

Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council.

40th annual conference

Autumnal greetings from the Southwest Michigan Family Support Council! On behalf of myself and my wonderful board, I hope everyone has an enlightening and enjoyable conference at beautiful Boyne Mountain celebrating the MFSC's 40th Anniversary!

Southwest's annual conference was held Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the beautiful Silo in Allegan County. The weather was perfect. It was our first in person conference since 2019 and this year we had 86 attendees. The day began with Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judge Jon Van Allsburg. Erin Frisch, Director of the Office of Child Support presented a session on "The State of Child Support in Michigan." We had Reyna and Jessica present on the new Alternative Contempt track programs, and Laura shared about the LEAP program. Sarah Allen from Ottawa County presented on challenging conversations and to wrap up the day, we focused on safety in the courthouse.

Our venue was amazing, and we were treated very well by our hosts at the Silo. The board worked very hard to make this an enjoyable and instructional day with a variety of topics. Judging from the positive evaluations we received, it certainly was a successful day. We had another successful Silent Auction this year due to the hard work of both JoAnn Madsen with Kent County FOC and Kyle Wilke with Ottawa County FOC. They managed to obtain some great donations from around the region, and we raised \$800.00 for our chosen charity, Maggie's Place, which supports children in Allegan County.

As sometimes happens, the Southwest board said a bittersweet farewell this past year to Monica Morris Moats from the Calhoun County PA's office, who served on our board for several years. She served in the role of both the President and Vice-President. She retired and bid us adieu to pursue her dream of a little more free time!! Thank you, Monica, for your years of service, and Monica gave us the gift of her replacement!

As always, I would like to thank the board for all their hard work throughout the year, as well as the wonderful support I have received during my brief tenure as President. This board continues to amaze me with their dedication to the organization along with the wonderful ideas they bring to each meeting. Thanks to Julie, Kyle, JoAnn, Manda, Melissa, Carissa, LeAnn, Raven, Tammi, Lisa, Amy, and Jennifer. The Board of Director's for 2022/2023 are as follows: Matt Schmid (President), Ottawa FOC, Rebecca Hawkins (Vice President/FOC representative to State Board), Barry County FOC, Amy (Treasurer) OCS, Julie Wirtz (Secretary) St. Joseph County FOC.

Here's hoping everyone has a wonderful time celebrating MFSC's 40th Anniversary. The MFSC Board has put together a wonderful celebration this year.

Sincerely, Matt Schmid President, Southwest Region Michigan Family Support Council