

## **The Success of Celebration XIV Building the Collaborative Bridge**

As always CP Cal's Annual Celebration was inspiring and enriching.

People are still talking about the workshops they attended and insights to understanding our clients, how to generate more cases, reach agreements and practical tools to use in our work.

We had 120 participants register for the conference.

### **General Feedback**

**100% of Respondents said their goals were met.**

#### **Why they came:**

- "Great networking opportunities". "...spend time with colleagues/friends".
- "I love this community - get to see all people I've been on zoom meeting with throughout the year."
- "To meet new practitioners" or "I am new to collaborative law and need the training"
- "To present knowledge and meet face to face with leaders of other practice groups."
- "To learn more about collaborative and bring content & updates back to my group."
- "My group has made attendance a priority of our group"
- "it's important to show up for the growth of Collaborative Practice"

#### **How their Goals were met:**

- "All seminars I attended were excellent!", "Interesting and helpful content"
- "Variety of interesting skill-based plenaries and workshops + socializing, eating and hanging out with old and new friends."
- "Great Celebration! The people and the programs - top notch."
- "Learned new ideas, theories and activities for practice."
- "Every session I learned something I would like to do, need to do and want to do."
- "Speakers were on point, great group of people."
- "It was so much fun! So great to see everybody and learn from them. Re-inspired."

#### **What was MOST effective/valuable?**

- "The classes I chose were excellent. Had practical application"

- "Opportunity to honor Eureka award winner."
- "Clear descriptions and handouts in Agreement Readiness"
- "Thought provoking, Ellison Plenary and James Walton's ideas to meet clients where they are."
- "Presentations I attended were well done. I most appreciated the genuine passion of the professionals here. Great food!"
- "Grateful for the delegates meeting - left me feeling engaged and excited."
- "Hard to choose! The mortgage workshop was my favorite."
- "Big Rocks seminar - great concept for moving clients toward points of commonality and settlement."
- "Associating with friendly, like-minded professionals"
- "Small size groups, reputable and experienced presenters." "Hearing from experts"

### **Some Workshop Highlights:**

#### **Sharon Strand Ellison's Plenary on Sunday and her workshop both received Rave Reviews: Powerful Non-Defensive Communication: Cutting Edge Skills for Defusing Defensiveness, Often Instantly.**

Participants admired how Sharon Ellison helped us understand our current culture of using words that build defensiveness in others and create more adversarial responses rather than understanding each other.

She gave poignant examples of how to mindfully ask questions to seek to understand one another's feelings or perspective. She shared how to disarm a bully or one who is using inappropriate behavior or language.

Her techniques result in raising awareness of how paying attention to our words and how we express them helps our collaborative profession and the world at large with non adversarial dispute resolution.

**Best Practices for Support Agreements Considering Clients' Emotions with speakers: Warren Sacks, Stephanie Maloney and James Walton** explored concepts of understanding and meeting clients where they are by defining 4 different styles to approaching agreements. James Walton presented the 4 styles of approaches to problem-solving and then added extra layers of complexity with regard to underlying motivations to meet their own needs for reward or avoid conflict. Dr. Walton went on to help participants understand language that each client would be more receptive to and how avoid triggering emotion in clients.

#### **Agreement Readiness: How Full Interdisciplinary Teams Bring Clients to Agreement Readiness. Speakers: Carol Hughes, Bart Carey and Cathleen Collinsworth.**

"Valuable insights into the importance of preparing clients individually and a team for agreement readiness" "Gave a consistent language for all professionals to use to

develop interests and brainstorm options with clients. Helps them to understand what we expect from them in collaborating." "We'd like our practice group trained in these strategies"

**The Caucus Genie: It Really is Magic. Speakers: Shawn D. Skillin and Shawn Weber**

The magic was revealed in this workshop as speakers Shawn Skillin and Shawn Weber presented seven clear and practical steps to make the caucus process work. Their steps help clients feel understood and then move them from unreasonable positions to generating ideas that are more likely to work for both parties. Participants Commented that the handouts helped them understand the approach and guided them step by step through the process.

**Congratulations to the Eureka Award recipients!**

Don Blythe, John Denny, Jami Fosgate, Jeffery Jacobson, and Beth McClelland.

The presenters for the awards gave us both heartwarming and humorous stories about how these individuals have brightened their lives!

As always we enjoyed a dinner and dance on Saturday night.