

**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER**



Apologies for this month's newsletter going out more than a week late. Hopefully, everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July celebration. As an editorial aside, what is wonderful about celebrating the Fourth of July in northern Michigan is that whether it is the parade and all of the other festivities in Alanson, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Harbor Springs, or Pellston, it is the old-fashioned, small-town enthusiasm that makes the Fourth of July so special. The big-city parades are definitely spectacular, but do not capture the fun of being able to call out the names of friends who are in the parade as they pass by, wave at them, and then have them wave back and call out your name. Yes, give me a small-town, Fourth of July celebration over a big-city, Fourth of July parade any day.

**PARENTING TIME WORKSHOP**

From 8:30am to 12:30pm, Northern Community Mediation mediators were riveted to their seats during the parenting Time Workshop facilitated by Amanda Guarisco, Friend of the Court for Emmet county. What an outstanding training it was! Based upon the evaluations, literally everyone felt that the training was extremely worthwhile, wished that there had been more time, and surprised at the idiosyncrasies of some of the laws as they relate to unmarried, biological father. The most shocking revelation, however, was the fact that the state of Michigan is the only state that has a Friend of the Court. Michigan is the only state that views the child as a whole person, not merely a matter of child support. And, what came through loud and clear was Amanda's knowledge of and passion for what she does.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"Beneath most arguments is a quiet plea to be chosen, considered, understood, or accepted. What sounds like conflict is often a cry for connection." ~ Facebook Post

**USELESS USEFUL FACT**

The 80/20 rule in parenting time suggests that 80% of your parenting outcomes come from 20% of your efforts. The message? Focus on the most impactful aspects of parenting,

**APPRECIATION GALA**

On Thursday, June 12, Northern Community Mediation held its annual Appreciation Gala from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Palette Bistro in Petoskey. This is undoubtedly one of the most important events on the NCM calendar because it provides a formal opportunity to thank board members, mediators and community members for all that they do to support NCM. Not only that, it is a pleasant social event/party. Although praise is given to everyone, each year there are special recognitions. For all that they did in 2024, the following people were singled out:



Steve Hall, Veteran Mediator



Linda Rosalik, Rookie Mediator



Cyndy Tonkavich, Advocate



Fred Mulhauser, 20 Years

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD**

Through the Michigan Community Mediation Association (MCMA), NCM receives special funding for mediations relating to community mental health, as well as conflicts involving farmers or farming issues. If a client has a disagreement with his/her treatment plan with Community Mental Health, NCM gets funding for each case mediated between a client and his/her case manager because of a grant funded by the Michigan Department of Health & Human services (MDHHS). With the dependency that our nation has on providing food for its citizens, the US Department of Agriculture helps to fund cases relating to farming. In both of these scenarios, there is no fee that has to be paid by the involved parties themselves. It is, so to speak, a free service.