



6TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MENTORING CONFERENCE

November 16, 2011
Lansing Center

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

3:00 – 4:15 P.M.

An Inside Look at Foster Care

Tanya Bryanton, Michigan Department of Human Services

This workshop session will familiarize mentoring program staff with the foster care system in Michigan and give them tips for connecting and partnering with their local DHS offices. Attendees will learn what the foster care system looks like in Michigan – data about number of youth in care, race, and ethnicity, etc. – and how a child enters and exits foster care. The workshop will address the goal of foster care and more specifically the permanency goals available to youth in foster care. Attendees will also get a clear picture of what it means to “age out” of foster care and the resources and support systems the state has committed to provide to youth who reach the age of 14 in care or enter the system after the age of 14.

Culturally Smart Relationships

April Riordan, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota

Culturally Smart Relationships provides a framework for programs to guide mentors toward greater awareness of the "baggage" our kids carry with them and the need to unpack our own "baggage" in order to build trusting, positive mentoring relationships. In this workshop, usually delivered in combination with new mentor training, mentors participate in exercises and discussions that help them become more aware of their own baggage; heighten skills of teaching and modeling healthy, appropriate responses to cultural triggers; and gain deeper knowledge of the process of becoming culturally smart – all in an effort to achieve stronger, longer mentoring matches. The road to becoming a culturally smart mentor is a journey, not a destination - and requires mentors to examine many cultural identities, not just race and ethnicity. The journey to cultural smartness also requires mentors to be open to learning from their youth and to accept that they will make mistakes along the way. Participants in this workshop will receive an overview of content typically included in this workshop and will experience a demonstration of one to two training activities.

Mentoring Hard-to-Reach Youth: Finding the Right Mentors, Getting Them Ready and Giving Them Support

Michelle Soucy, Mentoring Consultant

What does the current landscape of mentoring a struggling youth look like? What can mentors do to build trust with youth in disadvantaged circumstances? What is important for mentors to understand about children of prisoners, youth in foster care, and youth living in generational poverty? What personal characteristics and skills make for good mentoring? How can we support the match? This session will present specific strategies and considerations for finding, preparing, and supporting the right mentors to work with youth in disadvantaged circumstances.

Tools for College Positive Mentors

Michelle Snitgen, Michigan Campus Compact and Amber Troupe, Mentor Michigan

College positive mentoring encourages and creates a pathway for K-12 youth to consider, plan for, and attend post-secondary institutions. Carefully structured and supported mentoring provides young people with the developmental resources needed for success. Combined with age-appropriate, appealing college access activities and consistent encouragement, mentoring relationships help youth succeed both personally and academically, and set them on the pathway for higher education! Learn about the College Positive Mentoring Toolkit designed by Mentor Michigan and Michigan Campus Compact, gain access to ready-to-use resources for your program staff and mentors to use to help empower the young people in your program to consider education beyond high school as a realistic option, as well as to equip them with the tools to plan for and attend post-secondary education. Join the ongoing conversation on initiatives to increase the number of Michigan Youth attending college. Learn why this is important for your mentoring organization, and how you can get involved in local, state, and regional college access efforts.

Strategic Training & Facilitation – all day track

Craig Bowman, Common Ground Consulting

This session will provide participants with an opportunity to refine their training design skills by working with others from the field. This interactive session is designed for participants who design and/or deliver workshops, training sessions, or other types of presentations, and will rely heavily on the insights and experiences of the participants. Those attending should come prepared to ask questions and share their knowledge. The session will include both small and large group work as well as opportunities for participants to share training tools and techniques.

**This session is limited to 40 participants. You must register on the registration page.*