

Community Dispute Resolution Program Annual Report 2014



25 Years of Serving Michigan Residents

As we move forward in our 25th year of serving communities around the state, the CDRP highlights the accomplishments achieved by our 18 mediation centers in 2014. One bright example was the recognition the CDRP received from Governor Rick Snyder as a Top 5 finalist in the Governor's Service Awards for "Outstanding Volunteer Program." This was not only a tremendous honor, but it also helped raise the visibility of the program.



(Left to Right: Annette Wells, President of Michigan Community Dispute Resolution Centers Association; Doug Van Epps, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution; Governor Rick Snyder)

2014 At A Glance

Individuals involved in cases	37,008
Disposed cases	14,725
Average days to disposition	24
Average duration of mediation (hours)	1.4
Average amount per settlement	\$2,472
Number of centers	18
Grants awarded.....	\$1,500,000

Who We Are

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. Local centers may be contacted at (800)8RESOLVE. Current CDRP Performance Dashboards can be found online at courts.mi.gov/cdrpdashboard.

What is Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which a trained, neutral person helps disputing parties reach a mutually satisfactory resolution. Unlike the adversarial nature of traditional litigation, mediation involves mutual problem solving where the parties generate options they believe would best resolve their own conflict.

Who are the Mediators?

The mediators are volunteers who have completed both a 40-hour training program approved by the State Court Administrative Office and a supervised internship. Mediators providing services in the areas of domestic relations, guardianship, child welfare, and special education have also received additional advanced training. Additional program volunteers serve as trainers, outreach workers, administrators, workshop facilitators, and office assistants.

How are Grants Awarded?

Grant awards are based on each center's prorata share of the civil court filing fund fees generated in the center's service area and the center's performance measurement score from the prior year. The center's performance measurement score, called the weighted caseload score, computes the efficiency of the centers. The centers also rely on additional grant funding from local sources, conduct fund-raising, and receive donated goods and services.

Program Performance Increases Achieved in Many Areas

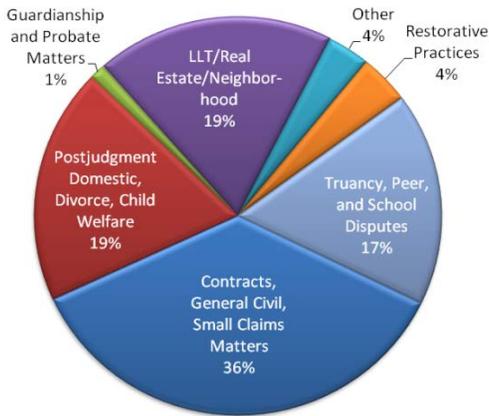
Program performance increased across a number of measures: the number of settlements increased; the number of individuals served increased; the amount of money distributed between parties increased, implying a higher complexity of cases settling; and, the number of truancy and other school services increased.

HIGH SETTLEMENT AND COMPLIANCE RATES

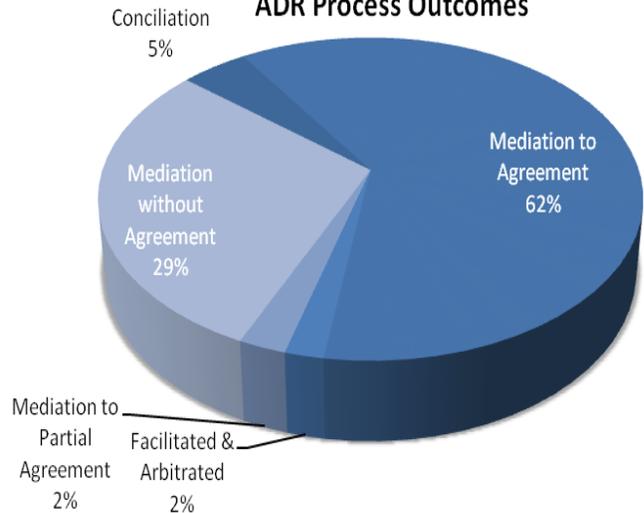
Cases disposed through ADR processes.....	74%
Settlement rate	70%
Compliance with agreements*	73%
Court referrals (of all disposed cases).....	75%

*compliance based on random surveys

Types of Cases Disposed



ADR Process Outcomes



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
- Non-Domestic Personal Protection Orders

District Court Case Type

- General Civil Claims
- Landlord/Tenant
- Small Claims

Probate Court Case Type

- Guardianship
- Conservatorships, Trusts, and Testamentary Matters

School Conflict Management Services

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