**Short Description:**

Calling all neutrals!

If you are a collaborative professional fulfilling a neutral role, you understand the unique and meaningful dynamics that neutrality can bring to our work. In this workshop, our interdisciplinary team of neutrals will invite you to join in dialogue and learn together:

1. What neutrality means in our process
2. How our role is influenced by our sense of what conflict is?
3. How to be “the one” to ask the “dumb questions”
4. How to manage resistance from clients and colleagues?
5. How, and when, to give and receive feedback?
6. How to bring specialized knowledge while fulfilling the neutral role

And we will close with a nourishing discussion about how we can support one another around the world to carry out this vital role.

**Detailed Description**

Part 1: Describing our role and what we do in order to fill this role:

1. Understanding neutrality – impartiality - its meaning and its limits
2. Applying and meeting our professional ethics/regulations in the role
3. Managing Conflict
4. Helping Clients Communicate more effectively
5. Enhancing Team culture and managing team dynamics
6. Fulfilling a specialist focus while being neutral
7. Handling work outside the full team: i.e. Co-Parenting communication/ IPV screening / Parenting education / views of the child

Part 2: Skill Building Session

1. Asking insightful questions
2. Dealing with resistance from colleagues and clients
3. Feedback
4. Moving forward while attending to emotion and pacing
5. Acting with transparency and “neutrality”

Part 3: How do we support one another around the world to carry out this role?

1. Identify gaps and needs for essential skills training
2. Creating a hub for our neutrals to call “home”.
3. Need for advanced training

Action Plan: 3 take-aways.

**Structure and Methodology:**

We will open with a large group discussion on the nature of neutrality – impartiality. Together we will create a list of attributes that define the role.

Presentation: each of the three presenters will introduce the key roles they play as a neutral, and the impact the role has played in CP cases.

Small group discussion – What are the challenges you face as a neutral in your work?

Interactive exercises:

Managing Conflict – what is going on when conflict shows up

Helping Clients Communicate more effectively – clearing the blocks that get in the way

Enhancing Team culture and managing team dynamics – asking curious questions to team, facilitating and providing feedback.

Mates who have “seen it all!”

Skill Building Session

Asking insightful questions – written exercise

Dealing with resistance from colleagues and clients – small group discussion

Moving forward while attending to emotion and pacing – case study

Acting with transparency and “neutrality” – case study

Large Group Discussion: How can we support one another around the world to carry out this role?

Identify gaps and needs for essential skills training

Identify gaps and needs for advanced training

Creating a hub for our neutrals to call “home”.

Action Plan: 3 take-aways.