

Corrected Press Release  
Please see date changes in  
5<sup>th</sup> Paragraph.  
Thank you

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mediation Training Planned**

Active Balanced Community (ABC) has announced plans for Victim-Offender Mediation Training. The Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) committee is planning the training. The mediator training is a dynamic interactive program. More than just lectures, this training offers participants the opportunity to study and experience new methods for achieving resolution. The training includes learning practical skills, and employing role-plays to give participants immediate “hands-on” experience when applying the principles of successful mediation.

Trained mediators are used by the juvenile court system to promote non-institutional alternatives for sentencing for juvenile offenders. Victim-Offender Mediation is different from mediation as it is practiced in civil or commercial disputes, since the involved parties are not “disputants”. One is the admitted offender and the other is the victim.

“Studies have shown that after meeting the offender that victims are less fearful of being re-victimized and offenders are less likely to repeat the crime,” said April Corie, co-coordinator for Active Balanced Community.

Training is open to the public. People from a variety of backgrounds are encouraged to participate. Their diverse perspectives will enhance the training experience. Most important is a desire to improve ones ability to manage and resolve conflict. Educational and professional requirements are not necessary.

Training sessions will be held on Thursday afternoons and all day on Fridays for three consecutive weeks. Training dates are [August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>](#), [August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>](#) and [August 25 & 26](#). All sessions will be held at the United Way of Monroe County at 216 N. Monroe St.

These 40 hours of training is the first requirement in the process of becoming a Victim-Offender Mediator. After an individual completes Mediation Training, an additional 8 hours of training will be required to become a Victim-Offender Mediator.

Questions should be directed to ABC at 734-242-1331 or visit the website at [www.activebalancedcommunity.org](http://www.activebalancedcommunity.org).

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