

ODR Director Named to Advisory Panel of the National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) officially announced on Thursday, September 25, 2008, that the National Center on Dispute Resolution [CFDA 84.326D] was awarded to Direction Service, Inc. located in Eugene, Oregon.

The grant period for this project began October 1, 2008 and will end September 30, 2013. The project, under the directorship of Marshall Peter, will draw on ten years of accomplishments as the Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE). Direction Service, Inc. will continue CADRE as the National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education. Since 1998, CADRE activities have facilitated increased and effective use of mediation, IEP facilitation, and other alternative dispute resolution processes. In the next five years, CADRE will deliver technical assistance and information support to State educational agencies (Part B), lead agencies (Part C), and the National and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers in order to: (a) improve effective management of state dispute resolution (DR) systems; (b) assist states in adopting effective DR approaches; and (c) improve dispute resolution skills of practitioners, parents, and school/provider staff. The impact of this assistance is intended to result in improved state dispute resolution system compliance and performance; increased use of early DR processes; and less use of expensive and adversarial DR processes. CADRE will be managed by the Research to Practice (RTP) Division in OSEP.

ODR Director, Kerry V. Smith, Esquire, has been named to the Advisory Panel of the National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education.

The ten-person panel, consisting of representatives across the country, will assist the National Center in implementing its grant. See <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/board.cfm> for a complete list of Advisory Panel members.