

Role title and Qualifications: Senior Counsellor, ACTS Assessment and Consultation Therapy Service. Working with Children in or at risk of Special Care & Detention in Ireland.

Training Details: Professional Certificate in Mediation facilitated by Catherine O'Connell and Andre O'Neill is run over 9 days inclusive of a one day for assessment. Following completion and successfully passing assessment you may apply to register with the MII as a Certified Mediator, eligible to practice.

Summary of the Training: As an accredited Psychotherapist working with young people, their families and professional networks, I often find conflict management is an issue that presents itself and one I felt mediation skills would be best placed to address. Mediation knowledge and skills play a significant role in the resolution of disputes from: family (separation, parenting, older persons); commercial; workplace; community to name a few. The Mediation Act 2017 places specific requirements on mediators. This programme facilitates participants in developing the knowledge and skills that underpin the mediation of conflicts and disputes. In addition to understanding current concepts, policy and good practice relating to mediation, participants develop the critical skills required to be an effective mediator. Successful completion of this course followed by separate assessment with MII allows participants to apply to join the Mediators' Institute of Ireland (MII) and participate in further education.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To develop participants understanding of the theory of conflict and how conflict happens, escalates and impacts people and organisations.
- To develop awareness of conflict styles
- To attain a good understanding of core mediation concepts, theories, models, processes, and principles.
- To develop participants' mediation skills to the level of competency as laid down in MII certified assessment requirements.
- To provide participants with essential information which guides mediator's behaviour e.g. The Mediation Act (2017) and the MII Codes of Ethics and Standards.

Application of the learning in practice: Prior to undertaking the course, I was drawing on my clinical training to support clients therapeutically to explore and work through conflict. However, this course had equipped me with so much more to enhance my practice with adolescents and their families/ careers as well as enhancing my skill set within an organisational setting. I now have the understanding and skills to assess differing conflict styles and can respond appropriately, drawing on practical experience and mediation theories. I set out with the intention to complete the introductory training in Mediation with a plan to do further specialised training in the area of separating families and this course has equipped me with the skills and knowledge I need to embark on further training in the area.

Thank you FPSA for providing me with this opportunity.