

**Are you an aspiring volunteer mediator?**  
**Join us in 2023!**

## **30-HOUR INITIAL MEDIATION TRAINING WITH MCDC**

The Mediation Center of Dutchess County (MCDC) provides dispute resolution services to individuals, families, and groups. **Through mediation and restorative justice practices, we help turn conflict into conversation.**

As a part of the statewide network of [Community Dispute Resolution Centers](#), we are proud to be a resource within the community, strengthening people's ability to be heard and find solutions. We are also proud to be resourced by the community, with over 90% of our mediation cases facilitated by volunteers.



**Beginning in March 2023, MCDC will offer a pilot Initial Mediation Training program**, in collaboration with two other community dispute resolution centers, with the support of the New York State Unified Court System [Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution](#). MCDC practices, trains, and apprentices in the style of [transformative mediation](#). This approach informs our commitment to empowering community members to effectively transform conflict into conversation. Through a rigorous process of training, guided apprenticeship, and practical applications learning, our volunteers achieve mastery before becoming certified to support community mediation.



### **Who we're looking for**

**We are actively recruiting for up to 4 participants to take the 30-hour Initial Mediation Training in March 2023 and are prioritizing applicants that reflect the fullness of our community.** Applicants must live or work in Dutchess County and make a 1-year volunteer commitment to MCDC after certification.

**Representation matters and it is imperative that a community mediation center cultivates a roster of trained, volunteer mediators who reflect all of the communities we serve.** [Community mediation](#) is a movement that can trace its roots back to the Civil Rights Era and it is designed to preserve individual interests while strengthening relationships and building connections between people and groups, and to recreate systems that make communities work for all of us. There are intentionally no minimum education requirements or professional degrees for prospective volunteer mediators because we want clients to have access to a diverse roster of trained mediators. Due to a generous grant and access to a shared Initial Mediation Training, MCDC is piloting a supported Training and Apprenticeship program this year.

**Registration and more...**



# Looking to Join Our 30-Hour Initial Mediation Training?

Great! The 30-hour Initial Mediation Training will take place during the following dates and times.

## Scheduling Note:

**All sessions are required to complete the training. Please plan accordingly.**



Initial Mediation Training in Transformative Practice	
Monday, March 6, 2023	8:30am – 2:30pm (Virtual)
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	8:30am – 2:30pm (Virtual)
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	8:30am – 2:30pm (Virtual)
Thursday, March 9, 2023	8:30am – 2:30pm (Virtual)
Saturday, March 11, 2023	9am – 12:00pm (Role Plays)
Tuesday, March 14, 2023	8:30am – 2:30pm (Virtual)
Wednesday, March 15, 2023	8:30am – 2:30pm (Virtual)

## About our trainer

**Kim Reisch (she/her/hers) is the Director of the Ontario/Yates Counties for the [Center for Dispute Settlement \(CDS\)](#).** She is a graduate of Cornell University and Syracuse University College of Law, and was admitted to the bar in 1994. Kim has been a volunteer mediator with CDS since that time. Now a retired attorney, she mediates Community, Custody and Visitation, Parent/Teen, Divorce, and Special Education cases for CDS.

With over fifteen years of training experience, Kim brings a practical, interactive approach to every educational opportunity. As a Certified trainer with the New York State Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution, she provides Initial Mediation Training for CDRC volunteers. In addition she provides training in Restorative Circles, Responsive Circles, Communication, and Conflict Management and Leadership Development.

## Interested? Here are the next steps...

**To begin the process, you must first attend an Orientation and Q & A session via Zoom.** In this session, you will be introduced to our agency's purpose, history, and relationship with the community and the NYS Unified Court System. An overview of the Initial Mediation Training (IMT), including requirements and content, along with the subsequent Apprenticeship program. There will be opportunities for questions and answers along with an Application for interested applicants.



**[Register for an Orientation and Q&A session now!](#)**