



**Association for
Conflict Resolution®**
VOICES, CHOICES, SOLUTIONS

**Theme: “Community Day - Resilience in a Time of Crisis”
Wednesday, October 21 from 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET**

Session One: 12:00 PM ET – 1:30PM ET

Nothing About Us Without Us: Integrating Community Members into Community Mediation Program Development

Presenters will focus on how to create and strengthen community mediation programs anchored in the input of those with lived experience. The presentation will facilitate engagement around informed decision making for program development, identifying program partners, and reviewing active programs to ensure the programs are as effective as possible.

Successful mediation programs require support from referring partners, funders, courts, and attorneys. Often, the voice of the individuals the program intends to serve is lost. The presenters were both members of the 2018-2020 Learning Community overseen by NAFCM and funded by JAMS and will share their experiences and recommendations related to community and program partner engagement.

Missy Greathouse serves as the Executive Director of Dispute Resolution Institute (DRI), a nonprofit specializing in conflict resolution services. She has been employed by DRI since its doors opened in August 2009, serving as program administrator of several mediation programs throughout the state of Illinois before being named its executive director in October 2016. DRI’s mission is to help people in conflict find common ground, resolve disputes, and reach agreement. Missy is a licensed attorney, mediator, trainer and social worker. She is very active in various organizations throughout the country focused on mediation and other alternative dispute resolution methods. Currently, Missy serves as the Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council. Nationally, she serves as the Southern Illinois Regional Chair of the American Bar Association’s committee Women in Dispute Resolution. In her volunteer work, Missy serves as Treasurer of Illinois State CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and previously was as a CASA volunteer. Prior to law school and joining DRI, Missy was a foster care case manager and specialized foster home licensing worker in St. Louis, MO. She received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Saint Louis University in 2003, and a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2008.

Rae Kyritsi, J.D. is Programs Director at the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Chicago’s community mediation center. In her work at CCR, Rae manages more than 20 mediation programs and a roster of more than 180 volunteer mediators. Rae is a certified mediator of civil, criminal, elder, and family disputes and a certified trainer. She also works as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, teaching Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation, as well as coaching students for the Vis Moot International Commercial Arbitration Competition. She has facilitated community forums and has organized non-profits and LLCs through consensus building. Rae earned her J.D. from Loyola ('12) and her B.A. from UW-Madison ('05).

Break and Informal Networking: 1:30 PM ET – 2:00 PM ET

Session Two: 2:00 PM ET – 3:30 PM ET

Community Mediation Centers Answer the Call

Community Mediation Centers continue to answer the call from state and local agencies, courts, communities and the public to help resolve challenging conflicts in families, neighborhoods, businesses, organizations and agencies in this time of significant change all over the world – now mostly virtually. Community Mediation Centers also serve as local hubs for peaceful ways of counteracting violence. Join us as we discuss how the needs, challenges and opportunities of our communities are becoming more complex as the public health and economic crisis continues to unfold.

Kabrina Bass is a Nonprofit Executive Director, professional mediator, and organizational manager. Kabrina has experience in conflict management, negotiation, mediation and facilitation. She is an exceptional trainer in conflict management, leadership development, overall communication theories and methods. Kabrina had a successful career as a Christian Education Director with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She assisted over 1.5K congregation in developing holistic training for individuals and congregations. Kabrina received extensive training in conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation from Kennesaw State University. She earned a bachelor and master's degree in religion with an emphasis on Education. She also completed additional Mediation Training with Midlands Mediation Center and Kennesaw State University. She has received additional training in Reflective Structured Dialogue and Democracy, Politics and Conflict Engagement. In addition to her formal training, Kabrina has observed, co-mediated and been mentored by some of the best mediators in South Carolina, Florida, and California through her connection with Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI).

S.R. "Martin" RLA practiced landscape architecture for 20 years before becoming a professional mediator, international trainer, and a community dialogue facilitator with a strong commitment to entrepreneurship, sustainability and peacebuilding. Global Partnerships Manager for Mediators Beyond Borders International, where he has also been a co-leader for the Rwanda Project and co-founded the Peace Conversation Facilitation (PCF) Program. In 2019, Martin was recognized as "Innovator of the Year" for his efforts. In 2008, Martin founded The Living Christmas Company, a social benefit company which rents living Christmas trees as an alternative to cut or artificial trees and employs Veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals and those experiencing homelessness. In 2012, the billionaire investor Mark Cuban joined the team after a successful run on ABC's Shark Tank. As a volunteer, Martin designs Restorative Justice programs in schools, is a mediator for the Juvenile Courts, facilitates community dialogues with the Institute for Non-Violence LA, and works in prisons with the TRUTH Project. Most recently, Martin lead on a UNDP-funded, conflict resolution training for youth leaders in Liberia ahead of their national elections. Martin is a member, Board of Directors of the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) and is Recipient of the 2017 Rotary International Peace Fellow Award.

Jody Suhrbier serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Community Mediation and is the Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center serving Thurston and south Mason Counties in Washington State. She is a certified mediator and facilitator. With a Masters Degree in Nonprofit Management, Jody has a 20+ year history in the sector and essential skills that support organizational visioning to ensure sustainable business models with financial stability, growth in mission-aligned and need-relevant services, and enhanced community collaboration. Jody is a past President of Resolution Washington, the state association for community mediation centers and is a graduate of Leadership Thurston County.

Break and Informal Networking: 3:30pm ET – 4:00 PM ET

Session Three: 4:00ET – 5:30ET

Transformative Justice Dialogues- Building Accountable Communities

In this session we will explore how community mediation centers can create and hold space for transformative justice dialogues which move beyond conversation to action to policy change.

Renata Valree is the founder and CEO, Ambassadors for Peace where she provides consultation to local, state and community based organizations, conflict skills training, facilitation design and support services. Ms. Valree holds an B.S., Health Care Management and Masters in Public Administration. Ms. Valree is past Chair, for the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM), past Tri-Chair, Community Mediation and Restorative Practices Section for the Association for Conflict Resolution and Vice Chair, Society of Emotional Intelligence. She retired from a 26-year career with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office. In her former position she served as Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Program. She serves on the Special Advisory Council to the Los Angeles Police Department, Community Safety Partnership program. She's also Founder of the Antelope Valley Days of Dialogue program and teaches as an Adjunct Associate Professor, California State University Dominguez Hills.