



Maryland Collaborative Practice Council

resolving disputes respectfully

Message from the President

It is with great pleasure that I draft this, my first President’s Message, for 2013-2014. I want to begin by thanking the outgoing Board members for their time and commitment over the past year and a half, as MCPC transitioned from an organization of individual members to an organization comprised of practice groups. Many thanks to Bruce Avery, Tom Burns, Scott Holzman, Karen Robbins, Mary Stengel, Elizabeth Stup, and Jolie Weinberg. Special thanks to my predecessor, Margie Hofberg, for overseeing that transition and for a productive year that included a statewide Leadership Summit, and two important educational programs: Ethics in Collaborative Practice and a two-day Spring Forum. The Spring Forum introduced attendees to the collaborative “Roadmap, a means of initiating and implementing the collaborative model by creating a roadmap to be used by professionals and team members from the beginning to the end of a collaborative case. The Roadmap gives us an easy way to explain and anchor our clients to the steps of the collaborative case, and to get them to take responsibility for their part of the work – to vest them in the process itself. It allows all team members (regardless of experience level, or practice group) to use the same language and be on the same page as we move through a collaborative case.

Collaborative practice is flourishing throughout the state, and newly trained practitioners are being added to the ranks of collaborative practitioners every day. We have practice groups throughout the state, and new practice groups are forming all the time. Groups of recently trained practitioners are coming together in Prince George’s County and across several counties on the Eastern Shore, arranging meetings and establishing new practice groups to serve their own communities and needs.

While practice groups differ with respect to the goals they seek to achieve and the needs they serve for their ---->

members and their communities, a common denominator among all practice groups is a community of people who give generously of their time and experience, individually and through their practice groups, to encourage the use of collaborative practice as a model of dispute resolution. This year MCPC will be focusing on several important initiatives in an effort to advance our goals of strengthening and supporting practice group development throughout Maryland and fostering and promoting communication and sharing among practice groups.

The vision of 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. One of my goals this year will be to make the MCPC website (www.marylandcollaborativepractice.com) a more effective tool for promoting communication and sharing among and between practice groups. On the MCPC website, collaborative practitioners can currently find a listing of the practice groups around the state, including links to their websites and contact information for practice group leaders.

In furtherance of our vision, we will be adding functionality to the website this year that will include sample organizational documents for newly forming practice groups, creating links to a library of collaborative practice materials and aids, and sharing educational resources and educational opportunities among practice groups around the state, among other things. We will continue to rely on our quarterly Newsletter and our Practice Groups Representatives as a means of connecting collaborative practice groups and collaborative practitioners around the state with one another. On November 6, 2013, MCPC will host a dinner for collaborative leaders from around the state at our Second Annual Collaborative Leadership Summit. The Leadership Summit provides an opportunity for collaborative leaders from each practice group and from the collaborative community at large to meet and learn about initiatives furthering the growth of collaborative practice throughout Maryland.

In addition to developing and expanding our role as the “hub” in the collaborative wheel, we will continue our work to promote the passage of a Uniform Collaborative Law Act, and we will continue our work to establish a foundation that will allow MCPC to engage in fundraising to advance our goals into the future. I look forward to another exciting year in the evolution of MCPC and collaborative practice in Maryland. Stay tuned!

Steven M. Weisbaum

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Upcoming Events

MCPC Collaborative Leadership Summit

November 6, 2013

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Rolling Road Golf Club, Baltimore MD

Cost: \$40.00

By invitation to collaborative leaders around the State of Maryland. Meet other collaborative leaders from around the state and learn about initiatives furthering the growth of collaborative practice throughout Maryland. If your practice group does not have a representative attending this summit, please contact MCPC for an invitation at sweisbaum@mac.com.

InAccord Three Day Mediation Training

December 5-7, 2013

Falls Church, VA

Cost: \$795 per person for all 3 days (if received by 11/22),
\$895 per person after 11/22

Mediators without Borders is hosting comprehensive 3-Day mediation training. Learn the process of mediation and the skills relevant to resolving conflicts utilizing the InAccord model. For further information, please email adele.dari@gmail.com.

MCPC Board Meetings – 2014

The MCPC Board of Directors meets four times per year.

November 6, 2013

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. (immediately preceding the Leadership Summit in Catonsville).

January 8, 2014

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

March 6, 2014

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

May 8, 2014

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

2000 Century Plaza, Ground Floor Conference Room,
10632 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia MD

Each practice group is invited to appoint a board member. If your practice group is not represented on the board, contact MCPC President Steve Weisbaum at sweisbaum@mac.com.



Maryland Collaborative Practice Council

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.

MCPC Board Members

Full Board Members

Steven Weisbaum, President
Stacy Anderson, Vice President
Margie Hofberg, Past President
Kathleen Wobber, Secretary
Sue Soler, Treasurer

Practice Group Representatives

Nancy Weller, AACP
Kathleen Wobber, BCDP
Jac Knust, CPB
Dan Kennedy, ACP (Frederick)
Colette Brunell, HCCP
Debora May, CDRP (Montgomery)
Stephanie Fink, CDA (Montgomery)
Brian Kane, CCWM (Washington, Frederick)

Maryland Collaborative Practice Group Updates

Association of Collaborative Professionals (ACP) Frederick County, MD

The Association of Collaborative Professionals (ACP) is pleased to announce the launch of their new website! You can now reach the ACP virtually by visiting: www.collaborativefrederick.com. Please join the ACP September through June on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Law offices of Lorraine Prete located at 5 West Church Street, Frederick, Maryland. All guests are welcome. In addition, the ACP plans an array of social and educational events outside of the original monthly meeting. Event updates will soon be available on their website.

The ACP looks forward to your participation! If you have any questions please contact Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical President, Teri Heger, at 301.228.2303.

Collaborative Council of Western Maryland (CCWM)

CCWM is making a grand leap in helping students achieve more this year. The Council's principal mission is to pursue grant funding sites and donors to help sponsor various aspects of public education. In 2012, The Council received an endowment towards education from the Washington County Gaming Commission and plans to further build their sponsorship. By targeting public education campaigns, the MCPC of Western Maryland will make an even bigger impact on public education this year.

The MCPC of Western Maryland is also looking to increase MCPC participation. The council has been meeting with local civil groups with efforts to compose a speaker's bureau to assist in spreading the collaborative message. Representatives from the speaker's bureau are planning to present November 6, 2013 at the Leadership Summit. The MCPC of Western Maryland thanks you for your continued support.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member with the MCPC of Western Maryland please contact Brian Kain at 301-790-3600.

Collaborative Dispute Resolution Professionals (CDRP) Montgomery County, MD

Mark your calendars for the CDRP's co-sponsored Spring Fling on June 6, 2014. Spring Fling will be packed with a full day of educational programs and guest speaker Sharon Ellison, author of Taking the War out of Words. This event is open to the wider community and all MCPC members are encouraged to come. Non-MPCP members

that would like to attend should contact Alex Seleznev by phone at 301-656-5794 or by email at aseleznev@may-barnhard.com. Spring Fling will take place at the Lakewood County Club located at 13901 Glen Mill Road, Rockville Maryland.

CDRP is instituting a full educational program in October and November. The program will feature two national speakers from the International Association of Chiefs of Police or IACP.

Monthly meetings for the CDRP are at Timpanos Chophouse located at 12021 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The Council will not meet in October 2013 or February 2014.

If you have any questions or are interested in membership with the CDRP please contact Debbie May at 301-656-5794 ext 17.

Howard County Collaborative Professionals (HCCP)

HCCP is excited to announce their upcoming series of presentations for the Fall of 2013. Their September 16th meeting will cover "The RoadMap", presented by Shelly Ingram with an icebreaker exercise by Barry Frieman. On October 21st, Patricia Omana from the Maryland Health Connection in Howard County will present on the "Affordable Healthcare Act for You and your Clients". Risa Garon will moderate a panel of Financial Neutrals on November 18th entitled "Bumps In the Road". All of these meetings are lunch meetings held at Union Jack's in Columbia, MD. On December 16th a breakfast meeting will take place at Meg Oliver's office with a presentation by HCCP's very own Ida Reis, Mortgage Broker, focusing on short sales entitled "What I Can Do for your Clients for Free". HCCP is also happy to announce their bi-annual happy hour on Thursday, November 7th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Ranazul at Maple Lawn in Fulton.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Burns at 410-465-7904.

MCPC Prince George's County Chapter

The MCPC is readily growing and is now moving into Prince George's County. The MCPC would like to welcome an exciting new addition to the team! PG County Professionals will host an organizational meeting Thursday October 24, 2013 at the PG County Circuit Court Library at 4:30 p.m. The group plans to establish a working/learning practice group throughout PG County and encompassing Southern Maryland. The organizational meeting is open to all members of the community. MCPC members are strongly encouraged to attend. Please register with Kathy Brissette-Minus, Esq. at 301-883-8710 or kathy.minus@kbminuslaw.com.

MCPC Eastern Shore Chapter

The MCPC would like to welcome its newest practice group professionals from the Mid-Shore! For further information on the group, please contact Carolyn Kalbfus at carolyn.kelly22@gmail.com.

Your Collaborative Tool Belt - The IACP Website

The Collaborative Tool Belt is a series of articles on tools for your collaborative practice. If you have tools which you have found useful, send an email to k.wobber@parlerwobber.com and your information will be shared with the collaborative community.

The International Academy of Collaborative Professionals is a group dedicated to the advancement of collaborative law. Through its website, the IACP provides information to the public about the Collaborative Process, explaining the process and offering success stories using the collaborative model. While many collaborative professionals maintain membership with IACP, a surprising number of practitioners do not fully utilize the tools provided by the IACP.

Your \$150 membership (\$100 if your practice group requires membership) allows you to post your own web profile on the IACP website, but it is up to you to build a page which will be attractive to potential clients. Family law in general, and collaborative practice in particular, is a very personal service and clients want to know more about an attorney whom they are considering retaining. In your IACP web page, you can write a few paragraphs about your practice, your experience and your background, as well as complete contact information. The site allows you to upload a photo and has sections for your education, licenses, professional memberships, and collaborative training (remember that financial workshop at your last practice group meeting? That counts as training!). The IACP web page allows anyone to search for collaborative practitioners by location and areas of expertise, which makes it a good referral source for both the public and other collaborative practitioners. When building a team, collaborative practitioners can, for example, refer their clients to the site to choose a coach. This writer has had received calls from a number of prospective clients who had obtained information directly from the IACP website, making it a cost-effective marketing tool.

The IACP website also has a section dedicated to professional members via a password. The site provides a model participation agreement and guidelines for various types of practitioners, as well as sample agendas dedicated to particular issues and sample letters to prospective clients. The site also includes a number of useful articles on collaborative practice, including a chart on the success

of the collaborative model when dealing with various client “difficulty factors”, a survey-based profile on common elements in successful collaborative cases and articles on client experience in the collaborative model. For practice groups the site includes sample bylaws and strategic plans to help jumpstart your organization.

If you are not already an IACP member, or if you have joined but not created your web page, consider adding the IACP website as a valuable tool in your collaborative tool belt.

Collaborative Project of Maryland Update

The Collaborative Project of Maryland (CPM) is a resource for families of modest means who wish to utilize the collaborative model. Sponsored in large part by the Maryland Administrative Office of Courts, and relying upon volunteer collaborative attorneys, CPM links screened families with teams of professionals, ideally linking a less experienced professional with a more experienced team. Professionals are compensated on a reduced-fee basis for their participation in CPM cases.

A team from Baltimore recently completed a case in Cecil county, because there were no trained professionals in that area. Cecil County attorney Bruce Hemphill allowed the team to utilize his law office, and provided parking. The case involved an unmarried couple, each of whom sought custody of a four-year-old girl. The team, consisting of two attorneys and a therapist, negotiated many challenges, including residential and transportation issues. The couple ultimately resolved the custody issue and both parents felt that the Collaborative Process addressed their needs and concerns. As a result of discussions with the team during breaks, a few Cecil County attorneys have recently received collaborative training!

Volunteer forms can be found on www.collaborativeprojectmd.org, and attorneys who have received collaborative training through the Administrative Office of Courts are asked to take a CPM case. CPM is currently sending Wayne Warren, Executive Director to practice group meetings, to answer questions and provide information. Practice group members are also encouraged to refer clients to CPM for screening if the clients are interested in the Collaborative Process but are unable to afford the team fees. If you have questions about CPM, please contact Wayne Warren at (301) 267-5701.

If you have participated as a CPM volunteer, please email the MCPC Newsletter editor (k.wobber@parlerwobber.com) and let us know about your experience.