Dear Child Support Colleagues:

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the Michigan Family Support Council, let me welcome you to the 22nd annual training conference. We hope you will find your time spent attending the plenary sessions and workshops to be time well worth your effort and that you will be rewarded with an increase in knowledge and/or skills as you continue to work in child support. The Board has worked very hard to bring to you what we feel is the best training conference yet in our 22 year history. We have planned more workshops than ever before. The keynote speakers are well-noted and outstanding trainers and motivators in their field of expertise. At the same time, we hope you have a few laughs and get your batteries recharged while you are here.

This year, we are trying something new, a “brainstorm” so to speak of. We are hosting the first, of what I hope will be an annual event, at this conference. We are hosting a SILENT AUCTION for children’s charity and MFSC scholarships. The funds raised will be shared with a charity each year. This year, we will be contributing to Highfields in Onondaga, Michigan and putting funds into an account to assist some of you in future years, to attend this conference when budgets are tight and funds are not readily available for you to come. Highfields brochure describes their serves best when it states they serve “thousands of children, youth and adults each year through its many innovative programs. Highfields gives individuals the tools to take life’s complex, challenging issues and turn them into powerful, life-enhancing outcomes.” The organization deals with school truancy, disruptive and defiant behavior, abuse and neglect, delinquent behavior, substance abuse and domestic violence. I hope you will take part in this first ever event and that you will do so with an open wallet for this great cause. You will find many wonderful items up for bid. The committee has worked very hard to put this together. Don’t miss out. See you there!

Another new and exciting happening for the MFSC Board is the launching of our new public website. Look it up. It is filled with information on the MFSC, the regional organizations, a feedback area, photos, etc. The address will be posted at the conference for you to add to your favorite list. It will updated regularly, making it a site you will want to visit often.

As president of the MFSC, I want to say how much I appreciate all of you who work in the trenches day in and day out. Michigan can be proud of what it has accomplished over the years and especially what has been accomplished since federal certification. Yes, we have a ways to go, but we have also come a long way to where we are at today. The reason, in large part, is because of dedication of people like you. Far too often we do not get the praise and thanks for the good job done, but I for one, say to all of you, a heartfelt thank you for the hard work and dedication you put into child support. Job well done!

I want to thank all of the vendors who have so generously supported the MFSC and this conference. Their contributions make this conference succeed from a financial standpoint and keep the costs down to levels that are affordable by all. I would ask you to take a few minutes out of your busy schedules and stop by the booths of the vendors and let them know you appreciate their support, they will appreciate hearing from you.

Have a Great Conference,
Andy Crisenbery
President MFSC