**Statistics for TMTC FY 2019 Hampden Probate & Family Court Cases**

Fifty-five Hampden Probate & Family Court cases were mediated by TMTC in FY 2019. Parties’ feedback about the mediation process and its impact was obtained in surveys completed by 80 parties, representing 43 mediated cases.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT POPULATION SERVED

Out of 78 surveyed parties, 41% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino/Spanish, 37% described themselves as White, and 23% indicated they were Black/African American.

A majority of responding parties were lower income – 58% of 72 responding parties had annual incomes below $30,000. Twenty-three percent of the 72 parties earned less than $10,000 per year. Four percent were higher income, earning $65,000 or more annually.

PARTIES’ REASONS TO MEDIATE

The vast majority or 76% of 79 surveyed parties heard about the mediation program from judges.

Out of 78 surveyed parties, roughly similar numbers chose mediation because it was preferable to court proceedings (45%), it was accessible (40%), and because the service was free (42%). Over one-quarter or 28% of respondents were motivated to mediate because of the positive things they’d heard about the program.

RESULTS ACHIEVED FOR PARTIES THROUGH MEDIATION

According to 77 responding parties, 29% of sessions were without conflict. Otherwise 19% of session were characterized by high levels of conflict, 29% were accompanied by moderate conflict, and conflict was low at 23% of sessions. Despite the conflict, for majorities of surveyed parties, mediation led to positive outcomes such as reaching agreements, improving interactions between parents, greater involvement with the child, and reducing court involvement.

According to 62 responding parties, 82% reached an agreement, either in full (42%) or in part (19%). Agreements about parenting plans were also fully achieved by a majority or 53% of 64 surveyed parties.

Majorities of surveyed parents reported complete or partial progress in

* Communicating with the other parent (73% of 74 parents)
* Reducing conflict with the other parent (68% of 74 parents)
* Improving their skills in resolving conflict with the other parent (70% of 74 parents)
* Increasing civility between parents (72% of 74 parents)
* Increasing access to the child (58% of 72 parents)
* Increasing visitation with the child (54% of 72 parents)
* Increasing parent’s time with the child (52% of 73 parents)
* Better understanding of parenting skills (54% of 72 parents)
* Increased involvement with the child by the other parent (57% of 74 parents)
* Improved expression of parenting expectations to the other parent (68% of 73 parents)
* Reduced court involvement (65% of 74 parents)

A majority of 55% of 53 surveyed parents indicated that less parent conflict was a factor in their financial support for the child.

PARTIES’ FEEDBACK ABOUT THEIR MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

Before mediation, 97% of 79 responding parties received clear information about the program and the mediation process. After mediating, 95% of 78 responding parties would use the program again, and all 78 respondents would recommend the program to others.

Most of 77 surveyed parties found mediators were helpful because they listened to their needs and concerns (79%), allowed them to make their own decisions (62%), were fair and unbiased (81%), and assisted them with identifying and clarifying issues (77%), with writing up the agreement (68%), and with generating ideas and considering options (75%).