

VaCP Information and Ideas #6

Information

As 2012 comes to a close, we can reflect on another successful year of collaboration in Virginia. We have 127 professional members, 9 active practice group members and an updated website which now hosts articles, sample documents and a collaborative listserv for Virginia professionals: www.vacollaborativepractice.com.

In November VaCP had a well-attended annual meeting in Charlottesville with educational programs on mental health topics, financial specialist topics and ethics revisions to our basic collaborative documents.

VaCP is also partnering with the training faculty of Collaborative Practice Training Institute to offer a low-cost three-day basic team training in Fairfax, January 31, February 1 and 2, 2013. *Registration is reserved for Virginia professionals until December 15* and then will be open to others until December 31.

In October IACP Forum focused on *Collaborative Leadership* with exciting speakers such as Drew Dudley, Erika Anderson and Park Howell. For the first time we rocked at a Collaborative Neighborhood Block Party on Friday night where Virginia hosted its own corner with Virginia peanuts and lots of hospitality. IACP also introduced its new initiative: *Be-fulfilled.com*. This site is intended to be a “campfire” for professionals who want to share the stories of our work together. Take a look.

Ideas

Collaborative communities are always looking for new ways to educate clients about process options. Here is an idea you can implement: *spread the word among professional colleagues about the VaCP-sponsored training*. This is a one-time opportunity to get the basic training at half the cost, *and even professionals who are already trained may want to register as a refresher course*. With more professionals trained, better information can be presented to clients about all process choices.

It will be easy to pair the 3-day basic training with a Thursday evening event, January 30 in McLean, presented by the Tri-State Collaborative Task Force: *Collaborative Ethics*. As we continue to refine our collaborative skills, it is important to ground this work in the rules and guidelines that are foundational to our respective professions.

Another idea shared at Council opens up new possibilities in assembling teams. Rather than rely on only lawyers to explain the value of other professional team members to collaborative clients, lawyers in Harrisonburg invite a mental health professional and financial specialist to the latter half of the first meeting to discuss the support and services those professionals can provide clients. The professionals need to consider in advance how professional fees will be handled for this introductory session, but it is suggested that this additional cost not be passed on to the clients. Client use of full teams has increased with this approach.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a collaborative new year!