



April 23, 2007

News Release

CITY MANAGER COMPLETES ADVANCED MEDIATION TRAINING PROGRAM

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – West Carrollton City Manager, Tracy Williams, is part of a select group of local government officials across Ohio who are trained to mediate public policy disputes between government agencies in other parts of the state.

Williams was one of 16 local officials who recently completed an advanced skill-building workshop in which he learned techniques to manage conflicts that can arise among government agencies over budgets, personnel issues and community issues.

The workshop, entitled, “Conflict Resolution Services for Government Officials Advanced Practice Skills” was held April 12-13 at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, Ohio. It was co-sponsored by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Judicial Conference, the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution.

Williams and fellow attendees are volunteers in a referral network of 111 current and former county commissioners, municipal officials and judges across the state who have completed the training program since 1991. Network members are available to meet with disputants and serve as volunteer “mediation advocates” if called upon to help resolve inter-governmental conflicts outside their own jurisdictions.

Workshop coordinator Maggie Lewis said government officials trained in conflict management skills have proven to be effective neutral third parties to help local agencies overcome differences and reach agreement before a minor dispute hardens into a major impasse.

Williams said that topics covered in the advanced skills workshop included sessions on negotiation and mediation skill-building, as well as the use of collaborative processes designed to increase public input into community decision making.

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