



MVMP

MV MEDIATION PROGRAM

We Can Work It Out!

May 2021



OUR MISSION

To serve our community by providing education, outreach, mediation, conflict coaching, facilitation and related services to help prevent and resolve conflicts.

OUR VISION

To create an island of competent, capable and effective conflict resolvers.

[Visit our Website](#)

Mediator Musings: Mirrors and Lenses

Sara Barnes, Executive Director

In the 6th grade class, they are realizing that the conflicts are not going to be resolved very satisfactorily if the mediator decides up front who is right and who is wrong. "So even if I'm pretty sure who was the jerk, I can't say it, I have to wait to find out if that's true or not? Woah that's going to be hard to do!"

In the Productive Conversations course the older parent realizes that her impulsive reaction to her adult daughter's request might not be the productive conversation she was aiming for. "Ok, ok now I get it. I should go to the balcony for a while until I think of something helpful to say. Or to have an open-ended question to ask."

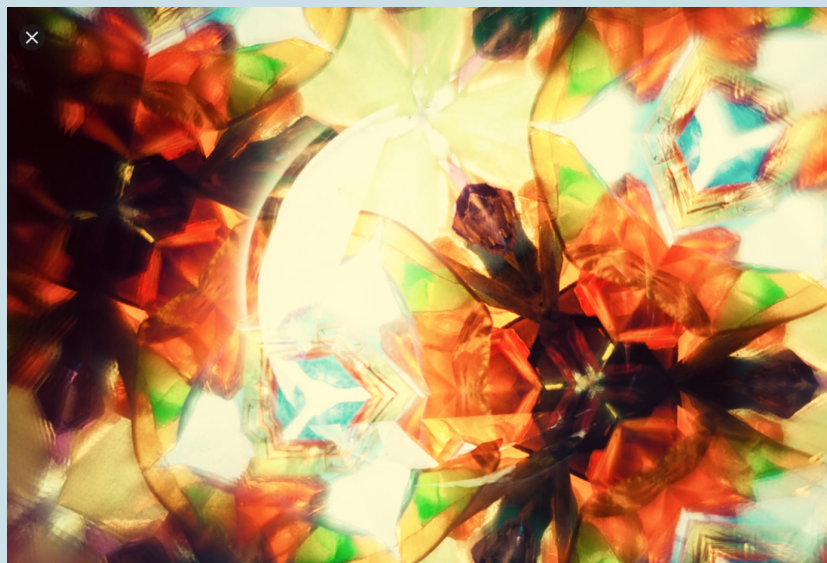
In the housing mediation the landlord is realizing that the lack of communication was where things went wrong. “If only I had known you had lost your job and what you wanted was my help to apply for the RAFT program. I should have replied to your emails—we wouldn’t be in court.”

And in the conflict coaching 1:1 second session, the coaching client declares an epiphany. “Mutuality. MU!-TU!-AL!-I!-TY!. It’s like a light bulb finally went off and I realize that I need to look at things from the other person’s point of view. Duh. I get it now.”

As the Executive Director of MV mediation, when I look across these scenes I think of the kaleidoscope. The homemade one we created with little mirrors and lenses when my son was in kindergarten. We dropped in an ordinary pebble, bits of colored glass, beads and varied flakes and shapes. One time trash pieces became altogether something else entirely. And beautiful.

Mirrors and lenses—it’s what we do. We take the conflict and reflect it back to the individual for them to consider their own actions. We look at the conflict through a new lens—a lens such as mutuality, neutrality, inquiry--so they can consider the possible motivations of others. We shake things up a bit. Most times, and after a while in mediation or coaching, something new finally comes into view.

Mirrors and lenses to look at the conflicts in our lives, to see possibilities we may have missed before.



Diversity Outreach Program

The Listening Conversations initiative is part of a research initiative developed by the University of Massachusetts and with the support of MOPC (Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration). Across the State Community Mediation Centers are working to expand our reach into underserved communities. Here at MV Mediation we are working to include more Portuguese speakers as our clients and as service providers.

Bom Dia! Bem-vindo à nossa comunidade de língua portuguesa!

We are pleased to be able to provide both interpretation and translation services in Portuguese!



PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS - Saturdays May/June
10 am - 11:15

Families with Older Adults- Conflict Resolution with Multi-Generational Families
Take this course with your parent or adult child.
Or take the course yourself and bring your new learning to the people in your life.

The course

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Lifelong Conflict Concepts | Saturday May 22, 2021 |
| • Conflict Styles | Saturday May 29, 2021 |
| • Positions and Interests | Saturday June 5, 2021 |
| • Values, Needs, Identity, Feelings | Saturday June 12, 2021 |

To get more information click on [flyer](#) or email us at info@mvmediation.org

The Productive Conversations Program

The Productive Conversations Program is a new initiative for families with older adults to work with a neutral facilitator. Participants will learn about conflict resolution skills, discuss family conflict history and plan together for the future. Send us an email if you and your extended family would like to participate in this pilot project.

Thank you to Martha's Vineyard Bank Foundation for significant financial support for this program!

Board of Directors Corner

The Board meets monthly. In our April meeting we reviewed our confidentiality policies and discussed the implementation of the weekly Mediators' Check-ins. Board members received reports on the Housing Mediation Program, Financial Education and Financial Conflict Coaching and Productive Conversations course. As we gear up for Fiscal Year 2022 we are looking at our budget and considering new SMART goals--the Board takes on four new ones every year. Next month the Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominations/re-nominations and suggestions for our organization's continued improvement.



Upcoming Events for Mediators

MEDIATORS' CHECK IN - Every Wednesday at 4pm

- May 5--Power imbalances--attorneys in the mediation
- May 12--Writing agreements--tips for mediators
- May 19--Housing mediation--dilemmas and updates with a summary process Judge
- May 26--Build mediator/coach/facilitator community--fun get to know you activities

Send an email to info@mvmmediation.org to participate

**Training in Financial Conflict Coaching coming last week of May.
Summary Process training for already qualified mediators--May or June.**



Housing Mediation Program

We are now able to offer FREE mediation services for housing issues. We are part of the State Eviction Diversion Initiative and are providing mediation services for tenants and landlords in Dukes and Bristol counties.

For more information email admin@mvmmediation.org or call 508-693-2199

RAFT/ ERAP -

The New Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is an emergency housing assistance program to alleviate financial stress for renters and landlords. ERAP provides rental, [utility], and moving assistance to qualifying renters facing housing instability and financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To be eligible for ERAP, households must:

- Reside in rental housing in Massachusetts
- Have an income no more than 80 percent of area median income (AMI)
- Attest to:
 - Having experienced a financial hardship related to COVID-19
 - Be at risk of homelessness or housing instability

ERAP can help renters with the following costs dating as far back as March 13, 2020:

- Overdue rent (arrears), not to exceed 12 months of arrears.
- Up to 3 months of future rent (stipends)
- Utility arrears up to \$1,500 per household
- Moving related expenses
 - First and last month's rent
 - Security Deposits
 - Moving trucks
 - Furniture payments (up to \$1,000)

Assistance will be prioritized to households with one or more members that have been unemployed 90 days or more at the time of application or who have income below 50% of the Area Median Income.

Where to apply

- Bristol County: [NeighborWorks](#)
- Dukes County: [Housing Authority Corporation](#)

Who can apply?

- Tenants
- Landlords on behalf of tenants

Please reach out to your neighbors to let them know about the program, too!
For more information call us at 508 693-2199 or send an email to admin@mvmmediation.org



Parent Mediation Program

FREE mediation is now available for parents (up to 4 hours). If you need help talking with your spouse or partner about parenting issues whether you're married, unmarried, divorced or separated, we are part of the Statewide Parent Mediation Program (PMP). We can provide parents with mediation services to discuss custody schedules, financial decisions, communication or to renegotiate existing plans.

For more information email info@mvmmediation.org

Orientação em Assuntos Financeiros- Aula em Português

Suas Entradas e Seus Gastos- Como Balançar seu Orçamento

Com a chegada da Primavera também chega a sua chance de refletir sobre suas finanças e planejar para o futuro!

Terça-feira, 18 de Maio, às 18:30 hrs GRÁTIS no Zoom
O link será enviado para você

Esse workshop fornecerá coaching para gerenciar suas entradas de dinheiro, poupança, assim como explicar as deduções em seu salário e seus gastos com custos necessários e obrigações financeiras, além de algumas questões culturais como as diferenças entre os sistemas brasileiro e americano.

Para mais informações ou para registrar:

- email info@mvmediation.org
- ligue 508 693-2199
- participantes podem escolher permanecer anônimos

Financial Conflict Coaching Workshop in Portuguese

Your income and expenses- Get it Together

Spring is upon us! It is a great time to take a look at your financial picture and create a plan for the future

Tuesday, May 18th at 6:30pm FREE by Zoom
We will send you a link

This Interactive Workshop will provide guidance on understanding income and expenses, reading a pay statement. Participants will receive support and tools for tracking and managing expenses.

For more information or to register:

- email info@mvmediation.org
- call 508 693-2999
- participants will have the option to remain anonymous during the workshop upon request

"Why I Mediate"

The aspect of mediation that appeals to me is that the parties have the power to decide the outcome. I am drawn to the role of mediator because of the focus on effective communication and listening skills to facilitate the process. The mediation training provided valuable interactive exercises and role-plays; allowing me to enhance these skills. I've found many of them can be applied, not only in the mediation context, but to everyday life.

Christine--Kiki

Social Services Information & Resources now available

Dukes County Social Services is now providing information and resources and can help apply for Food Stamps (SNAP), Fuel Assistance, Unemployment Assistance, Cash Assistance for disabled adults and low-income families, disability assistance, utility assistance, affordable childcare, and WIC. This department works in conjunction with many organizations on Martha's Vineyard and off island. These organizations include Dukes County Regional Housing Authority, South Shore Community Action Council (Fuel Assistance), MV Center for Living, Vineyard Healthcare Access, and Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands, Inc.

For more information contact: Delilah Meegan, Monday-Thursday 8-4:30pm and Friday 8-2pm
or by appointment,
508-696-3844,
774-563-9585
socialservices@dukescounty.org
www.dukescounty.org

To see more of our programs and services visit our website.

Visit our website



Donations can be made through the MV Mediation website or by check.
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Donate Now

At MVMP our slogan is ***We Can Work it Out***, Would you like to borrow this slogan?
Feel free. ***You Can Work it Out!*** We are here if you need our help.

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Thank you for the amazing support of our donors and sponsors and to Rockland Trust Foundation, Cape Cod 5 Foundation, Martha's Vineyard Bank Foundation and Cronig's Market for their continued support.

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