

**JOINT ADR COMMITTEE
&
FAMILY LAW MEDIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes
October 13, 2009
SBAND Office**

Committee members present: Chair Joanne Ottmar (by phone); Kristine Paranica (by phone); Judge Steve Marquart (by phone); Robert Udland (by phone); Janet Merrill; Carey Goetz (by phone); Sarah Bernhard (by phone); Janelle Moos

Also present: Cathy Ferderer; SBAND staff Bill Neumann

Chair Joanne Ottmar called the joint meeting of the Committee and Subcommittee to order at 9:31 am.

ADR Commission

The Chair asked Kristine Paranica to review the Maryland ADR project, a commission created by the Maryland Court of Appeals (Maryland's highest appellate court). The Commission's goal was to expand ADR services into aspects of Maryland life where ADR would serve a useful purpose. That has included the state's schools at all levels, its communities, its businesses, and agencies of its state government. To be successful, the Maryland program has had to be very collaborative, inclusive and far-reaching, involving a wide range of stakeholders.

The group discussed the possibility of pursuing the creation of an ADR Commission in North Dakota, modeled at least in part on the Maryland program.

The group discussed the need for more public information about ADR options in North Dakota, to foster a climate that supports ADR. The group also discussed the need to learn what ADR services are currently available in North Dakota, and to identify potential stakeholders who should be involved.

It was the group's consensus that the possibility of pursuing an ADR Commission in North Dakota merited further discussion, but only after additional information had been gathered. It was agreed to appoint a subcommittee to plan a retreat for the Joint ADR Committee, the Family Law Mediation Subcommittee, and other selected persons to investigate the matter. The Retreat Planning Subcommittee will consist of the Chair, Cathy Ferderer, Janet Merrill and Sarah Bernhardt. The Subcommittee was asked to plan a retreat, tentatively to be scheduled for January 18, 2010, Martin Luther King Day.

Family Law Mediation Pilot Project

Cathy Ferderer reported she has started work on the expansion of the Court's Family Law Mediation Pilot Project into the Northwest Judicial District.

Ms. Ferderer also reported a list of qualified parenting coordinators is now available.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Neumann, SBAND staff