***Morris County Psychological Association***



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**November 11, 2021**

**Paradigm Shift: Treating Parents Embroiled in Conflict**

Presented by:

Sharon Ryan Montgomery, Psy.D. and Tamsen Thorpe, Ph.D.

**Meeting announcements:**

Holiday party location has been changed to Sharon Ryan Montgomery’s house. Details to follow.

***-Register for all upcoming programs at*** [***www.mcpanj.com***](http://www.mcpanj.com)

***Contact:*** Nancy Sidhu at [nancysidhumcpa@gmail.com](mailto:nancysidhumcpa@gmail.com) if you have any questions or prefer not to register online.

**Meeting Attendees:**

Rhonda Alen

Richard Brewster

Genevieve Chaney

Tammy Dorff

Sarah Dougherty

Komal Dutt

Irene Fisher

Kenneth Gates

Marc Gironda

Alissa Glickman

Hayley Hirschmann

Glenda Insabella

Melissa Klika Mack

Barbara Semko Kurlansik

Phyllis Lakin

Marilyn Lyga

Elizabeth Matheis

Ilysa Michelson

Sharon Ryan Montgomery

Morgan Murray

Susan Neigher

Carly Orenstein

Marcy Pasternak

Debra Roelke

Francine Rosenberg

Nicole Safonte-Strumolo

Jayne Schachter

Nancy Sidhu

Tamsen Thorpe

Beverly Tignor

Margaret Tobias

Steven Tobias

Paul Yampolsky

Michael Zito

**Presenter Bio:**

Dr. Montgomery is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Morristown, NJ. with an expertise in clinical and forensic psychology and has served as an expert in over 2000 custody disputes in New Jersey and other states. She has taught, lectured extensively, and presented papers at both national and international conferences and was past president of  NJPA. MCPA, and the NJ Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Dr. Thorpe is also a clinical and forensic psychologist in Morristown where she works with couples and individuals who are in transition or in high conflict.  In a forensic capacity she provides evaluations and interventions such as Parent Coordination or Reunification.

**Overview and objectives of today’s talk:**

High conflict between parents leads to devastating consequences for children, whether or not the parents eventually divorce.  Shielding children from the impact of parental conflict, understanding the dynamics of the conflict, as well as teaching both married and divorced parents to manage their disagreements, needs to be the focus of treatment.  In this presentation, current research, treatment options, and parenting techniques will be discussed.

***Learning Objectives:  By the end of the session, participants will be able to:***

* 1.  Recognize and assess high conflict co-parenting dynamics.
* 2. Describe negative impacts on children and how to better buffer them.
* 3. Summarize treatment options.
* 4. Engage in paradigm shift in therapeutic approach to high conflict parents.
* *This program is intended for psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and graduate students. It will be presented at an intermediate level, meant for those with some prior knowledge of the subject matter. The presenter does not have any commercial support and/ or conflict of interest for this program****.***

**Q & A:**

1. Member was looking for an intervention to be used when both parties insist on being right?
   1. Typically a parenting coordinator would hear each side and then can make a recommendations about what is in the best interest of the child. Otherwise it will bounce back to the court. The use of New Ways for Families is suggested.
2. Is there an issue when extended families get involved?
   1. The in laws coming to live with a family often creates conflict. The grandmother views self as head of the household. People who come may be traditional which can lead to conflict. Sometimes you will have to bring everyone in.

**Newsletter submitted by:**

**MCPA Secretary – Melissa Klika, Psy.D.**