



West Hawai'i Mediation Center

Working It Out Together

March 2016

Mediator Spotlight

Linda Jeffrey



My journey as a mediator began with a former resident of the Big Island, and mediator, who approached me and said, "I think you would be a good mediator."

So began my journey in 2007.

The experience has brought me full circle. I can "give back" as well as hone my skills (patience, humor, problem solving, empathy) in an effort to bring "peace into the room." Where else can you provide a neutral environment without distractions and an opportunity for listening and exploring options?

I have grown from learning the basic techniques to a deeper understanding of how and why mediation works and, finally, working to master my mediator skills. Settlement is never my objective but rather to focus on the parties' interests (vs. positions) and helping them to create options for a meaningful settlement.

My newest contribution to the Mediation Center will be as a Board member, where I will represent the voices of the mediators. I will also continue to mediate for the Center.

Thank you Linda for your continued dedication to this center and carrying on our mission to help others!

WHMC relies on volunteer mediators to help us meet the needs of our constituents.

Training & Education at WHMC

Basic Mediation Training



WHEN: March 18th, 19th & 20th, 9:00am - 5:00pm

WHERE: Kanu O Ka 'Aina Charter School - Waimea

Learn a variety of approaches for dealing with people in conflict through lecture, group discussion, hands-on exercises, and mock mediation practice. Whether you want to improve your peacemaking and communication skills or want to become a mediator, this training gives you the tools you need to start resolving conflict in a peaceful and lasting way.

Sign up! Just click the links below to view complete flyer and application!

[Basic Training Flyer](#)

[Training Application](#)

WHMC in the Schools

Kohala Middle School -

During the month of March, WHMC continued to work with 16 new peer mediators from Kohala Middle School. These students have recently taken their content knowledge test and half have completed their skills practicum. Numerous students are now ready to serve as a co-mediator alongside a more experienced mediator.

Kealakehe Elementary School Becomes a Partner School!

We are especially thrilled to report that Kealakehe Elementary is now one of our partner schools! Their trio of counselors represent the highest standards in education: commitment, energy, innovation, and above all else, advocacy for youth. As the rest of the year unfolds they will establish a cadre of 4th and 5th grade peer mediators and WHMC will help them with training and implementation. One of the goals of our middle and high school peer mediation pilot program was to establish mini-complexes that offered developmentally appropriate K-12 peer mediation programs. Kealakehe Complex joins the Kohala Complex in reaching this important milestone.

Welcome Kealakehe Elementary and special thanks to Joy Personius!

Matson Foundation Grant -



Matson Foundation graciously awarded WHMC with a donation to help support our Peer Mediation Program.

Contributions like these are vital to the success of our programs. Mahalo!

WHMC at the Kona Crime Prevention Committee Luncheon



WHMC's Chelsea LaFrance, Officer Jason Foxworthy, WHMC's Gina Tumasone & Mara Tepper, Volunteer Mediator

WHMC staff Chelsea LaFrance and Gina Tumasone were joined by Volunteer Mediator Mara Tepper at this monthly event at Huggo's in Kona. While celebrating Officer of the Month, Jason Foxworthy, WHMC staff were happy to discuss the important role that mediation plays in effective community policing.

WHMC Attends Kona Palisades Neighborhood Watch



Officer Kuilee Dela Cruz, Chelsea LaFrance, Virginia Haliday & Zoe Velonza, Volunteer Mediator

WHMC Case Manager, Chelsea LaFrance, participated in Kona Palisades Neighborhood Watch meeting and Volunteer Mediator Zoe Velonza shared the importance of mediating conflicts in the community

Upcoming Events

Walk for West Hawai'i Mediation Center at The Visitor Industry Charity Walk May 14, 2016 at Waikoloa Beach Resort



Come walk with WHMC to help build a better, healthier Hawai'i Island, for all!
Walkers are treated to food, drink, and fun!



Contact us at 885-5525 to sign up or learn more.

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WHMC empowers individuals, organizations and communities to resolve conflict by providing mediation, facilitation and education services.

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