger, President; Lorraine Prete, Vice President; Sue Shaffer, Secretary, and Gayle Bromberg, Treasurer. The group is looking forward to working together this summer to plan for the year ahead. ACP had a good turn-out at the Collaborative Roadshow co-hosted by ACP and the Washington County collaborative practice group on June 20th at Brewer's Alley in Frederick. It was a great time of networking and learning new ways to share the collaborative process with the community. Several ACP members plan to attend a collaborative training sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts in Annapolis on August 6-8. This will be useful in our ongoing efforts to develop a cost containment model that will give more individuals access to the collaborative process. If you are interested in further information, please contact Teri Heger at AssociatedFamilyCounseling@yahoo.com or Lorraine Prete at (301) 694-6363.

Howard County Collaborative Professionals

HCCP welcomes its new incoming president Colby Hall and newly elected board members Barbara Kaufman, Mary Stengel, and Gretchen Conley.

Recently, HCCP revamped its website from its old format to a new improved platform. You can check it out at www.collaborativepracticehc.com.

HCCP does not have any meetings scheduled this summer. Its first meeting of the season will be Monday, September 24th from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at Union Jack's, 10400 Little Patuxent Pkwy. Columbia, MD, (410) 740-5225. Members and guests wanting to attend an HCCP event are welcome.

Individuals interested in obtaining more information about HCCP are encouraged to contact Scott A. Holzman, PhD, MCPC board member and HCCP practice group representative at (410) 491-6316 or psychscotta@hotmail.com.



Mission Statement

The purpose of the MCPC is to support Collaborative Practice Groups, advocate state-wide on legislative, executive, and judicial initiatives, and to advance the use of the Collaborative Process as a method of dispute resolution.

Vision

Our vision for MCPC is to be the hub of the Collaborative wheel that supports, connects, and unites practice groups, and is the foundation for advocacy and expanded use of the Collaborative Process in Maryland.



Collaborative Practice Training Institute (CPTI)

30-Hour Interest-Based Negotiation & Mediation Skills Training

November 8, 2012	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
November 9, 2012	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
November 10, 2012	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
November 11, 2012	8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location:

Collaborative Practice Center of Greater Washington
1630 Connecticut Ave, NW - 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
(Dupont Circle – North (Q Street) Exit)

CPTI TRAINERS:

Barbara A. Burr, Esq., Collaborative Lawyer & Mediator
Lonnie Broussard, CFP[®], CDFA[™] Financial Specialist
Lisa Herrick, PhD, Mental Health Professional
Kate Scharff, MSW, Mental Health Professional

Training meets the IACP mediation training requirement for Collaborative Professionals.

Continuing Education Credits available as explained on attached sheet.

For more information, contact Lisa Herrick at
703-847-5793 or lherrickphd@gmail.com

Grievance Procedures available upon request or please request from Jan D. Hembree, PhD at
hembreephd@aol.com



CPTI *Getting to the
Heart of the Matter.*



**COLLABORATIVE
PRACTICE**
Resolving Disputes Respectfully