In response to the Rapid Re-housing Initiative designed to help the homeless transition into housing and stay in their housing, U.S.VETS- Barber’s Point reached out to MCP to provide their staff with additional tools for managing conflict. MCP designed a customized two-day training to provide the participants with mediation and family conferencing skills. The mediation process focused on assisting Veterans with resolving conflicts with their roommates. The family conferencing process, on the other hand, focused on helping Veterans to reconnect with their families and engage in discussions about having the Veteran move into the family home. Twenty staff members from the U.S.VETS and Catholic Charities participated in the training. The participants unanimously agreed that the training was valuable and the skills they learned would help to prevent Veterans from becoming homeless.

MCP was extremely fortunate to be the recipient of a $5,000 grant award from MoveMeHawai‘i, a joint fundraiser of the Beta Beta Gamma Foundation and the Hawai‘i State Bar Foundation. The funds will support individuals in the low-income population who participate in MCP’s Domestic Mediation Program. Through mediation, divorcing and unmarried couples are assisted in negotiating agreements on issues such as custody, visitation and co-parenting. This past fiscal year, 671 cases were managed through the Domestic Mediation Program. Thanks to the generous support of MoveMeHawai‘i, MCP will assist even more couples this year.

Mediation and Family Conferencing Help Veterans Stay in Housing
Partnering with the Better Business Bureau to Grow Online Mediation

MCP has created a new partnership with the Better Business Bureau, Northwest - Pacific region (BBB), to provide online mediation services for consumer-merchant disputes involving BBB members. MCP held a webinar for the BBB staff who manage complaints in the Western region of the United States, introducing them to mediation and setting up an easy direct referral system for them to use. The BBB cases may arise anywhere in the Western U.S., therefore, online mediation is the perfect option to resolve these disputes. The parties can participate in mediation at whatever time of day they are available.

Resolving Roommate Issues at East-West Center

In early August, MCP was approached by the East-West Center's (EWC) Participants Association’s President, Layla Kilolu, to establish a mediation program for the EWC dormitories that house graduate students from over 40 countries. Inevitably, conflicts arise over cultural misunderstandings, common spaces, and other issues that naturally occur when many people are living in close quarters. The disputes can have a prolonged impact on the students’ studies and overall morale, and can sometimes threaten their housing. Through a series of meetings with the Dean of the EWC Education Program and the Student Programs Coordinator, MCP staff is developing a mediation program that will be readily available to the students when a conflict arises.

Mediation at Transitional Housing Project, Towers at Kuhio Park

MCP continues to address conflicts that threaten the housing status of Hawaii’s vulnerable citizens by reaching out to affordable housing communities. One of the first communities MCP will partner with is the Towers at Kuhio Park (TKP), which includes 555 units for low-income populations as a transitional step to renting or owning their own place without the need for assistance. Conflicts between the tenants and landlord, between neighbors, or within households, can threaten the tenants’ place at TKP and their journey to self-sufficiency. MCP, with the Michaels Development Company who manages the project, is working to make mediation the first step to resolve conflicts at the apartments. This work is being done in conjunction with several other social service organizations who are working on-site to establish a Zone of Peace and Nonviolence at TKP.

Aging in Place Conference

MCP mediators helped to spread the word about the importance of using family conferencing through the Kupuna Pono Program (KPP), to help families engage in difficult conversations about long-term healthcare, end-of-life wishes, and other sensitive topics, at Generations Magazine’s Aging in Place Conference on August 17th. Thanks to the mediators who help to promote KPP, MCP is now a regular exhibitor at this well-attended conference.
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Mediation Skills Trainings Conducted for Leeward School District

Based on the positive feedback about the mediation trainings conducted for the principals and vice principals of the Honolulu District, MCP was invited to conduct similar trainings for the Behavioral Health Specialists and counselors in the Leeward School District. Through a one-day Mediation Skills for Managers training, and a half-day training on “Challenges in IEP Meetings,” 40 participants learned tools and techniques to effectively address and manage conflicts that arise between school professionals and parents.

Mediation Skills for Managers Conducted for the Honolulu Police Department

In July, MCP conducted two one-day trainings for the Honolulu Police Department leadership, to enable them to address and resolve internal conflicts quickly and maintain morale. In response to the positive feedback from the participants, a third training is scheduled for the end of September. MCP mediators helped to coach the training participants during the practice mediations.

Basic Mediation Training Conducted for the Department of Labor

At the end of July, in the midst of the summer of trainings, MCP held a private Basic Mediation Training for 21 staff members of the Hawaii State Department of Labor. The participants refined their communication skills, learned MCP’s mediation process, and practiced their new tools in simulated mediation sessions with individualized coaching from MCP’s experienced mediators.

The training received high praise from the participants. One person commented, “Everyone walked away from the training a better person.” Equally important, one week after the training, MCP was informed that the participants were able to immediately put their new skills to good use as they successfully mediated a conflict that came to their office. An agreement was reached and the feuding parties hugged. A real-life example of the power of mediating!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mediation Skills for Managers Training *
Friday, October 4, 2019 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Community Room

Basic Mediation Training *
Fridays, October 18 & 25, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays, October 19 & 26, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Kukui Center Room 103

Advanced Mediation Training *
Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8, 2019 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 9, 2019 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Community Room

Annual Volunteer Recognition and Holiday Gathering
A Special Celebration of MCP Volunteers & Supporters Over 40 Years!
Friday, December 13, 2019 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Café Julia at YWCA - 1040 Richards Street

Go to www.mediatehawaii.org to register for trainings or contact mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org for additional information.
* Seating in trainings is limited. Early registration is encouraged.