



2019 Annual Conference

Country Inn & Suites Lincoln North Hotel & Conference Center
5353 N 27th Street, Lincoln NE

Thursday, April 4

Session 1 – 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Families in Transition – Aging Issues Mediation

Dan Bechtol

Session Description: Aging parents and life changes. Families in transition create intense changes in family dynamics. Whether it is personal care and living arrangements or financial planning and wealth management, these conversations are challenging and typically occur during a crisis event. But it's the way we handle conflict that can make all the difference in achieving our goals for the future. This session will provide participants with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the dynamics of family systems and generational conflict involving aging parents and adult siblings and will explore a variety of ways to handle and resolve conflict to repair and build stronger relationships and improve familial stability. Participants will learn the importance of understanding the people involved in the situation, how to control the communication process, and tips for problem-solving to achieve age and situation related conflict resolution.

Learning Objectives:

1. Observe and identify how quickly relationships can erode over significant and insignificant issues.
2. Understand collective generational problem solving using interest-based and positional negotiation techniques.
3. Be able to convene a meeting using mediation practices to address aging related family issues.

Speaker Biography:

Dan Bechtol serves as the Executive Director of the Concord Mediation Center, a non-profit agency serving people in Douglas and Sarpy counties who are experiencing conflict at home, at work, or in the community. He has extensive experience in mediation, facilitation and training, as well as policy and program development. Dan holds a bachelor's degree in Law, Politics and Society (LPS) and Sociology from Drake University (IA) and earned his Master's in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation from Abilene Christian University (TX). Prior to joining Concord Mediation Center, Dan managed a mediation service agency in southwest Iowa.



Dan Bechtol

Thursday, April 4

Session 2 – 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Equality 101: Gender Identity and Orientation

Joni Watke Stacy, J.D.

Session Description: This presentation is an introduction to this topic to provide attendees with terminology, tools and language to become a stronger ally to the LGBTQ community. This presentation also addresses conscious and unconscious bias and its unintended adverse impact on the mediation process. The first step in improving culture is to become educated in the basics and to create a common language from which more work can be done.

Learning Objectives:

1. Provide learners with an in-depth understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity as part of one's sexual identity.
2. Provide learners with culturally competent language when dealing with a client's sexual orientation and/or gender identity, including a local family's experience with their young child's gender identity identification and transition.
3. Provide learners with understanding of the role of conscious and unconscious bias to reduce its adverse effect on the mediation process.

Speaker Biography:

Joni Watke Stacy is an attorney with Sena, Polk & Stacy Law Partners. She has been in private practice for over 20 years, specializing in family law and estate planning. She has been educating and advocating about LGBTQ issues for more than a decade. Joni is also a co-founder of Equality Advancement Partners which works with organizations and families to better support the LGBTQ community. She is a former PFLAG National Board Member. PFLAG is the oldest national organization of straight allies and LGBTQ people working together to move equality forward. Joni is also a member of PTRN (the Professional Transgender Resource Network) which is an interdisciplinary group of professionals working towards education and equality for the transgender community in Nebraska.



Joni Watke Stacy, J.D.

Each year Joni educates and raises awareness about sex, gender, and bias issues for thousands around the Midwest and across the country, including regional and national conferences, corporations, teachers and administrators, law enforcement personnel, community service providers, faith communities, mental health professionals, lawyers and court personnel, nurses, physicians, medical students, in college classrooms, and to middle school and high school students.

Friday, April 5

Session 3 – 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Effective Mediator Skills: Rapport, Trust, Professionalism & the Impact of Non-verbal Communication

Jeff Thompson, Ph.D.

Session Description: What really makes a mediator effective?

Are the skills you use as a mediator the same that other people use? Do you try to specifically do certain actions while also

avoiding others? Drawing on his doctoral research, Jeff

Thompson, Ph.D., addresses the complexity of these

questions. Central to his work is understanding the development of rapport, building trust, and the display of professionalism. Each is examined through nonverbal communication. The building blocks of effective mediators are offered through three studies Jeff conducted. First, a survey of almost 400 mediators worldwide provided both quantitative and qualitative data, giving insight into a variety of topics related to nonverbal communication. Second, ethnographic interviews of mediation trainers and professors were conducted to find out how mediators are being taught nonverbal communication, rapport, trust, and professionalism. Third, mediators were observed to understand what they actually do, with specific emphasis on the mediator's introduction.

In his presentation, Jeff will discuss the interplay of all this research, and explain not only what actually works in mediation, but also how much of what ADR professionals accomplish is done through nonverbal communication.

During the second part of Jeff's presentation, he will share how those nonverbal communication skills merge with verbal strategies through the use of utilizing active listening skills. He will share a specific method of how active listening is taught and practiced by crisis intervention experts across the country including: crisis counselors, mediators, negotiators, physicians, and law enforcement officers. The presentation is interactive with opportunities for you to be able to practice these skills and test your abilities.

Speaker Biography:

Jeff Thompson, Ph.D., is a professor at Lipscomb University and New York University, researcher, and trainer. He is a law enforcement detective (NYPD) and a former hostage negotiator. His research includes hostage negotiation in terrorist incidents, suicide prevention strategies, and the use of effective communication during crisis incidents. He received his doctorate from Griffith University Law School having researched the development of rapport, building trust, and displaying professionalism during conflict situations.

In his role at the NYPD, Detective Thompson is currently the Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator helping conduct research and outreach on the department's suicide prevention efforts, reducing the stigma associated with mental illness, and raising awareness of resources available to both police officers and the public.

Agenda – Friday, April 5

8:15 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:30 General Session

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:15 General Session

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch/NMA Business Mtg

1:30 – 3:00 General Session

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:15 General Session

4:15 – 4:30 Closing



Jeff Thompson, Ph.D.

Dr. Thompson has presented and trained on the topic of conflict, (crisis and hostage) negotiation, suicide prevention and awareness, mental illness, mediation, crisis communication, and nonverbal communication internationally for a variety of audiences including police personnel, government officials, judges, attorneys, physicians, sales people, business professionals, and both graduate and undergraduate students. He has also been published in numerous professional and academic publications.

Dr. Thompson is the co-chair of the Association for Conflict Resolution's national Crisis Negotiation Section, a crisis counselor and he is an ad-hoc reviewer for multiple academic journals. He received his MS in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution from the Werner Institute, Creighton University School of Law and is a former Research Fellow at Columbia University.

Hotel & Conference Center Information

Country Inn & Suites Lincoln North Hotel & Conference Center

5353 N 27th Street

Lincoln NE

Easy access – 2 miles south of I-80!

Lodging

To reserve a room in NMA's block:

Call 402-476-5353; ask to book a room within the Nebraska Mediation Association Group Block

Rate – \$99/night + taxes

Cutoff Date – 03/21/2019

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m.

Check-out Time: 12:00 p.m.

Included:

- FREE full hot breakfast; Breakfast Room Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00AM-9:30AM; Weekends & Holidays 7:00AM-10:30AM
- FREE Parking
- FREE Wireless Internet
- FREE Shuttle service to and from the Lincoln Airport.



**Nebraska Mediation Association
2019 Annual Conference
April 4-5, 2019**

**Country Inn & Suites Lincoln North Hotel & Conference Center
Lincoln, NE**

REGISTRATION FORM

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Send completed registration with payment to:

Nebraska Mediation Association
PO Box 13 • Beatrice, NE 68310
Questions? Call 402.302.1025

To register online and pay by credit card, visit www.nemediation.org/2019-conf

Full Conference

- Member - \$135 \$ _____
- Non-Member - \$195* \$ _____
- Full-time Student - \$70 \$ _____

Thursday Only

- Member - \$75 \$ _____
- Non-Member - \$135* \$ _____
- Full-time Student - \$35 \$ _____

Friday Only

- Member - \$100 \$ _____
- Non-Member - \$160* \$ _____
- Full-time Student - \$45 \$ _____

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Total Due: \$ _____