

Nominee: **Lacea Zavala**

Running for: **Parent Representative**



Nomination Statement:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express interest in the Family Representative position of the MiDEC Executive Board. I am a Licensed Master Social Worker with twenty years of experience in child welfare, a part-time instructor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, and most importantly a mother to an almost four-year old son with special needs. Since he was just a few months old we have worked closely with, and have navigated through, early intervention systems and services such as Early On. My son has had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through our local school district for the past two years, and has received both speech and occupational therapy services. Additionally, we have been waiting to receive Applied Behavioral Analysis services since November of last year (an over five month wait), despite my strong advocacy around getting services in place as soon as possible.

I have been a long-time member of the Great Start Collaborative here in Wayne County, a member of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Advisory Committee, a board member of Child's Hope, the Out-Wayne County child abuse prevention council, and provide consultation services to early childhood organizations such as Brilliant Detroit. I currently serve as a Certified Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Master Trainer through the Michigan ACE Interface. I have been an instructor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for over six years where I developed and teach a course on child maltreatment, trauma, and ACES. Additionally, I have over twenty years of experience working directly in the field of child welfare and have been working for over a year at a workforce development organization as an instructional designer. I received my Master of Social Work degree in 2007 from The University of Michigan, concentrating in Community Organizing with a minor in Interpersonal Practice with children, youth, and families.

My passion for strengthening families and communities, combined with my professional and personal skill sets and experiences, will enable me to bring value to the MiDEC Family Representative position. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,
Lacea Zavala, MSW, LMSW