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SPECIAL ISSUE

Providing Mediation Services to Low-Income Families

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Dorothy J. Della Noce

As program chair for the Symposium on Providing Family Mediation Services to Low Income Families, the author summarizes the challenges and issues identified at the symposium and proposals offered for solutions to the challenges of providing services to low-income families.

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Kimberlee K. Kovach

The necessity for funding and the choices made about funding raise many questions for mediators and mediation programs. The author raises these questions and discusses the resulting concerns, including the effect of funding choices on quality of mediation, style of practice, and mediator neutrality.

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Christine A. Coates, Kon Damas

In the volunteer tradition and with effective community collaboration, the City of Boulder has created a mediation program that offers quality mediation for all divorcing parties and parents and teens in conflict. The authors consider how to maintain the quality of the mediation provided and discuss special concerns for mediators working with low-income families.

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Marilyn S. McKnight

The author developed a program model utilizing paid professional mediators, collaboration, and community involvement. The author describes the process of developing these programs and the effect of the program on the participants and their communities.

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Kathleen Severens

The author, director of the Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution, oversees a welfare mediation project providing mediation services for welfare cases and conflict resolution training for all welfare caseworkers and administrators. As a model of private and public cooperation, the program works through nonprofit community centers.

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Anne Reiniger, Janice Tudy-Jackson

The authors detail a unique, collaborative program that provides mediation services in a family court for child custody disputes. This program resulted from a joint effort of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Victim Services Manhattan Mediation Program, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

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Larry Ray

The author, executive director of the National Association for Community Mediation, describes the history and volunteer tradition of community mediation, the variety of cases being resolved in the centers, and the ongoing innovation in applications of mediation in community centers. The author considers the challenges to the community programs as well as the opportunities.