Welcome Michigan Family Support Council Members, Guests and Presenters:

FALL is here and that means it is MFSC Fall Conference time!!! This is the time of year that I have an opportunity to reflect on what the MFSC experienced through the year. We experienced innovative ideas and “out-of-the-box” thinking from co-workers that led to pilot projects and updated work processes. We saw new faces enter the child support program and saw some seasoned co-workers bid farewell to us. We experienced changes in technology/system applications to help us provide assistance to families faster. Individual agencies looked at new ways to provide our “customers” with additional resources to assist their families. Did you provide employment resources to a new mom/dad or to a parent during an enforcement review? Did you provide counseling, parent seminar, or child care information to a parent? Did your agency do community outreach; hold a community forum or a town hall meeting? If you found ways to provide additional resources to families then you found more ways to positively impact families.

We experienced last minute economic concerns right before our regional conference season in May. The Office of Child Support members received approval to attend the regional conferences but our members had to pay their own registration/travel cost. We experienced a reduction in attendance at our Southeast region conference because of the budget constraints. No matter what hurdles we experience, the members of this organization and our partners strive to do everything possible to ensure we make a positive impact in the child support program. We continue to do all we can do to ensure we uphold our mission statement and meet the goals of the MI Child Support Strategic Plan. If we are successful in these areas, we bring positive change and success to the families we assist. It never ceases to amaze me how hard our members work to do everything they can to help the child and families of the Michigan Child Support Program regardless of good/bad changes or other challenges.

Thank you to Patty Buskirk, Al Crocker, Kelly Fleming, Nadine Gauldin, Amy Gilmore, Jennifer Granzow, Beth Naftaly-Kirshner, Jeff Koteles, Monica Morris-Moats, Jeanette Miracle-Leshan, Pam Sala, Teresa Schneider, Sheila Waldrop, and Tamekia Young for all their hard-work, support, and dedication through the year. Thank you MFSC members for your continued support and attendance to our spring and fall conferences. Your attendance supports the training and resources we provide to you. It was truly evident this year.

Please remember to visit our website at www.mifsc.org for conference presentation information and other child support program resources.

Please relax, enjoy the weather and all the great workshops and activities we planned for you!!! Have a wonderful conference this week!!

Sincerely,

Lisa Robinson, President
Michigan Family Support Council