



# Northern Community Mediation

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Serving Emmet &  
Charlevoix Counties

News Release Date

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

## Restorative Practices in Schools

Northern Community Mediation has received a grant from the State Court Administrative Office in Lansing, Michigan to initiate a Restorative Practices Program in two high schools in the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District School area. Jim Raber will be the Restorative Practices Coordinator in Boyne City High School, and Ed Cole will serve in the same capacity at Pellston High School.

The purpose of the Restorative Practices Program is three fold. By addressing conflicts between or among students as soon as they arise, frustrations and hostilities do not fester. Second, when students resolve their own conflicts rather than having an outside authority dictate the outcome, the likelihood of the disagreement's actually being resolved increases. Third, by utilizing the mediation process, the students will learn how to resolve conflicts in a civilized manner.

As conflicts arise, Cole and Raber will work with the students to help them resolve their own disagreements. Examples of the types of cases that will be addressed will include bullying, verbal and physical altercations, abuse of social media, harassment, rumors, and potential truancy.

Both Cole and Raber have experience in working with young people. Raber worked with Friend of the Court in Charlevoix, and Cole was principal of Alanson Schools. They will commence their new roles on January 3, 2017 and will continue through the end of the grant cycle, which is June of 2018.

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Pictured from left to right are Jim Raber and Ed Cole.

Main Office  
415 State Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
231.487.1771 (voice) 231.487.1770 (fax)