



MARQUETTE ALGER RESOLUTION SERVICE

The path to productive dispute resolution.

Services Overview

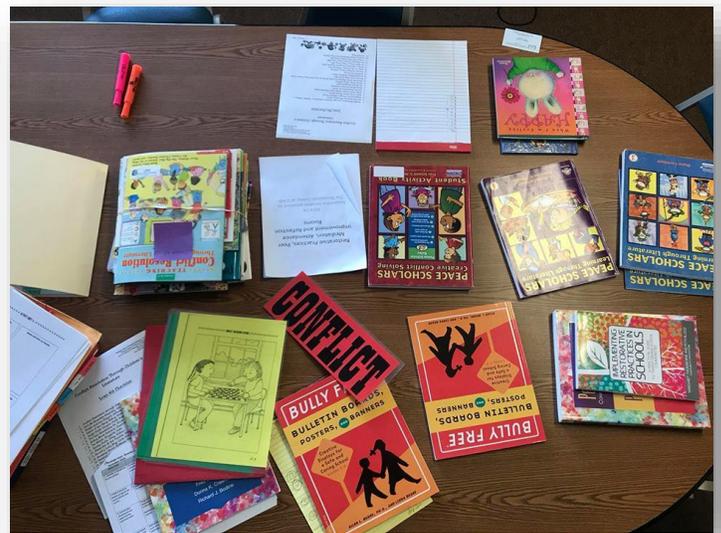
MEDIATION



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.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES

Restorative Justice (RJ) is an approach to addressing conflict and misconduct that focuses on healing rather than punishment. Rather than suspension or expulsion, RJ keeps students in the educational setting, holding them responsible as members of their school community. Students who participate in RJ programs learn the impact of their actions and help decide how to make things right with the victim and any others affected. MARS provides Restorative Conferencing, Peer Mediation, School Attendance Mediation and offers a Conflict Resolution Through Children's Literature Program to address these issues.

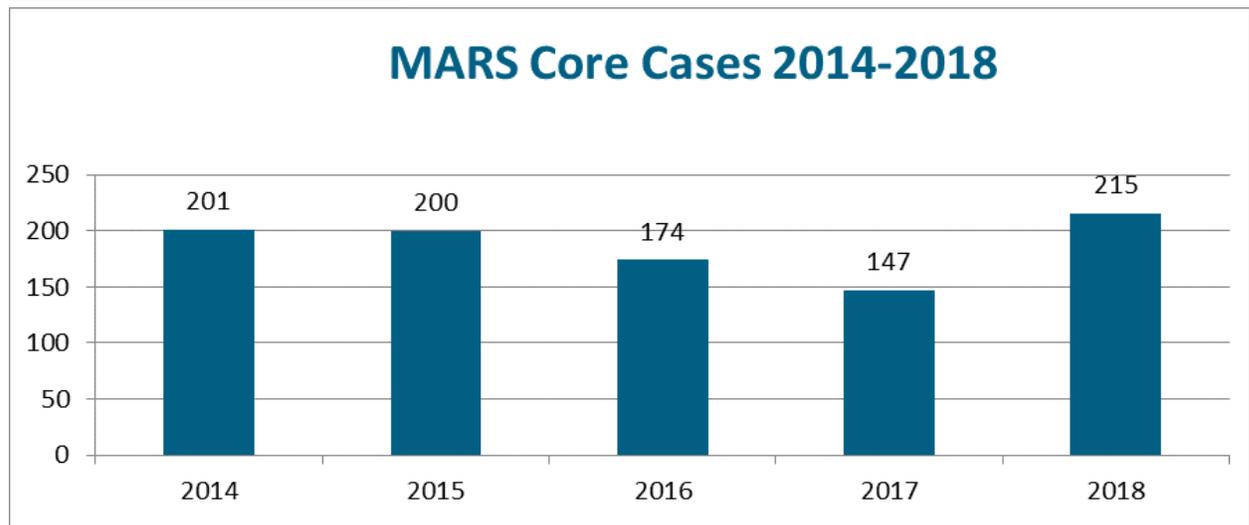


TRAINING

MARS offers a variety of mediation and conflict resolution training programs for the community. Custom designed trainings and 40-48-hour new mediator trainings are offered on a regular basis, as well as, advanced mediator training.



MEDIATION STATISTICS



MARS processed 255 cases and mediated **215** core cases (cases that are mediated with or without agreement) in 2018.

In 2018, of the 215 cases mediated, approximately 70% were mediated to full or partial agreement. 80% of cases were court-ordered. The average duration of a mediation session for 2018 was 84 minutes.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

615 individuals were served in 2018.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN MEDIATION CASES

151 children were served in 2018.

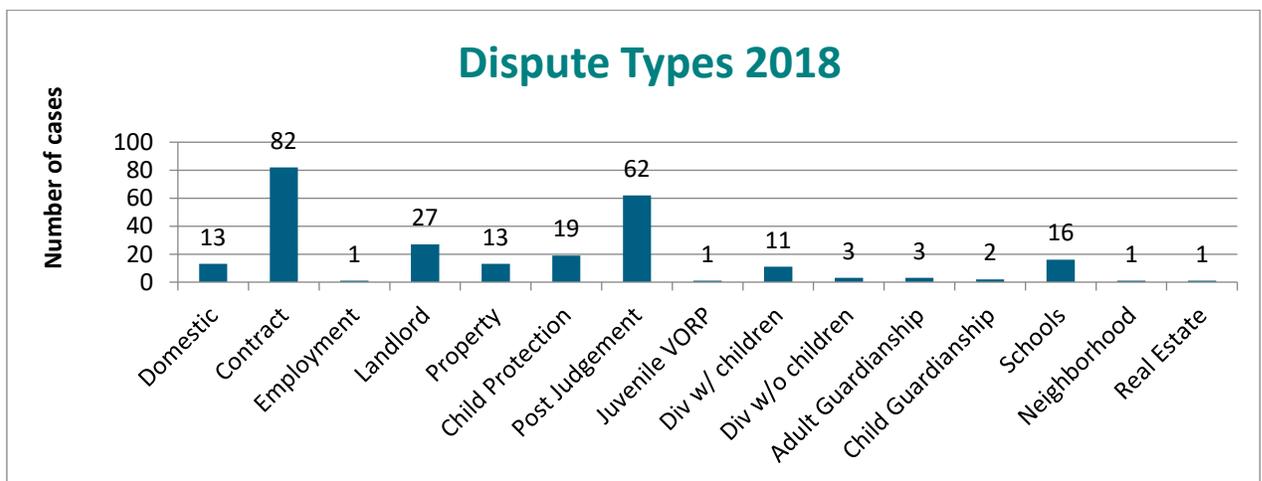
REFERRALS



Referrals from the Courts remain consistent with 80% of total referrals for 2018. Additional referrals were made by legal organizations, community organizations, schools and self-referrals.

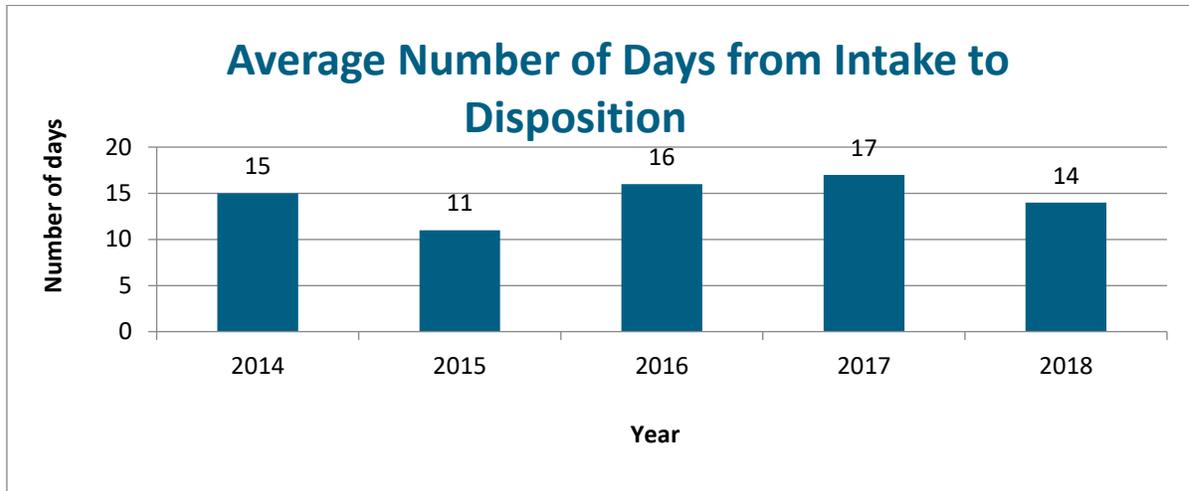
DISPUTE TYPES

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. 42% of total cases for 2018 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 2018 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 2014-2018 are listed below.



PERMANENCY PLANNING/CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION (PPM)

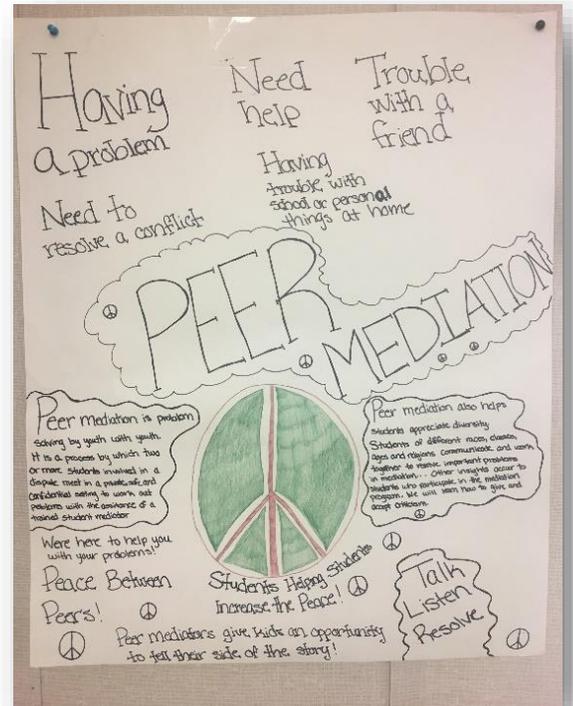
MARS has provided PPM since 1999. The program is administered through MARS in cooperation with the Marquette County Probate Court, the Prosecutor's office, the Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services and local private foster care agencies. This program is designed to improve child welfare 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 2018 are as follows:

Number of Cases:	19
Number of Cases Mediated:	16
Mediated to full or partial agreement:	81%
Number of Individuals Served:	120
Number of Children Involved:	30

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES PROGRAMS

MARS Restorative Justice and Peer Mediation program is a new school-wide program that addresses minor conflicts between K-12. MARS trained 10 volunteer mediators locally in Restorative Justice in August of 2018 and begin the implementation of a Peer Mediation program at North Star Academy in October 2018. 4 high school students were trained at North Star to serve as peer mediators. The MARS mediators continue to provide training, professional development, adult supervision and support for this program. On average, 3-4 peer mediations are being held each week and students are learning new ways to resolve interpersonal conflicts and prevent problems from escalating. This program continues to grow and evolve, and we are working to expand our services to Bothwell Middle School. In addition, mediators are working with students and families to address attendance issues and truancy before the problem escalates or there is court involvement. In 2018, 16 school attendance mediations were held. We hope to expand this program to ensure that students in our community have access to conflict resolution programs, peer mediation and school attendance mediation services directly in every school.



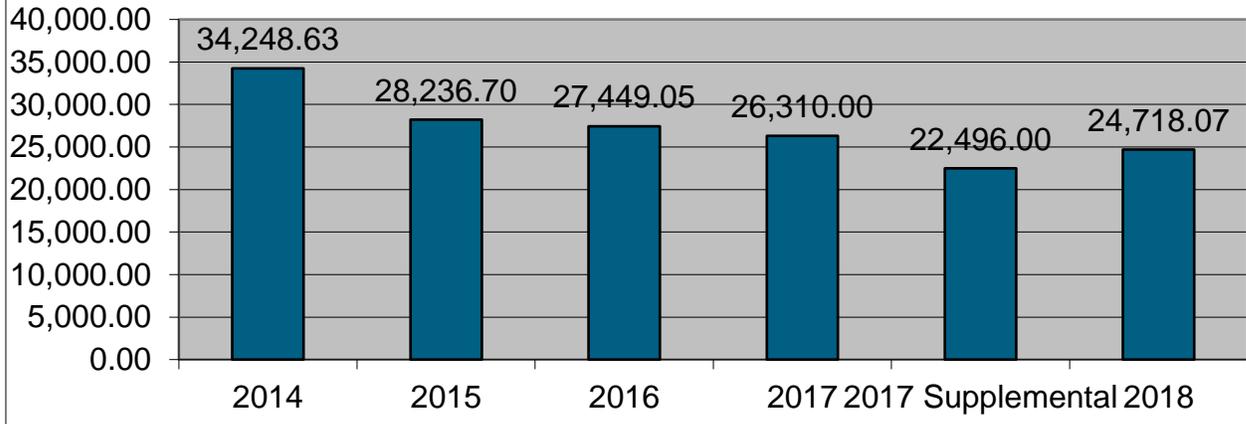
STAFF & BOARD MEMBERSHIP

MARS has 2 part-time staff and 9 board members. Rick Sanville is the current MARS Board president, Hon. Michael Anderegg, Ret. serves as Vice-President Erica Payne is the Treasurer and Pam Christensen is the Secretary.

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 1993. 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 2014-2018. In addition, MARS waived fees in 40% of Domestic Relations cases in 2018.

MARS Grant Award 2014-2018



MEDIATOR TIME

29 MARS mediators volunteered for a total of 382 hours in 2018. Based on a state assigned rate value of \$150.00 per hour, this calculates to **\$57,300** in in-kind time donated to the mediation center.

TRAINING

Mediator "Lunch & Learn" sessions were held in April and in June. 10 mediators attended the session facilitated Hon. Darrell Dettmann (Marquette Courts Referee) and 12 attended the session facilitated by Brian Pappas. Additionally, 10 mediators attended a Restorative Justice training facilitated by Jennine Frazier in August. A UP-Wide Special Education Mediation Training was hosted by MARS and held in Marquette in May. A 48-hour Domestic Relations training and additional Restorative Practices trainings are scheduled for 2019.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

MARS celebrated 25 years of providing mediation and training in November with a gathering of board members and volunteers hosted by Executive Director Jennifer Voegtline-Frazier at her home.

