



2008 Michigan Teen Conference

Take Charge of Your Journey!

Tuesday-Wednesday

June 17-18, 2008

**Bovee University Center
Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant MI**

Sponsored by:

**Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Michigan Federation for Children and Families
Michigan Department of Human Services, Youth In Transition**

Conference schedule

Tuesday, June 17, 2007

10:00 – 11:00 AM	Registration (Lobby)
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Opening remarks and keynote address by Maurice Webb (Auditorium)
12:30 – 1:15 PM	Lunch (Rotunda)
1:15 – 2:45 PM	Workshop A (Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake St. Clair, Lake Superior)
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 – 4:15 PM	Workshop B (Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake St. Clair, Lake Superior)
4:15 – 4:30 PM	Break
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Tour of CMU campus
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Dinner (Towers)
7:00 – 11:00 PM	Recreation/entertainment options (CMU Student Activity Center) Poetry Slam led by Ozone House Project Speak Out (Troutman Hall Lounge)

Wednesday, June 18, 2007

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast
8:45 – 10:00 AM	General session: Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (Auditorium)
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 – 11:45 AM	Workshop C (Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake St. Clair, Lake Superior)
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch and presentation by School of Life Foundation (Rotunda)
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Walk through Life (Terrace and Rotunda)
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Conference closing and gifts (Auditorium)

June 17-18
2008

**Michigan
Teen Conference**

◆
Bovee University Center

**Central Michigan
University**

Mt. Pleasant MI



2

Keynote presenter Maurice Webb

Maurice Webb is a former foster youth who aged out of care in 2003 and faced misfortune throughout his life. He has experienced homelessness, starvation, loneliness, poverty, and depression and even jail as a delinquent. Maurice has been in three foster homes and one foster care placement. He aged out and was once again homeless after funding stopped for him. He fought hard and made it to college. He then combined his childhood experience with his education and professional expertise to work on behalf of other children in the foster care system. He has been the recipient of many awards, including the William Tilton award, receiving thousands of dollars for college.

Today, Maurice works with the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a Technical Assistant. He travels throughout the United States, assisting child welfare agencies that have the foresight to engage foster children in the process of improving the foster care system. His responsibility is to raise awareness of the needs of foster children and to promote systemic changes that improve the delivery of services to children in out-of-home care, such as securing for them college scholarships. Maurice is happily married to LyAshia Webb. He is now a college graduate, ordained minister, entrepreneur and consultant. "My life has come full circle."



Maurice Webb

What to do with your free time

Monday (June 16) and Tuesday (June 17)

Monday and Tuesday evenings:

7:00 – 9:00 PM

CMU Student Activity Center will be available to conference registrants.

The activities available at the center include:

- basketball • billiards • bowling • fitness center
- racquetball courts • table tennis • tennis courts • track

Tuesday only:

4:30 – 5:30 PM

Campus Tour conducted by students of CMU

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Ozone House Project Speak Out will present a **Poetry Slam** in Troutman Hall Lounge

Chaperones are responsible for their assigned youth at all times.

Thank you to the conference planning committee

Laura Mitchell (Chair) • Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Marjorie Bowens • Wayne County Department of Human Services
Emily DeMeester • Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Chris Durocher • Child Welfare Institute, Michigan Department of Human Services
John Elmore • Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Carol Gertz • Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Shannon Gibson • Youth In Transition, Michigan Department of Human Services
Leah Hanzlicek • Ozone House
Rose Homa • Michigan Federation for Children & Families
Jennifer Maurer • Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Patrick Okoronkwo • The Children's Center of Wayne County
Jasmine Perkins • Bethany Christian Services
Diana Ripley • Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Ann Rossi • Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Michele Snitgen • Campus Compact
Sarah Wheeler • Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

June 17-18
2008

Michigan
Teen Conference

◆
Bovee University Center

Central Michigan
University

Mt. Pleasant MI



3

Workshop A descriptions

Tuesday, June 17, 1:15 – 2:45 PM

Adult/Youth

Lake
Michigan
Room

What's Cookin': A Guide to Smart Nutrition, Budgeting & Meal Planning

Would you like to make healthy meals at a price you can afford but not sure where to start? The food workshop will be for those who would like to learn about food nutrition, food budgeting, and meal planning. There will be many hands-on activities and information for you to take home and use. After this workshop, you will be able to plan a healthy, nutritious meal at an affordable price that will fit a limited budget.

Presenter: **Kimberly K. Martus** earned a BS in Family Community Services at Michigan State University and will work this fall toward her Master's degree in Social Work at MSU. She has been the program coordinator for the 4-H Teen Peer Mentoring Program for one year and just became an Ameri-Corps member serving the Ingham County 4-H Mentoring Program.

Adult

Lake
Huron
Room

MYOI (Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative):

Connecting Youth with a Supportive Adult

Description: Youth board members will share with workshop attendees the importance of connecting youth aging out of foster care with a supportive adult. The youth will provide strategies to identify appropriate adults, facilitate the connection and encourage youth to maintain the relationship.

Presenters: **Youth from the MYOI youth boards** from Mecosta County and Midland County.

Youth

Lake
St. Clair
Room

Navigating Funding Sources for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Often youth leaving foster care are not prepared for the "real world." This session will help youth and service providers identify funding sources and services that are available to youth from ages 14 to 21. The primary focus will be Youth in Transition and Education and Training Voucher funding.

Presenters: **Shannon Gibson** is Michigan's Independent Living Coordinator, based at the Michigan Department of Human Services. She is responsible for the administration of Youth Services for youth aging out of foster care in Michigan. **Ann Rossi** is the Michigan Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program Coordinator. Questions will be answered regarding eligibility, application processes, and what can be covered by this post-secondary education funding.

Youth

Lake
Superior
Room

It's All About YOU...Your Health and Safety!

This presentation, with interactive discussion, will support youth in remaining healthy and safe by offering information about services provided by public health departments and exploring the health and safety concerns of youth.

Presenter: **Chris Lauckner**, Central Michigan District Public Health Department.

Workshop B descriptions

Tuesday, June 17, 3:00 – 4:15 PM

Adult

Lake
St. Clair
Room

Navigating Funding Sources for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Often youth leaving foster care are not prepared for the "real world." This session will help youth and service providers identify funding sources and services that are available to youth from ages 14 to 21. The primary focus will be Youth in Transition and Education and Training Voucher funding.

Presenters: **Shannon Gibson** is Michigan's Independent Living Coordinator, based at the Michigan Department of Human Services. She is responsible for the administration of Youth Services for youth aging out of foster care in Michigan. **Ann Rossi** is the Michigan Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program Coordinator. Questions will be answered regarding eligibility, application processes, and what can be covered by this post-secondary education funding.

Adult

Lake
Huron
Room

Reconnect: Relationships and Permanency for Teens in Foster Care

This workshop will assist participants in understanding the importance of family and other relationships in a youth's past—healing and managing those relationships to promote permanence. As a result of this workshop, attendees will be able to understand how the foster care process robs youth of critical relationships and personal history; understand the impact of complex trauma on foster care youth and why specialized treatment is necessary; list strategies to assist youth in reclaiming their pasts and reconnecting with others including birth family members; list ways in which social workers and therapists can empower youth in decisions about their lives; and employ at least one strategy in daily practice that may lead to a permanent family for a youth.

Presenter: **Toyna Goodno** has been case manager for the *Reconnect: It's Up to Me* program at Bethany Christian Services for two and a half years. Prior to her post at Reconnect, she was a foster care case manager (1996-1999) and coordinator and advocate for the Family Group Decision Making program (1999-2006). Toyna graduated from CMU in 1996 and has worked for both Catholic Charities West Michigan (formerly Catholic Social Services) and Bethany Christian Services.

Youth

Lake
Superior
Room

Teen Voice: Dating Violence/Sexual Assault

Teen Voice is an outreach program in which teens educate their peers on issues of dating violence and sexual assault. Dynamics of dating violence and sexual assault are discussed and compared to healthy relationships. Presenters offer resources and talk about ways to help a friend or relative who is being abused.

Presenters: **Shelby Peterson** and **Lilly Estenson**, Safe House Center.

Youth

Lake
Michigan
Room

Finding Your Way

Our keynote speaker will present a workshop specific to youth aging out of the foster care system. This is a great opportunity for youth to gain additional insights and confidence that they, too, will be successful adults.

Presenter: **Maurice Webb**. See page 3 for information about Maurice.

June 17-18
2008

Michigan Teen Conference

◆
Bovee University Center

Central Michigan
University

Mt. Pleasant MI



Workshop C descriptions

Wednesday, June 18, 10:15 – 11:45 AM

Adult/Youth

Lake
St. Clair
Room

Preparing for the Future: Your Financial Dream Can Come True

This workshop will include a discussion of the different types of bank accounts, how to effectively manage your accounts, how to manage credit effectively, and how to maintain control of your finances. The workshop will also discuss how to plan for the future, including how to prepare for attending college and how to make your dreams a reality.

Presenter: **CP Federal Credit Union Representative.**

Adult/Youth

Lake
Huron
Room

WHERE AM I GOING TO LIVE? How to find the best place for YOU!

This workshop will include a discussion on choosing the right place to live, including determining what you can afford, what it means to sign a lease, understanding the requirements of the landlord and you, and the qualifications you must meet to be able to rent.

Presenter: **Lynn Nee** is Executive Director of the Michigan Network for Youth and Families. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work. Lynn's early work life included working at The Bridge, a runaway shelter in Grand Rapids. She carried this experience with her as she moved on to work at the Michigan Department of Human Services as a contract administrator for Runaway and Homeless Youth Services.

Adult/Youth

Lake
Superior
Room

Automobile Ownership Dos and Don'ts

Have questions about the process of buying a car? Do you know what having car insurance means? Come have all your questions answered by this expert panel.

Presenters: **William J. de Kryger** is ASE certified as a Master Automotive Technician and is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers. His early automotive career was spent as a professional technician in West Michigan, California and Hawaii. He is a member of the Department of Engineering and Technology and the Professor of Automotive Technology at Central Michigan University. He is also an Expert Witness for automotive cases, Automotive Arbitrator for the National Center for Dispute settlement, annual Visiting Professor of Automotive Technology to the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios de Monterrey in Toluca, Mexico, and an Honorary Professor of The Vladimir State University in Russia. **Patty Csernai** has been a State Farm Insurance Agent for seven years. She worked as a team member for a State Farm agent for five years. Patty opened her own State Farm Agency on January 1, 2007, and she earned Ambassador for Life her first year! She has ten years of experience in auto sales management.

Youth

Lake
Michigan
Room

Career Development Series for Success

This workshop is part of a fuller explanation and assessment of career options for youth based on their interest and personality. The workshop uses an exciting "edutainment" method that combines fun interaction (entertainment) and a personality and learning theory (education). Get ready to have fun, feel empowered and learn your true colors to finding your career!!!!

Presenters: **Terri Mial**, MSW, Tolbert-Mial Enterprises, is a social worker who has provided an array of services to youth, parents, businesses and community stakeholders for over 20 years. She is the owner of Tolbert-Mial Enterprises, a training and consulting company. She has teamed up with co-presenter **Virgil Blocker**, MA, Owners Eye View, who has worked as a volunteer to provide services for youth in fitness, athletics, mentoring and career development.

Walk through life

Wednesday, June 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

This Wednesday afternoon activity will include numerous life stations and resources as the basis for a fun, interactive two-hour session, intended for youth to put into practice many of the life skills they acquired during the conference.

Education

- Colleges and information
- Trade schools
- Educational Training Vouchers

Employment

- Americorp Vista
- Armed Services
- Creating Independence and Outcomes (CIAO)
- First Responders
 - Fire Department
 - Police
 - Emergency Medical Technicians
- Job applications
- WIA Youth Program

Finances

- Banks
- MSU Extension

Housing

- Housing Initiative: DHS Youth Aging Out Pilot
- Apartment Search
- Craig's List
- Landlord

Identification

- Secretary of State
- Vital Records

Transportation

- Insurance agent