

## Resolution Virginia quarterly meeting Dec. 8, 2023 10 am - 2 pm

### Sent ahead:

- Agenda
- Minutes, Sept., 2023 (retreat)
- Financials (P&L, Balance Sheet & Financial Report)
- Application for Greater Richmond Community Mediation Center
- Case management software pros and cons
- Case management software table of features
- Resolution Virginia Hallmarks (or Core Values) draft

### Participants

Lawrie Parker  
Brandon Bastian  
Taylor Frome  
Arleen Borysiewicz  
Jim Martin  
Eddy Smart  
Carolyn Fitzpatrick  
Christine Poulson (Ex Officio)

### Key Takeaway

Several centers are struggling financially and could benefit from additional funding support

### Minutes

September meeting minutes approved (motion, Taylor; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brandon)

### 2024 Meeting Dates

March 13 (in-person) 10 am – 2 pm

June 20, 10 am – 2 pm

September 19 (in person) 10 am – 2 pm

December 11, 10 am – 2 pm

### Presidency of Resolution Virginia

Lawrie Parker retiring at end of year. Arleen Borysiewicz nominated and approved as new President starting January 2024 (motion, Taylor; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jim)

## Financials

Christine was a victim of identity theft and four fraudulent charges totaling approximately \$1,500 were charged to Resolution Virginia's bank account. That bank account and the money market were closed. The \$25,500 that was in the money market was moved to a 7-month CD with a better interest rate of almost 5%. A new checking account was opened.

Approximately \$36,000 is available in cash reserves and \$25,500 is in the CD. To meet some nonprofit best practice guidelines, **it was decided that at least 6 months of reserve funds should remain in the resolution Virginia accounts (approximately \$42,000).** This leaves approximately \$19,000 available.

## Funding

Discussed possibility of providing "bridge grants" to those centers that need help.

**Agreed that Resolution Virginia should provide an extra \$3,000 grant to each center before the end of the current fiscal year (ending 3/31/24).**

Resolution Virginia requested a donation from McCammon Group (John McCammon) and received a \$500 donation from John. The McCammon group itself was unable to provide a donation.

Christine alerted Teresa Moore at the Virginia Law Foundation that centers are struggling. The VLF had helped start VA's community mediation centers with pilot funding.

**Center sustainability should be discussed at next meeting.** Chuck Boles is offering to do a 3-hour pro-bono workshop on building sustainable non-profit organizations from 10 – 2 on a Tuesday in February in Harrisonburg. **Center directors should let Christine know which Tuesdays they are available to attend the session. Board chairs are also encouraged to participate.**

## Center Updates

FairField Center is pivoting to offer training to larger organizations due to competition providing core mediation courses.

PDRC has had success connecting mental health with conflict resolution. Next year's budget includes a deficit of over \$20,000.

NVMS will also have a large deficit in next year's budget.

MCC looking to assist with hate crimes.

## Training Collaboration

**Christine will resend the link for centers to provide information on their available trainers.**

Discussed Resolution Virginia creating one basic mediation curriculum that could be used by each center and approved for Continuing Legal Education credits. **Christine will find out if the CLE fee can be waived for non-profit centers.**

**Arleen will share a call for consultants for a project with Fairfax County Public Schools.**

## Legislative Agenda

Challenging to get state funding added to agency budgets. DSS declined, as a partnership with centers it did not align with their current priorities.

Resolution Virginia was not offered the assistance of a lobbyist from the VA Bar Association.

Proposed increasing fees paid for juvenile court filings by \$10 (from \$25 to \$35) to support community mediation. Carolyn suggests a \$5 fee on ALL filings (no waiver) so clients have some skin in the game.

Christine and Jim will meet with Senator Obenshain to see if he would support these initiatives. Christine to reach out to the Virginia Poverty Law Center. Need to determine potential opposition and build support (VMN, VA Family Law Coalition, the VA Bar Association). Many people poorly paid by the courts could want a piece of any increased court income (guardian ad litem, mediation coordinators, interpreters, etc.).

Carolyn suggests asking if the VA sales tax could be increased by a small amount to support centers.

Arleen will be at a reception with NOVA government officials, including Senators Marsden and Surovell. She will send invitation, as other center directors are encouraged to attend.

## Member Application

Pam Struss' application for the new Richmond center was tabled and will be taken up at the March meeting. In the interim, Christine to ask Pam for an updated board of directors list.

## Core Values

Christine used comments from Sept. retreat to update NAFCM hallmarks list for Virginia - tabled until March meeting. Taylor, Eddy and Arleen will make up an ad hoc committee to review Resolution Virginia's 2012 document on Collaboration, Cooperation and Competition to create a set of member expectations that include confidentiality and mutual support. The group will also review the bylaws to determine if more criteria should be added to the section on membership.

## Case Management Software

Reviewed leading options - Outcome Tracker, Kintone, ADR Notable

Pros/cons discussed for each platform

Decision narrowed to Outcome Tracker and Kintone

Centers will choose between these two options (funds permitting)

More investigation needed on costs and capabilities before final decision

- Jim will set up another demo for Outcome Tracker, this time asking a mediator to demonstrate how they enter data and use the platform
- Outcome Tracker to cost approximately \$650 per year more than Kintone. Christine to discuss pricing with Outcome Tracker

Software decision to be made at or before March meeting.