



Central Region

Michigan Family Support Council

35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Greetings from the Central Region of the Michigan Family Support Council! Welcome to the Annual Training Conference at Boyne Highlands. Our region includes: Bay, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Livingston, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, and Washtenaw.

The Central Region provides a one day training conference every spring. This year, the conference was held at the D'Mar Conference Center in Owosso, on May 4, 2017. Our guest speakers included Erin Frisch OCS director, asking us what we would like to learn about and Guy Sweet, Ingham County PA office with legislative updates (we want a song next year, Guy!). After a quick break, we got back to business with a presentation about the ADAPT program in Genesee County with Anthony McDowell and Judge Beagle. We finished the morning learning about medical support and negative offset charges, thanks to Kerry Page and Stephen Schwitzer.

We had a spectacular lunch prepared by the awesome staff at D'Mar. Afternoon sessions included an insightful presentation called Where's Daddy by Amy Dorow, an Early Childhood Specialist in Jackson County. Amy brought along one of the fathers that she has worked with in Jackson County. His experiences gave a whole new level of understanding about fathers in the child support world.

We finished the day with a participation session. Gina Sanchez got everyone out of their chairs and practicing self-defense techniques. It was a fun and informative way to end the day.

We also held our annual elections. Our officers are: 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, feel free to introduce yourself to me at the conference or contact me by email at buskirkp@michigan.gov if you are interested in the Central board or have suggestions for future training topics.

I personally hope you have a wonderful, informative, relaxing time at beautiful Boyne Highlands!

Patty Buskirk
President, Central Region
Michigan Family Support Council