

Information and Ideas from VaCP Collaborative Awareness Committee # 4

Hope to see everyone in Charlottesville for the VaCP Annual Meeting November 14!

Information

We just returned from IACP Forum energized for another year. It was wonderful seeing all of our colleagues from around the world – with a great showing from Virginia, D.C. and Maryland. Mark your calendars for the 2012 Forum next year for October 18-21 in Chicago at the Palmer House Hilton!

A couple of new resources are available for your client use and practice group consideration:

- The IACP website now offers a 20-minute video of real clients going through their actual Collaborative Divorce called “Safe Haven.” It is on the home page of <http://www.collaborativepractice.com/>. This resource gives clients a snapshot of the work they will be doing and new professionals an opportunity to observe the different professional roles.
- There are also some written stories by clients and professionals which can be reprinted and shared with clients considering the Collaborative process: <http://www.collaborativepractice.com/lib/PDFs/CoolidgeAveClientStory.pdf> and <http://www.collaborativepractice.com/lib/PDFs/MCLCStory1.pdf>

We have a new on-line journal released on 11/1/11 by Carl Michael Rossi and D.C.’s own Gloria Vanderhorst: <http://theworldofcollaborativepractice.com/>. Be sure to read the lead article, “*From Me to We – Professional Transformation through Collaborative Teams.*” You may recognize the author.

Ideas

The holiday season usually marks a slow period in divorce practice. As the workload slows, hopefully we get to relax with family and spend some time assessing how we can enhance our practices. I challenge each of us over the next three months to find some activity to stretch ourselves beyond comfortable habits and improve our skills. In particular, I suggest that each of you commit to one of the following activities:

- Speak to a local group about Collaborative Practice. It doesn’t have to be a large group or complicated presentation, but you need to explain *why what you love to do brings value to that particular group*. This option will allow you to practice forming your thoughts and answering questions to better prepare you for client intake interviews.
- Write a brief article and submit to a local newsletter or magazine. It can be a personal story or an informational piece, but put your thoughts and experiences to paper and get the word out. You never know who your article will touch and it may even produce a prospective client.

- Read a book related to Collaborative Practice. Anyone can do this, so no excuses. It will sharpen your skills and you can bring some new ideas back to apply with your practice group. Some of my suggestions if you need a prompt:
 - *Staying with Conflict* - Bernie Meyers
 - *Conversational Riffs* - Neil Denny (purchase on lulu.com)
 - *Gifts of Imperfection* - Brené Brown
 - *Predictably Irrational* - Dan Ariely
 - *Blind Spots* - Max Bazerman and Ann Tenbrunsel
 - *The Social Animal* - David Brooks
 - *Navigating Emotional Currents in Divorce* - Kate Scharff and Lisa Herrick
 - *Graceful Divorce Solutions* - Marcy Jones

Any of these books will change the way you think and practice and you can lead a discussion with a small group of your practice group to share how you have been changed. Brown and Ariely were the keynote speakers at Forum and their recorded speeches can be purchased from IACP for your practice group discussion along with their books. And, if you absolutely can't read an entire book in three months, just read that article in *The World of Collaborative Practice!*

If you don't have the Collaborative caseload you want, *do something about it*. If you aren't getting clients, *change yourself!*