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Press Release

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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Presents Annual Mediation Week Awards

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Workforce, Development, Aging and Community Service (WDACS) recognized those who have provided outstanding services in the area of mediation.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and WDACS honored individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to mediation and conflict resolution in the County of Los Angeles. The presentation took place at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration during the regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 18, 2017. The Board of Supervisors also adopted a motion, introduced by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, to proclaim April 17-21, 2017 as Mediation Week throughout Los Angeles County and to encourage County residents, businesses and organizations to utilize mediation services to resolve disputes.

The 2017 Mediation Week Honorees are:

- **Outstanding Case Award:** Centinela Youth Services (CYS), is the recipient of the “Outstanding Case” award for a victim-offender mediation case involving a twelve (12) year old student who was found guilty of stealing 5 laptops from his elementary school, sentenced to pay \$5,000 in restitution, and placed on probation. A resolution agreed on by all parties was reached that included the school forgiving the \$5,000, and the young man being released from probation.
- **Outstanding Project Award:** Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, recipient of the “Outstanding Project” award, was honored for their “Parent-School Conflict Resolution Roundtable”. The goal of the roundtable was to create awareness about the issue of parent-school conflicts, and to encourage the development and creation of new mediation programs to resolve disputes between parents and school systems in Los Angeles County.
- **William C. Hobbs Award:** Jacqueline Miller Stoops received the William C. Hobbs Award for “Outstanding Adult Volunteer”. After completing 65 hours of training, which included basic mediation training and conciliation training, Mrs. Stoops, a valued volunteer at the Loyola Law School Center for Conflict Resolution, gave over 350 hours of volunteer service within an 18 month period.

“Mediation is one of the most used conflict resolution skills, and helps to promote positive human relations in a diverse metropolis like Los Angeles County”, said Robin Toma, WDACS Assistant Director and the Executive Director of the County’s Commission on Human Relations. “Intergroup Relations are strengthened when people are able to sit down face-to-face, have a chance to understand each other through the mediation process, and agree on the solutions. It’s an invaluable program that does so much to advance our Human Relations Commission’s mission, to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.”

Mediation services are free to county residents through the Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) administered by WDACS in collaboration with partner agencies. For more information on DRP, call (213) 738-2621.

About Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services

Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) is committed to providing services which have positive impacts on the lives of the citizens of Los Angeles County. We provide employment services to adults and youth. We work with employers in times of hiring and downsizing. We offer mediation services to avoid court filings. We investigate abuse claims against our older adult and disabled population. We provide nutrition and other life-enhancing services to older adults. Our Human Relations Commission is dedicated to fostering positive inter-group relations.

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