

# Medically Complex Program

## Communicate with Us!



We, at the Medically Complex Program, want to set ourselves apart from all of the other agencies and people you may be attached to. We often call once a month or bi-monthly to check in. If you would like us to call, text or email you more or less often please let us know. We will not be offended.

Please do not feel uncomfortable in asking any question(s). We often lay down at night and remember a million things we want, need, or just have a question about. When this happens, email us or quickly put your idea or question in the notes section of your phone. We all believe that we will remember our thoughts or questions in the morning but more likely than not we forget as soon as we wake up.

We used to believe the worst thing that can be said is no, but a parent once told us that the worst thing you can do is not ask. If you don't ask, you are at a standstill. It's okay to be told no. It's not okay to not try. Don't ever be embarrassed to ask for help with things like finding a new doctor, finding a ramp for your house, etc. That's what we are here to help you with.

Here at The Nemasket Group and the Medically Complex Program, most of our staff have children in shoes like your children, they're just maybe a different color so we understand. So if you need us, please call, text, or email. Let us know what we can do for you. We don't want to just be another agency in your life. We want to help you and your family in any way we can. You only have us here at Nemasket's Medically Complex Program until your child is 26 years old. Let's see what we can do for you until then.

### Medically Complex Program at The Nemasket Group

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## The Importance of Socially Valued Roles

People are much more likely to experience the good things in life if they hold a social valued roles than if they do not. There exists a high degree of consensus about what the goods things in life are. Not to mention only a few major examples, they include being accorded dignity, respect, acceptance; a sense of belonging; an education, and the development of ones capacities; a voice in the affairs of one's community and society; opportunities to participate; a decent material of standard living; an at least normative place to live; and opportunities for work and self-support.

There are people and or groups that are at value risk or already devalued in and by their society or some of its subsystems. In North America, it has been estimated that from one-fourth to one-third of the population exists in a devalued state because of impairment, age, poverty or other characteristics that are devalued in society. Devalued individuals, groups or classes are far more likely to be treated badly, and to be subjected to a systematic --- and possibly life-long --- patterns of such negative experiences.

## Victoria's Secret features its first model with Down syndrome



Sofia Jirau is the first Victoria's Secret model with Down syndrome. Jirau is part of a new line that launched Thursday featuring a myriad of women from different backgrounds, the company said.

Sofia Jirau is making history as Victoria's Secret's first model with Down syndrome. She joins 17 other women in the company's newest campaign. Jirau, who is also Latina, is part of the Love Cloud collection, which features women described by the company as being from a "myriad of backgrounds." Other models include Celilo Miles, a wildland firefighter for the Nez Perce Tribe, Jailyn Matthews, a fitness trainer, and Hailey Bieber.

### **Victoria's Secret Laid Bare**

"One day I dreamed of it, I worked on it and today it is a dream come true. I can finally tell you my big secret," the Puerto Rican model posted on her Instagram page in Spanish. "I am the first Victoria's Secret model with Down syndrome!"

The Love Cloud collection launches Thursday and commits to "sophisticated comfort," the company said. "Love Cloud Collection is a major moment in the brand's evolution," said Raúl Martínez, Victoria's Secret's head creative director. "From the cast of incredible women that bring the collection to life, to the incredible inclusive spirit on set, this campaign is an important part of the new Victoria's Secret standard we are creating."



### **A Cast With Down Syndrome Brings Fresh Reality To Reality TV**

Jirau made her debut at New York Fashion Week in February 2020, according to her website.

"I am proud as one of the few models with Down syndrome who has managed to participate in the important fashion event," she wrote.

In addition to modeling in the U.S., she says she is also "focused on conquering the runways" in Europe this year.

# Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program

# MCPAP

## For Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual Disabilities

*Welcome to MCPAP for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual Disabilities (ASD-ID)*



MCPAP for ASD-ID offers support and consultation to Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention (ESP/MCI) providers working with youth and young adults with ASD or ID who are having a behavioral health crisis.

### **Hours of Operation**

MCPAP for ASD-ID is available **seven days a week**, including holidays, from **11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

### **MCPAP for ASD-ID provides:**

- Free, on-demand consultations to ESP/MCI providers, regardless of an individual's insurance status
- Support around emergency services for children and young adults up to age 26 with ASD-ID who are in behavioral health crisis
- An initial consultation with a licensed applied behavior analyst (ABA) and follow-up consultation with physicians with ASD expertise, when needed
- Follow-up support for seven days after initial consultation

### **Why was this program developed?**

Youth and young adults with ASD or ID who are in behavioral health crisis often seek care in the emergency room rather than a community-based alternative. They sometimes face longer waits for placements than others without ASD or ID or barriers accessing appropriate behavioral health services.

MCPAP for ASD-ID is here to support ESP/MCI clinicians working with youth and young adults with ASD-ID to meet their needs. MCPAP for ASD-ID's aim it to increase the expertise of ESP/MCI clinicians working with co-occurring BH conditions and ASD and/or ID

Click [here](#) to view frequently asked questions about MCPAP for ASD-ID.

Click [here](#) for a brief flyer describing MCPAP for ASD-ID and how to access its services.

Click [here](#) for a checklist of information MCI clinicians should gather, if possible, before calling for a consultation.

# The Transition Years: A Mini Series

## DDS 101 Training

This free workshop will provide need to know information about the Department of Developmental Services as the transition from high school to life after high school approaches.

### You will learn about:

- **ELIGIBILITY:** How do I become eligible for DDS Services?
- **AREA OFFICE:** What is the role of the DDS Area office?
- **FAMILY SUPPORT:** What can Family Support provide to my family, and what are the limitations?
- **SELF DIRECTION:** What are Self-Directed Services and how do they differ from Traditional Services?
- **AUTISM SERVICES:** What support is available to my family member with autism, and how do we access it?

**When:** Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Virtually via WEBEX

**Follow this Link to Register:** <https://conta.cc/33j29I4>

## In Our Words: Navigating the Transition Years

This free presentation will introduce you to 3 women who currently receive supports from DDS. They will discuss their experiences navigating their transition years, relationships, and Agency with Choice.

**When:** Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Virtually via WEBEX

**Follow this Link to Register:** <https://conta.cc/3gNB9xe>



**Saturday**  
**March 19, 2022 at 8AM**

**Registration is now open!**

**Register: [FCSN.org/VOC](https://FCSN.org/VOC)**

# Planning for Parents of Children who are Differently-Abled or have a Disability



Webinar

March 2nd, 2022

With Riverside Community Care of Dedham, MA.

*A Different Hand to Play – Planning for Parents of Children who are Differently-Abled or have a Disability.* This workshop is a high-level overview of the concerns for most families, whether you are just getting started or your child is at or reaching adulthood.

This presentation is meant to be a resource guide to help you and your child navigate the steps ahead; for now and in the future.

## Some of the topics:

- Government Benefits – These are a safety net for your adult child, but are they enough? What can you do to make sure that these benefits will continue to provide for your child even after you are gone.
- Supplemental Needs Trusts & ABLÉ (529A) Accounts – What are the different types of special needs trusts? What is an ABLÉ account? Should I consider having either one of these or both of them?
- Guardianship – Choosing the right guardian for your minor child is important, but making the decision as to whether or not you are going to continue in that is critical.

To register or for more information visit <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/25/vg3vnavv> or contact 781.329.0909

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## Guardianship & Other Legal Concerns



Webinar

March 9th, 2021

**With the Epilepsy Foundation New England.** Planning for Parents of Children who are Differently-Abled or have a Disability. A high-level overview of the concerns for most families, whether you are just getting started or your child is at or reaching adulthood.

Every child is unique and every family's path may be different, but ultimately everyone is on the same journey. This presentation is meant to be a resource guide to help you and your child navigate the steps ahead; for now and in the future.

## Some of the topics they will cover:

- Documents every family should consider -What are basic documents that every family should have? When should you begin preparing a Letter of Intent for your child? Do I need a supplemental needs trust?
- Guardianship or Conservator -What is the difference? Can I be both for my child? What if I can no longer perform the duties of being a Guardian?
- Timeline -COVID has added more and more complications to all of our lives, and making the decision about when to begin the process or decision for your soon-to-be adult child is no different. At what age should you start the process? What are the details involve

To RSVP or for more information visit <https://epilepsynewengland.org/events> and scroll down to your desired event, or contact 617-506-6041 or [info@epilepsynewengland.org](mailto:info@epilepsynewengland.org).

# Improving Parent Participation in the IEP Process



**Webinar Rebroadcast (not a live event)**

**March 15th, 2022**

**With the Special Needs Advocacy Network in Massachusetts.** Improving Parent Participation in the IEP Process with Michael Gregory, J.D., M.A.T.

**Program Agenda** – Parents are essential team members, but often do not feel empowered during team meetings.

While advocates know how to get things done for students, they can also play a role in empowering parents to get things done for their children.

Parents and advocates can promote effective parent participation in the IEP process.

All special education professionals – advocates, attorneys, educators, related professionals, parents, neuropsychologists – can find this focus valuable.

In particular, looking at the IEP process through a “trauma lens” can help us understand ways in which the process can be made more safe, supportive, and effective for all parents.

## **Some things you will learn:**

- Importance of parent participation in the IEP – laws, regulations, and guidance
- How Advocates can support parent participation
- What parents can and should document at home and/or share with school with or without remote learning
- How a “trauma lens” can help us understand how to make the IEP process more safe, supportive, and effective for all parents

## **About the Presenter**

Michael Gregory is Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and a Member of the Faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He teaches and practices law as part of the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI), where he is Managing Attorney.

- At Harvard Law School, Gregory is the Director of TLPI’s Education Law Clinic, where law students both represent families of traumatized students in the special education system and learn and practice the skills of legislative lawyering to advance TLPI’s public policy agenda for trauma-sensitive schools.
- Gregory was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to serve on the Massachusetts Families and Children Requiring Assistance Advisory Board, and he is the co-founder of the Massachusetts Legal Services Learning Community for Special Education, a statewide coalition of attorneys and advocates.
- Gregory is co-author of TLPI’s *Helping Traumatized Children Learn, Volumes 1 and 2* and has also published in the area of special education law.

## **Fees apply, registration is required to**

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ej0louygd2a36cfa&oseq=&c=&ch=> or contact Elaine Rabbit, programming@spanmass.org, Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc., (508) 655-7999

## Thinking About Housing “Housing 101”



Webinar

March 15th, 2022

with the Autism Alliance / Advocates, of Natick, MA. Free.

The Autism Housing Pathway’s “Housing 101” introduces families to the range of public funds available to pay for housing and supportive services – including for those without DDS supports.

- Some examples are given of how these can be combined with private funds to create housing.
- Living with a relative in the country? Living with friends in the city?
- What is your dream for them? A safe place? Living with a sibling? A long term option?

**This workshop is for those families beginning the process. Topics include:**

- public funds available to pay for housing
  - level of support needed
  - living skills development
  - assessment of personal resources
  - housing models
  - person-centered planning
  - state care support options (including non-DDS)
- The discussions will cover the crucial process of combining available public funds with realistic family assets to create the best potential for housing options.
  - Although this is a basic workshop, it highlights all of the important steps to any plan in process, and will be useful even for those already on the Section 8 waiting list.
  - You may attend the workshop without scheduling an individual consultation.
  - Speaker Catherine Boyle, president of Autism Housing Pathways, will be the presenter.
  - Parents, individuals with special housing needs, and professional can attend this workshop to help answer questions about a loved one’s home of the future, long-term living options and more.

**Registration is required to** [www.autismalliance.org/events/virtual-workshop-thinking-about-housing-cathy-boyle?blm\\_aid=33352#overlay-context=events/virtual-workshop-applying-housing-cathy-boyle](http://www.autismalliance.org/events/virtual-workshop-thinking-about-housing-cathy-boyle?blm_aid=33352#overlay-context=events/virtual-workshop-applying-housing-cathy-boyle)

**Please submit requests for accommodations**, including ASL interpreters by 3/1/2022 to [AutismAlliance@advocates.org](mailto:AutismAlliance@advocates.org) or (508) 652-9900.

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## Brain Injury Conference for Massachusetts’ Families



**Virtual Event, March 30th & 31st, 2022.**

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) Conference is for brain injury survivors, caregivers, families and professionals to gather and discuss the challenges faced by the brain injury community.

2022 Topics and Speakers: TBA.

**For more information visit the** [BIA-MIA Brain Injury Conference page](#) or contact BIA-MA at 508-475-0032 or email [education@biama.org](mailto:education@biama.org)

## Hispanic Parent Support Group / Grupo de apoyo para padres hispanos



**Webinar**

**March 18th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Virtual Hispanic Family Support Group Social with the Parent Professional Advocacy League in Massachusetts.**

Providing hope for children with mental health needs and their families through education, advocacy, outreach and support.

The group welcomes Elizabeth Castro, Specialist to talk about the program (CBHI-Initiative of Mental Health for Children, AFC-Adult Care, GAFC-Group Adult Foster Care and shared living) offered by CENTRO.

**Martes, 18 de enero de 2022:** Damos la bienvenida a Elizabeth Castro, Especialista para hablar del programa (CBHI-Iniciativa de Salud Mental para Niños, AFC-Cuidado de Adultos, GAFC-Group Adult Foster Care y vivienda compartida) ofrecidos por CENTRO

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 958 6633 3379 / **Password:** 246553 /+1 646 558 8656

**Questions / Preguntas – Email** Irelsa and Joel at [Parentsupportgroup@ppal.net](mailto:Parentsupportgroup@ppal.net) or visit <https://ppal.net/ppal-central-ma>

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## Epilepsy Support: Seizure First Aid & Recognition



**Webinar**

**March 24th, 2022**

**With the Epilepsy Foundation New England.**

Do you know someone with epilepsy? Would you know what to do if they had a seizure with you?

The 90-minute Seizure First Aid and Recognition Certification is a formal training offered by Epilepsy Foundation New England that teaches people:

- How to recognize signs of a seizure
- How to respond with proper seizure first aid
- When to call for help
- In this online class, you will learn about different types of seizures and what to do to help and keep someone safe.

Epilepsy Foundation New England is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people and families affected by epilepsy in New England. They serve the Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island communities affected by epilepsy.

**To RSVP or for more information visit** <https://epilepsynewengland.org/events> and scroll down to your desired event, or contact 617-506-6041 or [info@epilepsynewengland.org](mailto:info@epilepsynewengland.org).