

October, 2010

Points of Interest

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A Note from our President



Dear Peninsula Dispute Resolution Volunteers, I want to thank you for your dedicated service to the Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center by providing access to a high quality facilitative mediation process. PDRC provides access to resolutions for disputants who cannot afford the stress and cost of litigation. Beyond access to an alternative dispute resolution process, our volunteers help disputants generate high quality mutually acceptable settlement agreements.

I also want to acknowledge the VOM volunteers who use a restorative justice process to help turn youthful mischief into a learning opportunity for juvenile offenders.

PDRC's facilitative mediation process has thus far provided the tools to resolve a majority of

community and family conflicts. Volunteer mediators across the country are dealing with more complex family and community conflicts which require specialized training.

The dismal economy has caused reductions in state social services and non-profit organizations that have traditionally provided safety nets which prevent disputes. DRCs have picked up that slack. Some examples include volunteer mediators resolving cases involving bonus (step) family disputes in lieu of counseling, division of debt and assets rather than litigation, dissolution of gay and lesbian relationships, home foreclosure mediations, and conflicts between elders and grown children. Furthermore, mediators are dealing with disclosures of substance abuse and a variety of mental health issues.

New tools and trainings will prepare PDRC volunteers to successfully mediate the escalating complexity of family and community conflicts.

Laura O'Neal, with the support of the PDRC Board of Directors,

is constantly exploring new dispute resolution processes and training opportunities to provide to our volunteers. We are exploring trainings in negotiation strategies, personal conflict resolution style assessment, and conflict analysis.

Furthermore, we want to also provide specialized trainings in how to mediate unique conflicts involving hoarding, step families, foreclosures, alternative relationships, and mediating with people with disabilities.

I want to encourage volunteer mediators to become more involved in PDRC by applying for one of our vacant board positions. The board meets approximately nine times a year and we are constantly looking for a fresh perspective.

Once again, I want to thank you for your volunteerism.

Robert T. Whipple, Ed.D.
President,
PDRC Board of Directors

ANNUAL ALL VOLUNTEER MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE!!!



ALL VOLUNTEER MEETING and OPEN HOUSE

Please join us in celebrating our mediators and volunteers on
November 16, 2010

If you are a volunteer or a mediator we want to recognize you and all the good you do for our community through PDRC. This event is open to the public so please bring friends and family.

We are combining our love of our volunteers with an open house to show off our new space. Take a tour, have some great food, catch up with fellow mediators and friends.

We will have a door prize drawing and awards to hand out.

Drop in or stay for the evening.
5:30 — 8:00

NEW WEBINARS!

Watch your email for Webinar Invitations. These are 30 minute, free mini-trainings are packed with powerful communication tips and tools to help you successfully navigate your way through relationships. All from the comfort of our own computer. For more information visit

www.pdrc.org

If you are not on our email list to receive our newsletter or information about trainings and webinars, give us a call. We will get you signed up.

Challenging Conventions In Challenging Conditions: Thirty-Minute Mediations At Burning Man

by: Tim Heeden, Ron Kelly

Ron Kelly is a mediator and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area. He exemplifies many of the region's best-known characteristics: the innovation of Silicon Valley, the "edge" of SoMa, the intellect of Berkeley, the generosity of Menlo Park, the calm of Sonoma. He's played a central role in forming the mediation laws and court rules in California. He designed the mediation training for lawyers, judges, and business professionals for UC Berkeley's Continuing Legal Education Program, where he's been teaching for more than a decade. He is at once strong-willed and affable, challenging and caring, serious and humorous. I interviewed him to learn about the compact, efficient process he offers at his mediation booth at Burning Man, the weeklong event that brings more than forty-eight thousand people to the harsh Black Rock Playa in Nevada every summer. The festival's Website explains that:

Burning Man is an annual experiment in temporary community dedicated to radical self-expression and radical self-reliance. There are no rules about how one must behave or express oneself at this event (save the rules that serve to protect the health, safety, and experience of the community at large); rather, it is up to each participant to decide how they will contribute and what they will give to this community. The event takes place on an ancient lakebed, known as the playa. Art is an unavoidable part of this experience, and in fact, is such a part of the experience that . . . each year [is given] a theme to encourage a common bond to help tie each individual's contribution together in a meaningful way. Participants are encouraged to find a way to help make the theme come alive, whether it is through a large-scale art installation, a theme camp, gifts brought to be given to other individuals, costumes, or any other medium that one comes up with.

Tim Hedeem: Providing mediation at a festival known for sculpture, music, costumes, and self-sufficiency in harsh natural conditions—not to mention some pyrotechnics—seems a little odd.

Where did you get the idea to do this?

Ron Kelly: *I had a cousin who said, ten years ago, "You have to come experience Burning Man . . . it's too wild to continue to exist in our society. It's going to be outlawed soon." I went, and was astonished by the sense of community and generosity. The festival operates with a "gift economy," where participants come [to] give away something they've created or collected. I was so moved. I felt that if were I a salmon fisherman, I would have brought a hundred pounds of salmon to give away as sushi. I'm a mediator, so I set up a booth to provide mediation services. The emphasis on creativity led me to design a pyramid structure for a booth and a mediation process that would be rapid and focused. I wondered whether I could really benefit anybody in half an hour. Would anyone take the booth seriously? Both the booth and the process turned out to be a wild success. And I've continued to do it for the last seven years. There are pretty normal relationship issues with couples and between family members. There are typical neighbor disputes about noise, boundaries, and relations. These are all magnified a great deal by the intense heat, dust, and wind, and lack of normal services. You're in the middle of the desert, and you can't buy anything but ice and drinks. You have to bring everything yourself.*

TH: How does it work? Can you outline the process you employ?

Go to pdrc.org for the rest of the interview. Not on line? Give us a call and we will gladly send it to you.

Introducing Jenna Slowey



I am pleased to introduce myself as the newest member of the PDRC Team. I am the new Victim Offender Mediation Coordinator.

I recently graduated from Western Washington University in Bellingham, receiving my Bachelor's degree in Human Services.

Growing up here in Clallam County, I am thrilled at the chance to return and give back to a community that has given so much to me. My hopes are to recruit and work with volunteers who are equally concerned and invested in our youth and the well being of the community. I would like to tell you a little

about the program I am so excited to be a part of.

The Restorative Justice Program has three components; VOM (Victim Offender Mediation), a Victim Panel, and the ABCs of Restorative Justice class. Victim Offender Mediation is an evidence based program supported by Washington state and Clallam County Juvenile and Family Services that has been proven to decrease repeat offenders. Often times, victims of crimes are not given a voice or a helping hand to move forward. The benefit for Victims is that they are able to ask questions and get answers, allowing them to move forward with a sense of safety and satisfaction. This program also gives an opportunity for the offender to make amends and restore the harms that were committed and provides a stepping stone to be welcomed back into the community.

When a Victim chooses not to mediate or is unable to for some reason, the Victim Panel represents both the victim and the community and gives the offender an opportunity to express their understanding of the crime committed and the harms it has caused. Through the ABC Class, kids learn about the Juvenile Court System, Learning Styles,

Thinking Errors and Anger.

I see the Restorative Justice Program making a huge difference in our community. When kids come through our program, we are given a few short hours to make an impact and get through to them. Once a juvenile is given the tools to succeed and gets on the right path, they are more likely to stay there! I look forward to meeting you all and working together to help the youth in Clallam County.

After all is said and done, a lot more will have been said, than done.

~Anonymous

Volunteer NEWS!

Dr. Joe Floyd, and Philip Toelkes have both completed training and practicum work and are PDRCs two newest certified mediators.

Joe Floyd, who also serves on our board as well as on the Human Resources Committee, completed his training with PDRC in April, 2008. Joe brings to the table (pardon the pun) many skills and gifts. Joe is an amazing listener, and models a calm presence for clients. Before retiring, Joe was a professor of Sociology at the Montana State University, Billings, specializing in Family Systems. How lucky are we to have this amazing talent in our agency.

Philip Toelkes is a retired attorney and comes to us from California. He has studied the facilitative model of mediation and had a very distinguished career in law and mediation before coming to Port Angeles three years ago. Philip supports clients to not give up. He finds inroads to solutions that many others might miss. Philip took the Basic Training in October of 2009.

Our newest Board Member, **Jan Gannett**, was voted on unanimously at the September board meeting. Jan completed Mediation Training in October, 2009 and is currently in practicum to become a certified mediator. Jan brings enormous board experience having been on multiple boards. She has written a book that serves to help boards be more successful. Before retiring, Jan was an International Program Manager for Microsoft so we will be putting her vast business skills to use.

It is obvious to see why we are honored to have these three extraordinary people as part of the PDRC family.

WISH LIST

Postage and more postage
Easels (table top and floor models) to hold flip chart paper pads
Flip chart paper pads
"Post it Notes" Flip Chart Paper Pads
Volunteer who has both time and knowledge of "Dreamweaver Website Software" to assist with updating the Website monthly.

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We help people resolve conflicts.

We can help you.



The Mission of PDRC is to promote and provide for the peaceful resolution of conflict through modeling, facilitating and teaching mediation in Jefferson and Clallam Counties.

www.pdrc.org

