

MINUTES

Mediation Yukon Society

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7:00pm

Whitehorse Public Library Meeting Room #1

In attendance:

Patrick Gardiner, President

Hank Moorlag, Vice-President

Cindy-Anne Belanger, Secretary

Diane Williams, Treasurer

Vickey Aschacher, Board Member

Graham McDonald, Board Member (and Instructor)

Mal Malloch, MYS member (and Instructor)

Ann MacDonald, MYS member

Fulsome discussion regarding qualifications of instructors:

Below are some discussion points raised by the attendees:

- some certification of instructional skills is needed
- equivalencies must be noted as there is value in their use
- do we need measures?
- what will the measures be?
- do we instate a grandfather clause for existing instructors on the roster?

Summary of questions and comments noted during the discussion:

1. Quality of instruction
2. Are students getting what they paid for?
3. If you only teach every two years or suddenly teach a course you haven't taught in 2 years how does this impact the quality of instruction, instructors' confidence, etc...?
4. Is there value in specialized instruction; instructors self-selecting certain courses to focus on and specialize in?
5. Does the adding of additional instructors to the roster dilute the pool of instructors in a negative way?
6. Does the addition of instructors to the roster promote the original vision and mission of the MYS?
7. The addition of instructors may reduce existing instructors' annual income.
8. Should instructors be assessed on a regular basis? If so how? What measures will we use?

Having provided his thoughts relative to the fulsome discussion regarding certification and evaluation of instructors, Mal departed prior to the Board's deliberations.

In keeping with the expressed vision and mission of the Mediation Yukon Society, the board made the following decisions:

1. The board has no desire to cap the number of instructors; indicating that to do so would contravene the MYS' vision and mission. The board feels capping would be at odds with the society which aims to remove barriers and encourage and grow the community of practitioners and instructors.

2. The board determined that there is value in developing criteria that potential instructor candidates meet in order to become "MYS-certified" instructors to instruct under MYS's agreement with the Yukon College. It was suggested that these criteria take the form of "guidelines" which establish what qualifications an individual must possess to become an instructor. As a start Cindy-Anne and Patrick will gather relevant criteria from outside sources so we can begin to develop these criteria. The Board recognized that two primary criteria should be met by instructors:

1. certification or recognized competency in alternate dispute resolution, and
2. certification or recognized competency in adult education.

It was also noted that students benefit from learning from instructors who actively practice alternate dispute resolution as mediators or negotiators.

3. The Board determined that new instructors must audit a course at least once, before teaching it.

4. The Board determined that there could be value in collecting feedback assessments from the Yukon College and having a statistician create blind data for review. It was also recognized that it might make more sense to review assessments moving forward, rather than reviewing past assessments given that there have been no issues identified with past instruction. This would put both existing and new instructors under the same lens.

Cindy-Anne to request that copies of evaluations are provided to MYS in the future.

Cindy-Anne to ask Carmen if there are summaries.

5. The board agreed to establish a review committee to meet once a year to review the supporting documentation provided by new instructor candidates and if necessary interview them to assess their qualifications for becoming an "MYS certified" instructor.

6. The Board agreed to develop an evaluation protocol (to be used as we go forward) to assess instructors with an aim of providing quality assurance of instruction and to establish a benchmark for measuring the need or opportunity for further professional development.

7. The Board determined that a grandfather clause will be instated for existing instructors.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.