

MARCH-APRIL  
2021

# EARLY SETTLEMENT MEDIATION

S O U T H W E S T P R O G R A M

NEWSLETTER



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**May 25 & 26** - Basic Volunteer  
Training

**April 19-24** - National  
Volunteer Week (*details coming  
soon*)

A close-up photograph of a red t-shirt. The word "VOLUNTEER" is printed in white, bold, capital letters across the chest area. The fabric of the shirt is visible, showing some wrinkles and texture.

# BASIC TRAINING

EARLY SETTLEMENT MEDIATION  
SOUTHWEST PROGRAM

## BASIC CIVIL MEDIATION TRAINING

MAY 25 & 26, 2021  
(Tuesday-Wednesday)

Cameron University- Lawton Campus

Registration: 8:15AM  
Training: 8:30AM-6PM

For more information contact:  
earlysettlement@cameron.edu

Basic Volunteer Mediator training for Southwest Oklahoma will be held May 25th and 26th at Cameron University's Lawton, OK campus.

Please reach out to friends and family you think would enjoy joining our volunteer mediation team. Remind those that you invite that- by attending training they are agreeing to donate 10 hours of volunteer time to our program for the next 2 years.

If you, or someone you know, is interested please pass on our contact information.

## COMANCHE COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS COURT

After a 1 year absence, our program has been welcomed back into a select number of Comanche County Small Claims dockets! The docket is only 10 cases and is at random times/days throughout the week to make up for the current back log, while keeping the number of people in the courtroom low.

In order to comply with the allowable number of people in each courtroom, our office will be scheduling one mediator & one trainee for each docket. If you are interested in attending a small claims docket in Comanche County, please reach out to the office and we will get you plugged in.

# UPDATE MINUTE

I feel like Spring has been in "warp speed" here at the ESM office. With the coming of good weather, our program is experiencing abundant good news!

First, the vaccine and the continued safety efforts of everyone has allowed the COVID-19 infection numbers to steadily decline. The drop in pandemic infection numbers has allowed our program to return to many of the small claims dockets across our 12 county area. In addition to seeing an increase in our monthly small claims numbers, we are seeing our family/divorce and permanency referrals remain steady each month.

Second, our amazing volunteers have allowed our program to mediate more family/divorce and permanency cases than we did in all of last year (and we still have 3 months to go in this FY)!

With this good news comes some crazy busyness. Thank you to all of you who answer my, and other staff member's, calls/emails asking for volunteers.

Third, I am excited for training and all the new additions to our volunteer team that it will bring. See page 2 of this newsletter for details regarding training.

Lastly, I look forward to the wonderful things next month has in store for ESM!



Sarah Head

Director, Early Settlement Mediation- Southwest Program