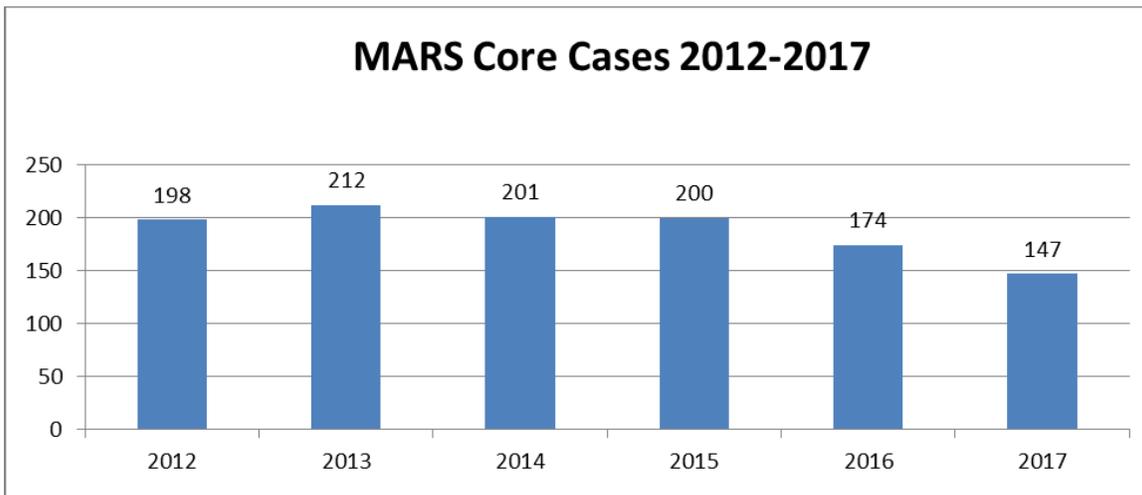




2017 Annual Report

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a process in which two or more people involved in a dispute meet in a confidential setting, and with the guidance of professionally trained mediators, attempt to work out a mutually-agreeable solution to their problem. Mediation allows all parties involved to explain their view of the situation in a non-threatening, neutral environment. There are 18 CDRP Centers in the State of Michigan.



MEDIATION STATISTICS

MARS processed 165 cases and mediated **147** core cases (cases that are mediated with or without agreement) in 2017.

In 2017, of the 147 cases mediated, approximately 59% were mediated to full or partial agreement. 85% of cases were court-ordered. The average duration of a mediation session for 2017 was 63 minutes.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN 2017

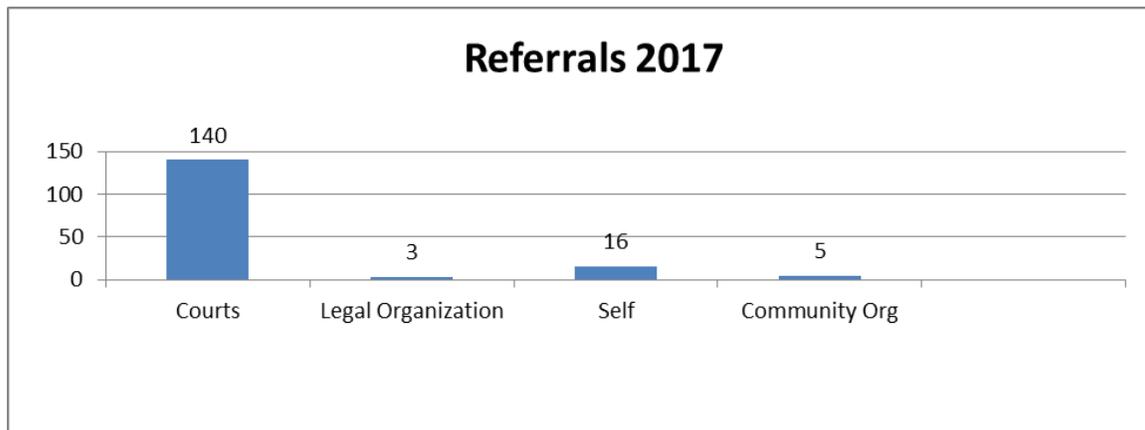
420 individuals were served in 2017.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN MEDIATION CASES

112 children were served as a result of the mediation process in 2017.



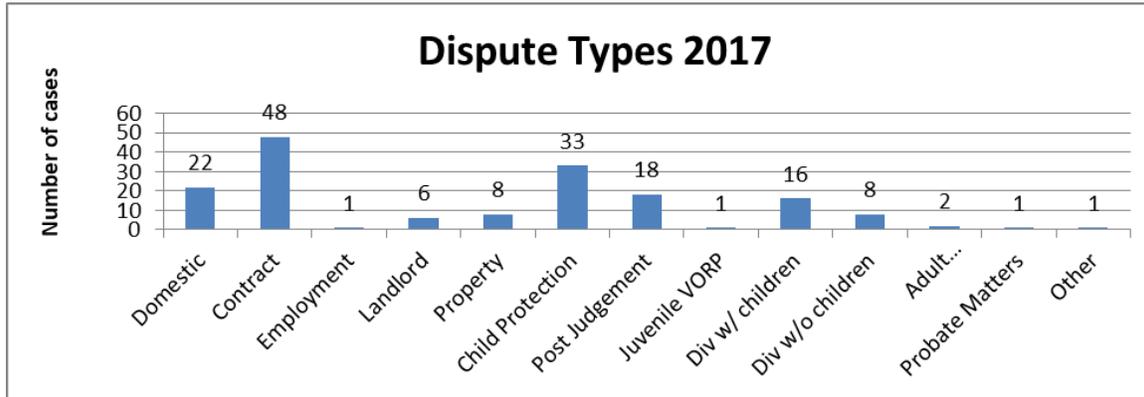
REFERRALS



Referrals from the Courts remain consistent with 85% of total referrals for 2017. Additional referrals were made by legal organizations, community organizations and self-referrals.

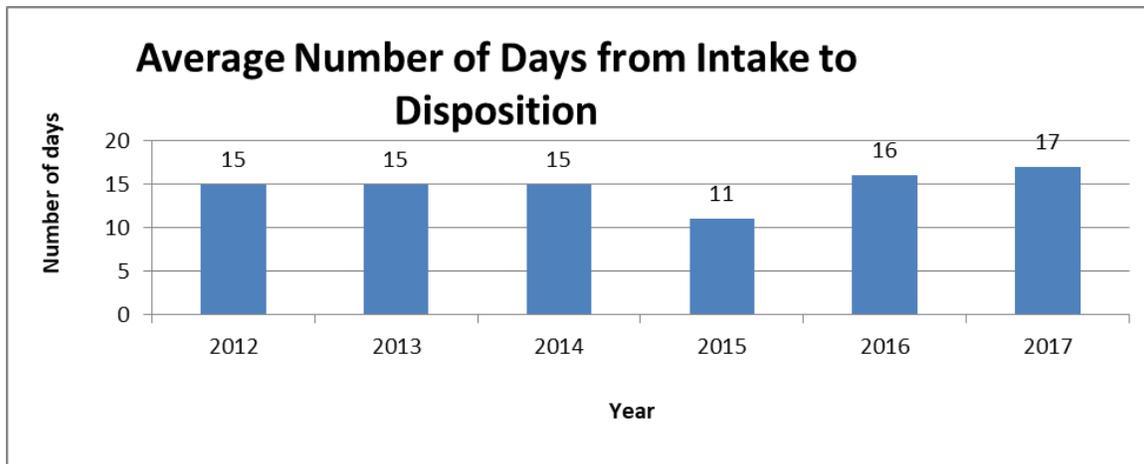
DISPUTE TYPES

The highest dispute type for cases handled by MARS is in the area of contracts. This category covers a wide area of issues and includes disputes with banks, consumers and merchants, payday loan establishments and other types of consumer disputes. 59% of total cases for 2017 involved domestic issues including: child protection, parenting time and custody, post-judgment issues, and divorces with and without minor children. The dispute type comparison for 2017 is listed below.

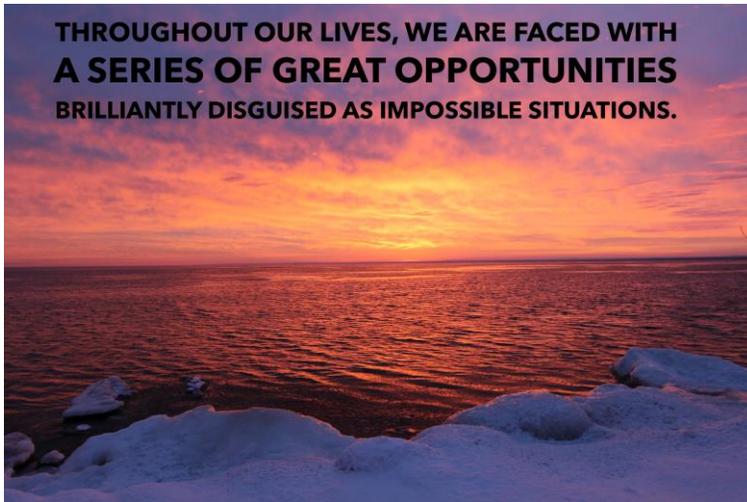


DAYS FROM INTAKE TO DISPOSITION

The number of days from intake to disposition is calculated by counting the number of days from the time the referral is made to the day the mediation is held. The average number of days from intake to disposition from 2012-2017 are listed below.



PERMANENCY PLANNING/CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION (PPM)



**THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, WE ARE FACED WITH
A SERIES OF GREAT OPPORTUNITIES
BRILLIANTLY DISGUISED AS IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS.**

Marquette and Alger Counties have provided PPM since 1999. The program is administered through MARS in cooperation with the Marquette County Probate Court, the Prosecutor's office, the Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services and local private foster care agencies. This program is designed to

improve child welfare processes and outcomes using facilitated mediation in some child abuse and neglect matters that come before the court. Although not every mediation session deals directly with the child's placement, the name for this type of mediation reflects the ultimate goal of the program, which is to facilitate a process which can lead to a determination of a safe, permanent home for children in a timely manner.

The case statistics for the PPM program for 2017 are as follows:

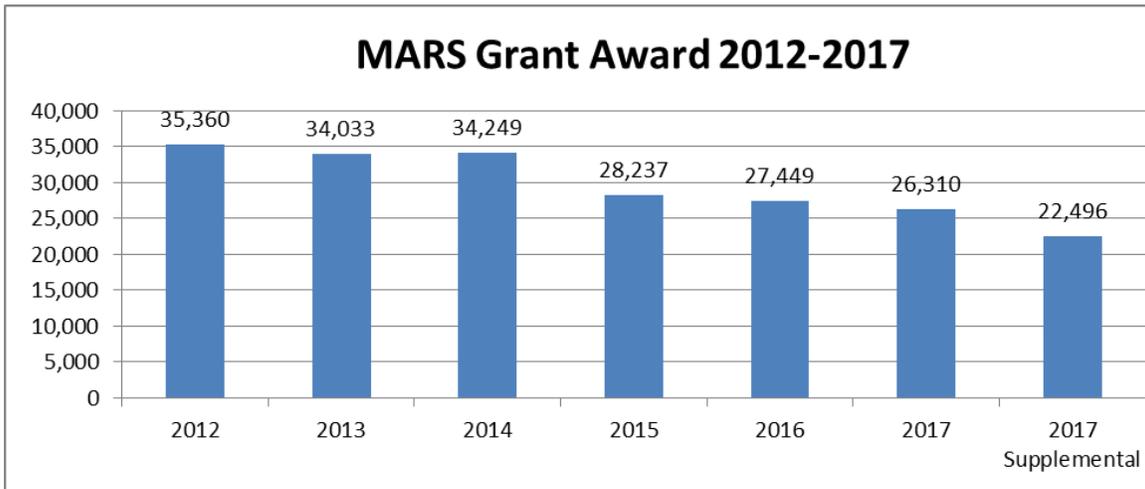
Number of Cases:	33
Number of Cases Mediated:	28
Mediated to full or partial agreement:	64%
Number of Individuals Served:	195
Number of Children Involved:	46

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

MARS has 8 board members. Rick Sanville is the current MARS Board president, Hon. Michael Anderegg, Ret. serves as Vice-President and Robert Jensen is the Secretary/Treasurer.

FUNDING

Mars is funded, in part, by the State Court Administrative Office. The Community Dispute Resolution Program was established in 1988 by Public Act 260. MARS started providing mediation services in 1992. Since that time, MARS has received funding from the State based on core cases from the previous year. MARS is also funded through in-kind support from the Marquette County Probate Court as well as mediation fees from parties, donations, MDHHS and service contracts. The following chart outlines MARS' financial award from the State Court Administrative Office from 2012-2017. In addition, MARS waived fees in 40% of Domestic Relations cases in 2017.



MEDIATOR TIME

25 MARS mediators volunteered for a total of 281 hours in 2017. Based on a state assigned rate value of \$150.00 per hour, this calculates to **\$42,150** in in-kind time donated to the mediation center.

TRAINING

A mediator “Lunch & Learn” was held in December. 10 mediators attended the session and discussed current issues and topics for potential trainings in the future. A 48 hour Domestic Relations training, Restorative Practices training and Special Education Mediator Training are scheduled for 2018.

