



Central Region

Michigan Family Support Council

36th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Greetings from the Central Region of the Michigan Family Support Council!

Welcome to the Annual Training Conference. This year's venue has changed to Boyne Mountain. I hope you get the opportunity to enjoy Boyne Mountain's unique hospitality. The Central Region of the support council includes: Bay, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Livingston, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, and Washtenaw counties.

The Central Region provided a one-day training conference this spring. Again this year, the conference was held at D'Mar Conference Center in Owosso, on May 10, 2018. Our guest speakers included Erin Frisch OCS director, who gave us updates on what was happening in OCS. Guy Sweet with Ingham County PA office gave us legislative updates. After a quick break, we got back to business with a moving presentation about the opioid epidemic and its effects in Michigan. This presentation was conducted by members of the D.E.F.Y. (Drug Education for Youth) task force. We finished the morning session with board elections.

Lunch prepared and served by the staff at D'Mar was wonderful. Afternoon sessions focused on one of our often-forgotten groups of customer, prisoners. Kristina Casey and Damon Mitchell discussed the prisoner partnership program in their county and how it can be developed in other counties. This was followed by a brief introduction to a prisoner re-entry simulation. All conference goers were able to experience the frustrations of re-entering society after spending time in prison. Crissa Blackenburg, a reentry specialist for MDOC, coordinated the simulation and provided wrap up for the participants.

The annual election results for officers were: Patty Buskirk, President; Wanda Wade, Vice President; Johanna Prince, Treasurer; and Karen Beechler, Secretary. Our representatives to the State Board are: Marcia Coughlin, Saginaw County Friend of the Court; Theresa Schneider, Shiawassee Prosecuting Attorney; and Karen Beechler, Office of Child Support. Our meetings are held in Owosso, Michigan the third Friday of the month. Details are posted on the MFSC website (www.mifsc.org). We have several openings for county representatives and are always looking for fun, energetic, dedicated child support professionals to join us. Please consider joining the board. If you have questions or might be interested, feel free to introduce yourself to me at the conference or contact me by email at buskirkp@michigan.gov.

Enjoy this year's conference at Boyne Mountain!

Patty Buskirk
President, Central Region
Michigan Family Support Council