# MCDR February 19, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Charles Franklin, Barry Weissman, Dina Gold, Kate Cullen, James Boyle, Solomon Bankole, Stirling Phillips

Not present: Shelley Korch, Liz Salter, Janne Weissman

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting: No comments in response to distribution, deemed approved
2. Open issues:

a. Barry will re-do letter to membership regarding new charge for CEs for non-members.

b. Certification Committee/Grant Proposal

Discussion of draft grant proposal. Kate explained the history of the grant proposal is to shift assessments and certifications from CMM to MCDR so that the program is opened up to anyone on the MPME list.

Kate will revise the proposal to match MACRO’s requirements. “Hire” will be changed to “contract.” James went over wordsmithing questions with Kate. He will send her some proposed changes.

Kate explained that, if the grant is awarded, the first quarter of funding will be advanced if a need can be shown, and drawn down. The subsequent three quarters are invoiced to and reimbursed by MACRO. MCDR will follow State of Maryland guidelines on mileage and expense reimbursement. Barry and Kate will work out the financial information if the grant is awarded, such as record-keeping requirements and developing forms.

If the grant is awarded, everyone who participates will have to sit for the exam by the end of the funding cycle so no funds are outstanding after the grant period. The proposal includes funding for pre-certification testing training. Carl Schneider, Martin Kranitz, and Katherine Crockett are the proposed trainers.

Kate has ideas about promoting the program to all mediators. The plan is to go to the court rosters and community mediation centers first, then private mediators through the Bar. There are also mediators who are not part of MPME or the Bar. The goal is to increase the number of certified mediators.

Barry will support the committee’s marketing effort.

The proposal must be submitted to MACRO by March 20 but Kate will submit it in early March due to her personal schedule. MCDR will know by mid-May if the grant is awarded. If MACRO has questions about the proposal, it will contact MCDR and schedule a meeting. Barry and Kate will attend. We are asking for $54,250.

MACRO will ask mid-year if grantees are going to use all funds; if not, there will be a mid-year grant process.

The next certification date is Sunday, April 15.

Motion to approve draft grant proposal by Barry, seconded by Dina: Motion approved.

c. 2018 quarterly membership meetings and programs

James notes that the next quarterly meeting will be Tuesday, March 13. An announcement has been sent out. He called MCDR insurance agent to get co-insurance policy with the County for the meeting. John Spiegel has been very cooperative and communicative in preparation for his presentation.

The next meeting will be in June. James wants to hold it in Prince George’s County. Two ideas are (1) a panel presentation on private practice that could segue into Barry’s class, and (2) navigating assumptions and pre-conceptions. It is agreed that the June meeting will be a panel discussion on building a private practice. Barry will be the moderator and/or a participant on panel.

d. Increasing membership. Stirling reports that Liz wants to reach out to lapsed members. She will have more information at the next meeting. The concept of a speakers’ bureau is still being developed to get the MCDR name out into the public more and in a different way. MCDR speakers would be available to speak in areas of their expertise. Liz has also proposed a family-oriented social event over the summer.

e. Mentoring program. Kate, Martin, Maile, Donna Duquette, and Eileen Cohen are suggested as mentors. Kate will ask at peer group this week if anyone is interested. The goal is to have the mentoring program in place to start in the fall.

f. Programming ideas. James discusses the Dan Bernstein Mental Health and Substance Abuse program. Bernstein has offered to make his on-line training programs available to MCDR members with a 75/25 split. Participation is on an individual basis. The trainings have to do with living and communicating with people with mental health issues. Motion to proceed with making this training available by James, Charles seconds. Approved.

g. Sarah Glebe Fund. Kate says that the fund was established in 2001 or 2002 by Martin and Nancy Hirschman, through MCDR. Its purpose is to provide need-based scholarships for events and trainings. When Kate became treasurer, she discovered that a log had been kept of Fund money, reflecting approximately $5500. In Kate’s final year as treasurer, no money was used out of the Fund. Barry has since opened up a separate account at Bank of America for the Fund. Barry wants a statement of purpose and criterion for distribution in writing so MCDR knows how to award the money. Kate will talk to Nancy. The Fund Committee should be the Executive Committee of Board (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary) and decisions kept confidential. Barry will put the option of making donations to the Fund in the next reprint of Membership Applications.

h. Scanning certification documents. Once the Certification Committee makes a proposal regarding scanning, it will be presented to the Board for a vote.

3. New business:

MCDR will consider having a presence at the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution National Conference.

Stirling and other MCDR members will be on panels at the ABA ADR meeting in April, which is good publicity for MCDR. MCDR will exhibit at this meeting.

Kate proposes aiming for presenting the Sharon Pickett award in December in conjunction with the Maryland Mediator Convention if Heather Fogg is willing to coordinate it. The Committee is usually comprised of prior award winners. Barry will check with Carl regarding prior recipients. Stirling will contact Heather regarding coordination.

Solomon will investigate whether MCDR can exhibit at the Judge Bell Award event.

The MCDR book fund has a couple of hundred dollars in it.

Next Board meeting: April 16, 6-8 p.m.