

# Lapeer County Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Special Education



## Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Winter Edition  
February 2019  
Issue: 2 of 3



**"Behind Every Young  
Child Who Believes In  
Himself Is A Parent Who  
Believed First"**

- Matthew L. Jacobson

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lapeer County Intermediate School District  
Parent Advisory Committee is to promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

### PAC Representatives

#### ALMONT

Dawn Wedemeyer (586) 615-7858  
Holly Ardman (586) 372-1942  
Kelley Bussen (810) 841-5334

#### DRYDEN

Melanie Starr (810) 895-6449

#### IMLAY CITY

Melivia Mutch (810) 724-3918  
Heather Brown (810) 614-4746  
Denise Kipp (Rossen) (810)-721-1342

#### LAPEER

Kim Hall (810) 664-4743  
Debbie LeClaire (810) 223-7544  
VACANCY

#### LAPEER COUNTY ISD

Regina Starr (810) 623-2041  
Jessica Dombeck (810) 701-0486

#### NORTH BRANCH

Becky Baksa-(989)245-7308 Chairperson  
Amy Hyrman- (810) 287-2806

#### CHATFIELD

Contact Lapeer County ISD

## Lapeer Special Olympic Athlete, Nicole Roberts Heads to World Games!

Read More On Page 3



### The Lapeer County ISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of educators and parents representing our local school districts whose primary focus is to stay informed regarding Special Education plans and changes, current trends in Special Education at the County, State, and Federal level, and if needed, to assist and promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

The PAC takes an active role in the development of the Lapeer County Special Education Mandatory Plan, a document which describes the delivery of special education services in Lapeer County. The PAC provides workshops and speakers from the county and state-wide programs which can richly serve not only the parents of children with special needs, but in many instances the individual with the disability.

**The PAC meets at:**

Lapeer County ISD Education and Technology Center  
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road, Attica, MI.  
6 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Please visit the ISD website at: [www.lapeerisd.org](http://www.lapeerisd.org)

### PAC Meeting Dates 2019

**February 4**

Topic:

Transition Planning-  
"Life After School"

**March 4**

Topic:

Family Support  
Subsidy

**May 6**

Topic:

Social Security  
Disability & SSI

Please join us at our meetings,  
we welcome and encourage your  
participation and suggestions.  
*Childcare is not available*



**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Presents:**

**“Family Support Subsidy”**

**Family Support  
Subsidy Program**



Michigan has a program to help families who care for their children with severe disabilities at home. The Family Support Subsidy Program can pay for special expenses the family has while caring for their child with severe disabilities. This financial support may help prevent or delay placements outside the home.

Families may be eligible for this program if they have a child under age 18 who has been identified by Michigan's public school system as having an educational eligibility category of:

- cognitive impairment (CI)
- severe multiple impairment (SXI) or
- autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

**March 4, 2019  
6:00-8:00 PM**

Location:

Lapeer Education  
& Technology Center  
690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.  
Attica, MI 48412  
Conference Room 146



*Lapeer County Community Mental Health*

**LCISD** Lapeer County  
Intermediate School District

**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Presents:**

**“Social Security Disability & SSI”**

**With Attorney Cliff Weisberg**



**SOCIAL SECURITY  
COUNSELING CENTER**

Social Security Disability Attorney - Clifford L. Weisberg, Senior Partner has been a practicing attorney for over 40 years.

- ♦ What to do first, if you think your child is eligible
- ♦ How and where to apply for SSI benefits
- ♦ What are the non-medical requirements
- ♦ What happens if the claim is approved or denied
- ♦ Where to find help and guidance that is not costly
- ♦ Information about SSI for children approaching 18

**May 6, 2019  
6:00-8:00 PM**

Location:

Lapeer Education  
& Technology Center  
690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.  
Attica, MI 48412  
Conference Room 146



**LCISD** Lapeer County  
Intermediate School District

# Lapeer Special Olympics Athlete Chosen For The USA Swim Team To Compete In World Games In Abu Dhabi

Congratulations to Lapeer County ISD, Education & Technology Center Alumni, Nicole Roberts! She will travel to Abu Dhabi in March representing the USA Special Olympics Swim Team. She's been training hard and everyone is so proud of her!

Nicole is just one of the few Special Olympic athletes chosen to attempt bringing home the gold. Nicole's in the pool three days a week working on her form, her endurance and her mindset. She'll be doing the 50M freestyle, the 50M backstroke, and is a member of the relay team.

Area XIII Special Olympics recently hosted a fundraiser for her big trip to the world games. If you'd like to help support Nicole by making a donation, contact Kris Freel at: [kfreel@lapeerisd.org](mailto:kfreel@lapeerisd.org).

Nicole, we can't wait to hear all about your trip! You've got Lapeer County and all your friends at Ed. Tech. Center rooting for you!



**Special  
Olympics**







## About The Great Bike Giveaway

For a child with special needs, bike riding offers far more than a recreational experience. Bike riding provides a source of much-needed exercise, gives therapeutic value, and contributes to an inclusive environment where a child with special needs can ride a bike like everyone else.

Due to balance and mobility challenges, many children and teens with special needs require the use of an adaptive bike. Sadly, most families cannot afford the high costs of adaptive bikes and their children remain on the sidelines watching their friends and family members ride by.

Voting deadline: **February 27, 2019**

Visit their website at: <https://bikes.friendshipcircle.org>



Adaptive bikes  
promote health,  
inclusion  
and plain old fun.

View a list of adaptive bike health benefits.



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## Forever Friends Network (FFN)



Every child wants to be accepted and have a place where they can be themselves without judgment. Forever Friends Network (FFN) is a place where they can go and have fun. We are an Autism Support Organization based in Lapeer, MI. Everyone is welcome to join our social groups. Ages 5-10 must be accompanied by an adult.

### Social Groups:

**1st & 3rd Friday every month / 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Location: 323 Jefferson Street, Lapeer, Michigan 48446**

**Questions Contact: Regina Starr (810) 623-2041**

**For details visit: [www.foreverfriendsnetwork.net](http://www.foreverfriendsnetwork.net)**

### Upcoming Events:

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019 / 5:30-7:30pm**

***Autism Social Group***

***Valentine's Party: Wear Red!***

**at Forever Friends Network**

**323 Jefferson Street • Lapeer, Michigan 48446**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 / 5:30-7:30pm**

***Autism Social Group: Flap Jack Night***

***Participate in making flap jacks and have some fun!***

**at Forever Friends Network**

**323 Jefferson Street • Lapeer, Michigan 48446**



# NAME CHANGE!

The Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)  
Is Now Going To Be:

## Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

Free Statewide Special Education Mediation Program, Committed To  
Strengthening Relationships Between Families And School Districts

Toll-free, Statewide Phone Number:  
833-KIDS1ST or 833-543-7178.



This is an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant funded initiative. SEMS provides no cost mediation, facilitation and training services that are intended to address disagreements that can sometimes create challenges for parents and school districts.

SEMS, formerly known as Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP), will continue to provide services through the Community Dispute Resolution Program, a network of 18 conflict resolution centers across the state.



NATIONAL  
AUTISM  
ASSOCIATION

Get A FREE:

Personal Emergency  
Profile Sheet

Visit:

<http://nationalautismassociation.org>

Annually to ensure frequency of completion and share with school staff, family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, police, fire, and rescue professionals.

<b>PERSONAL EMERGENCY PROFILE</b> DATE: _____ NAME: _____ AGE: _____ ADDRESS: _____ PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: _____		PLACE PHOTO HERE  TRACKING FREQUENCY: If applicable					
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT(S) IF LOST, MAY BE FOUND AT:</b>							
NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____ NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____							
<b>RESTRICTIONS</b> (if any)	<b>MEDICAL NEEDS</b> (if any)						
<b>SIGNS OF ESCALATION</b> (Changes in behavior that show increased or decreased anxiety, anger, etc. Documented before for use and use for)							
<b>LIKES</b> (Activities, environments, people, places, foods, items, animals, etc.)	<b>DISLIKES</b> (Things, activities, places, things to avoid, foods, animals, etc.)						
Symbols and understanding and communication for everyone. Show and point to symbols when talking and if a recent person.							
eat	drink	cold	Mom	Dad	cell phone	go home	sleep
Yes	no	safe	lost	not personal message	not personal message	not personal message	no

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Download the Personal Emergency Profile Sheet for free! Annually (or more frequently) complete and share with school staff, family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, police, fire, and rescue professionals.



# Lapeer Area Citizens Against Domestic Assault

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES

Advocacy Services to women, men, and children who are survivors of Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault.

All services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL

### Mission Statement

To provide safe shelter, independence, empowerment and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking while seeking to end violence against individuals and their families through promoting social change, community education and public awareness in our community.

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

For individuals or families that are in need of emergency shelter due to Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault.

### SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups for survivors are held at LACADA Outreach

### OUTREACH SERVICES

For individuals or families who are not in need of Emergency Shelter but are in need of one-to-one support and advocacy.

### LEGAL ADVOCACY

Legal Advocates can assist survivors with Personal Protection Orders and navigating through the legal system.

### YOUTH SERVICES

One-to-One and Group services for children and youth who have witnessed Domestic Violence.

PLEASE CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

**(810)667-4175**



Helping Everyone Find a  
**Pathway to their  
Fullest Potential**

#PathwaysToPotential 

**Nice Work  
North  
Branch  
Elementary**

The Pathways approach targets five outcome areas: **attendance, education, health, safety and self-sufficiency**. It also relies on a number of support networks and partnerships to wrap their arms around children and families to help them succeed.

### How it Works - Pathways Schools

In Pathways schools, DHS places employees called success coaches in schools where high numbers of families are already receiving assistance through the department. These workers work closely with school principals, social workers, attendance agents and teachers to monitor attendance and address barriers to attending school when they arise.

By using a team approach to quickly identify issues that prevent children from attending school, many Pathways schools have seen a dramatic drop in chronic absenteeism. Barriers can be as simple as a lack of a school uniform or an alarm clock, or as complex as a caregiver suffering from severe mental health issues and facing imminent homelessness.





"For People with Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities"  
**CALL US: 810-989-9144**

## OUR SERVICES

The Arc offers a wide range of services to individuals, families and the community. As we grow and evolve we will continue to add to the possibilities.

### Child & Families Advocacy

#### In the Schools

Our Child advocate works with parents, students and schools to ensure every child can realize their right to a free and equal education.

Supporting and protecting  
people with intellectual &  
developmental disabilities since  
1955

Support across  
all ages and  
diagnosis

### Adult Advocacy

Our adult advocates focus on the needs of the individual in order to help them attain the life they envision for themselves. From person centered planning facilitation to social security benefits administration, we look at the individual and not their disability.

### Inclusive Recreation

The Arc's, Inclusive Recreation Program, seeks to provide the least restrictive and inclusive recreation experiences for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, through creative programming and by working with existing recreational programs.

**Visit The St. Clair ARC Website**

**<https://www.thearcsc.org>**

**Or Follow Them On Facebook**



**Find Out More By Visiting:**  
**[www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs)**

## WHO CAN JOIN?

- Children and some adults with certain eligible medical conditions as determined by CSHCS doctors
- Families of all incomes are eligible to join, including those with other health insurance
- Some families, based on their income, pay a fee to join CSHCS. Local health departments can explain what CSHCS is likely to cover to help determine if this fee to join CSHCS will be worthwhile.



# Camperships



**This is an opportunity for students to apply for funding (up to \$250) to attend a summer camp in Michigan. These camperships are open to students with an active IEP, in need of financial support, and would otherwise not have an opportunity for a summer camp experience.**

**Nomination packets must be submitted by  
March 15, 2019.**

**Notifications will be mailed by April 30, 2019.**



**MICHIGAN**

The voice and vision of special education

Visit The Michigan Council for Exceptional Children  
Website For Application Forms:

<http://www.michigancec.org>



This scholarship funding is made possible thanks to a collaboration with the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center). For more information on the Family Center, please go to [www.michigan.gov/familycenter](http://www.michigan.gov/familycenter) or call 800-359-3722.

