



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Abstract

Presenter(s): Heidi Raubenolt, Tara Radina

Presentation Title: Supporting Families Who Adopt Older Youth – Michigan’s Match Support Program

Topic Area: Promising practices that adoption exchanges, child welfare agencies, and others in the field are using to develop and support foster, adoptive, and kinship families;

Description:

Recognizing an unmet need for support to parents adopting children unknown to them, particularly those matches facilitated through Michigan’s adoption exchange, the MARE Match Support Program was created. This 90 day intervention model provides adoptive parents with referrals to community resources and support groups, educational training opportunities and assistance with safety planning, parenting skills, and building a support network. This model has resulted in increased preservation rates for matches and more youth finding forever families.

Format: Lecture

Presenter(s) Biography:

Heidi Raubenolt is the Child Welfare Director for Judson Center, the agency which houses the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange. She has worked in child welfare for the past 11 years. She holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from Eastern Michigan University and a master’s degree in social work from Wayne State University, with a concentration on Community Practice and Social Action.

Tara Radina is the Supervisor for the Match Support Program within the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Saginaw Valley State University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan with a concentration in Community Organizing.