

## What were the best aspects of the conference?

### *Youth*

- ▶ I enjoyed seeing what the youth were working on.
- ▶ The presenters were excellent and the youth track was truly inspirational
- ▶ Hearing from the youth at lunch, their poems, ideas and seeing their inside/outside boxes.
- ▶ Youth presentations at lunch.
- ▶ The Youth Track was well done in that youth worked on things they presented at the workshop. The content of their presentations were very good. My trainings were high quality for the most part, and I especially liked Mike Davis 3 presentations and Eric Jones' presentation on PSR.
- ▶ Youth participation
- ▶ Increase my knowledge of working with youth with mental illness. The Bratty Kid Syndrome was great as to give one hope that there is hope for these children.
- ▶ The blessing to watch the teens talk with the audience, to share their hearts about the systems they are involved with. What is working and what is not. And to see their presentations. I also enjoyed the hands on classes, such as the one about trauma, which used a variety of art supplies to reach kids. Mike Davis was great, and the teacher of "bratty kids".
- ▶ Opportunities for youth to express themselves.

### *Simply Fun*

- ▶ I also loved the Simply Fun during the lunch break. It was nice to get together with other people and just have fun at a conference.
- ▶ The speakers were well knowledgeable in there areas of expertise. I liked Monday's options for lunch.
- ▶ I appreciated the use of humor - table games, Michael Davis presentation, etc.
- ▶ When we played board games.
- ▶ When we all played games at the tables with other people.

### *Keynote Speakers*

- ▶ Mike Davis.
- ▶ The keynote speakers and their sessions
- ▶ The second keynote speaker. Well organized, good opportunity for CEU's, great opportunity for community members to become educated on mental health issues, good opportunity to empower youth who suffer from SED.
- ▶ Michael Davis was a very dynamic and knowledgeable speaker. Dr. Simonsen provided valuable information in his "Bratty Kid Syndrome" program. Networking opportunities. Comfortable meeting rooms. Great handouts. Good food.
- ▶ I really enjoyed Michael Davis' presentation. His session on "The Magic of Focus" was inspiring.
- ▶ I loved Mike Davis I felt revived after listening to him. I enjoyed the kids. It was neat hearing their views.
- ▶ Day 2 keynote address by Michael Davis. The networking opportunities. Some of the breakout sessions.
- ▶ Mike Davis was an outstanding speaker.
- ▶ The presenter's were great. Especially Tuesday's keynote speaker.
- ▶ The speakers were well knowledgeable in there areas of expertise. I liked Monday's options for lunch.
- ▶ Enjoyed Michael Davis!

### *Keynote Speakers (continued)*

- ▶ Michael Davis is absolutely amazing! Inspiring, humorous, appealing to all ages, and a great energizer. He found ways to help us let down our guard with each other, without making us feel childish or stupid. Also, Susan Auger was wonderful. Such a beautiful way to open our minds to anyone we find different from ourselves.
- ▶ The second day keynote speaker Mike Davis. His speech and all of his conferences were great.
- ▶ Speaker Michael Davis; having the teens be a part of it and share their poetry the 2nd day. The Hollywood reels presentation was great!
- ▶ Mike Davis was a captivating speaker.
- ▶ Mary Grealish and Mike Davis
- ▶ Michael Davis and Cynthia McCurdy. I love the fact that she is so knowledgeable and up beat.
- ▶ Michael was awesome

### *Speakers/workshops*

- ▶ Good quality presenters and presentations.
- ▶ Presenters were all knowledgeable in their topics, friendly and receptive to their audience, and organized in presentation. Staff assistance was excellent
- ▶ I took 6 work shops and gained immense information from all of them. The food was good also.
- ▶ Excellent speakers!
- ▶ I got lots of insight to help me chair the CHMAC. I enjoyed Dr. Lourie, Dr. Grealish, and Dr. Davis. I really enjoyed the youth and their participation in the conference. They gave me new insight to their issues.
- ▶ The break out sessions
- ▶ Michael Davis was a very dynamic and knowledgeable speaker. Dr. Simonsen provided valuable information in his "Bratty Kid Syndrome" program. Networking opportunities. Comfortable meeting rooms. Great handouts. Good food.
- ▶ The Bratty Kid seminar by Dr. Simonsen was by far the most helpful session I have ever gone to in three years of attending the SOC conference. The presenter gave concrete advice to parents. He did it in a way that I could understand, and I felt comfortable in the classroom. Two other sessions that I felt were helpful were: Dilemma and Opportunity by Katherine Shea. She was very knowledgeable. It seemed geared more toward professionals, but the topic was so important. Because of this I will write to the state legislature. Message Behind the Misbehavior, presented by Jessica Deursch is the other. She has a very helpful presentation no matter how many times you go to it.
- ▶ Good materials
- ▶ Mixed media, participatory, fun activities that engaged families, very well organized, diverse workshops, youth track
- ▶ Highly qualified presenters. Ease in going from session to session.
- ▶ Excellent speakers
- ▶ The presenters were great.
- ▶ Knowledge from speakers
- ▶ Presenters were overall very informative.
- ▶ Dr. Flint Simonsen - "Bratty Kid" syndrome was excellent.
- ▶ The presenters did a great job.
- ▶ The breadth of the conference workshop topics and repeating specific workshops.
- ▶ A variety of subject matter, with the ability to chose topic content
- ▶ Good information that was useful to parents and professionals.
- ▶ There were some very good presenter especially the presenter for "Bratty Kids"
- ▶ How Real are Hollywood Reels. It should have been longer. I really wanted more information.

### Speakers/workshops (continued)

- ▶ The Bratty Kid Syndrome presentation was fantastic and very helpful to both parents and professionals. That presentation was worth the entire conference. I also like the game activity during lunch and the youth presentations.
- ▶ Dr. Flint Simonsen was excellent at presenting to a mixed audience of parents and providers. It is difficult moving highly emotional parents into collaboration with providers. We all function under the same rules and need to Maneuver together. I also enjoyed the cultural assessment workshop. Michael Davis was an excellent presenter.
- ▶ Bratty kid syndrome, fostering trauma
- ▶ There were a couple fantastic presenters and the variety of workshops were great
- ▶ I found the two workshops on the Bratty Kid Syndrome very informative and very useful to my practice. I will be pursuing the information further.
- ▶ There were some great sessions
- ▶ The Bratty Kid Syndrome class was the best and most valuable one that I have ever attended. It taught valuable hands-on info. that I can use
- ▶ Michael Davis (Chocolate to Ecstasy) and Dr. Simonsen (Bratty Kid) were wonderful and thought provoking and gave me real information to walk away with and apply to work and life in general! I also loved the Simply Fun during the lunch break. It was nice to get together with other people and just have fun at a conference.
- ▶ There were a lot of diverse topics each sessions for participants to select from. Very empowering presenters such as Brett Judd, Jessica Duersch and Michael Davis made learning fun.
- ▶ Loved Michael Davis's presentations.
- ▶ I really enjoyed Mary Grealish. I learned a great deal about Wrap Around from her.
- ▶ The speakers and the energy
- ▶ Diversity in speakers.
- ▶ Presentation by Mary Grealish
- ▶ Variety of workshops
- ▶ Quality presenters and a variety of topics.
- ▶ The workshops I attended
- ▶ Brett Judd's workshop was my favorite; had applications for parents and workers
- ▶ Speaker Michael Davis; having the teens be a part of it and share their poetry the 2nd day. The Hollywood reels presentation was great!
- ▶ Speakers who talked about what to do, not just defining the problem.
- ▶ I also enjoyed the hands on classes, such as the one about trauma, which used a variety of art supplies to reach kids. Mike Davis was great, and the teacher of "bratty kids".
- ▶ Workshop on Addiction (Hollywood Reels...); getting to talk with others in the children's mental health field....learning more about this field....
- ▶ Michael Davis and his wonderful talk about "Keeping the Passion Alive"
- ▶ The presenters seemed to have a wealth of knowledge to share.
- ▶ I really liked several of the presenters - especially those with charisma and substance - not only entertaining, but very informative. eg. Mary Grealish & Flint Simonsen
- ▶ Bratty Kid Syndrome workshop & hearing from the youth at lunch
- ▶ Almost all of the workshops I attended were very informative.
- ▶ Knowledgeable practical presenters. Dr. Simonson was very good.
- ▶ I absolutely loved the Bratty Kid Syndrome class. Those chosen to teach each session were wonderful and very well prepared.
- ▶ The sessions were most informative. I learned a lot.
- ▶ The classes
- ▶ Most of the speakers were a lot better than expected.
- ▶ The sessions
- ▶ The professionalism and extensive knowledge of the presenters, professors.

- ▶ Speakers, lunch, everything.

## Topics

- ▶ Ethics Training, Father's Panel, Dr. Coll's presentation
- ▶ Variety of tracks, great keynotes
- ▶ I attended the ethics and thought it was well organized and informative.
- ▶ The wide variety of topics to choose from.
- ▶ I enjoyed having the opportunity to choose which trainings to attend.
- ▶ The presentation of new ideas.
- ▶ The workshops I attended were all very good. There was a wide variety of topics to choose from and all very relevant.
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- ▶ Workshops that included research based information.
- ▶ Chocolate to ecstasy. More cultural diversity topics. Lunches and snacks were good.
- ▶ This is my third year at this conference. It has really helped me to be more educated and informed as a parent.
- ▶ The classes geared to teach and expand awareness. The most beneficial to me were the crisis sessions and diagnostic sessions i.e. (ADHD).
- ▶ Great presenters and a wide variety of topics.
- ▶ Individual sessions were timely for me and especially good: Dilemma (sic) and Opportunity (Kathryn Shea) [this should have been titled early childhood mental health] and Crisis Planning Workshop/Professional (Mary Grealish)
- ▶ There was a large variety of options to choose from. The trainers were very knowledgeable.
- ▶ There was a large variety of topics to choose from.
- ▶ The variety there was to choose from and some very good speakers
- ▶ Literature provided
- ▶ Speakers who talked about what to do, not just defining the problem.
- ▶ I liked the more interactive workshops
- ▶ The ability to choose from a wide variety of workshops.
- ▶ Subjects
- ▶ The wonderful speakers and topics. I was able to relate with them.
- ▶ The conference presenters provided a good range of training on topics very relevant to the current direction of CMH. The presenters were the right ones for this conference and provided valuable information.
- ▶ The variety of topics and presenters
- ▶ I enjoyed the workshops and the diversity of the attendees.
- ▶ Good range of topics - many choices for different interests
- ▶
- ▶ Learning about the wrap around principles and finding ways to increase family participation in services.
- ▶ To use visual tools/skills to use with children, even you own family.

## Networking

- ▶ Networking with others
- ▶ The networking.
- ▶ Seeing colleagues and friends
- ▶ Networking at lunches, dinners
- ▶ Good information. Good networking

### *Networking (continued)*

- ▶ I really liked the integration of families and professionals and it seemed like they appreciated it as well. The trainers that focused on real things you can do, techniques, and skills taught me the most. There was a good amount of review mixed in with teaching techniques.
- ▶ Organized; interesting topics; networking
- ▶ Ability to participate in areas applicable to my own situation/practice.
- ▶ Lots of people from all walks of life were there. It was good to hear from kids, parents, and professionals.
- ▶ Inclusion of parents and children as primary participants to the conference. Also the ability to network with other professionals.
- ▶ Allowing providers, educators and young people to express and ask questions they were not familiar with.
- ▶ Meeting other people "in the same boat" as my family
- ▶ Networking opportunity. Variety of trainings.
- ▶ The ability to learn new skills and network with multiple agencies.
- ▶ As a presenter I was only able to attend one session other than my own so I don't know much about the content of the conference. What I did observe was many families and providers networking with each other and seeing each other as resources.
- ▶ I love the interaction. When you attend a class and there are other parents and professionals willing to discuss different situations you really have an opportunity to learn. Having the opportunity to network with different people and getting more ideas and resources was great.
- ▶ Items that assisted me in doing my job better and understanding the individuals I work with.
- ▶ The breakout trainings were all helpful and provided useful information. However, I believe that one of the best aspects of the conference was the ability to network and collaborate.
- ▶ Meeting other parents with similar circumstances. Networking and learning about options of care.
- ▶ Connecting with other people and resources.
- ▶ The broad scope of participants. Professional and families and children.
- ▶ Networking with other families and professional.
- ▶ Some sessions could have been longer, to learn more. Meeting other parents with similar experiences.
- ▶ Meeting people and sharing ideas.
- ▶ Opportunity to network and learn new skills.
- ▶ Meeting people.
- ▶ I liked having the parents and children there. It was an opportunity to discuss their needs and see their strengths

### *Culturally Oriented*

- ▶ Not labeling people by the diagnose, recognizing suicide and doing something about it. But, for me the most impressive was Better Today's Better Tomorrows in Spanish. I had heard it in English but made more since in my own language and the presentation was shorter.

### *Strength Based Training*

- ▶ Seeing strength based approaches and positive presentations.
- ▶ The focus of the conference was for the parents. The sessions were watered down and repetitive for professionals. The highlight of the conference was Dr. Freeman's statistical data of Strengths. Coincidentally, only five people showed up to that session and they were all professionals.

### *Conference Logistics*

- ▶ Very well organized. I attended 6 workshops and found them all to be very well done.
- ▶ I found the whole program to be well done and organized.
- ▶ It was exceptionally well managed and coordinated.
- ▶ The ability to chose your own workshops.
- ▶ Location, lunch, instructors
- ▶ Good presentations & time to network.
- ▶ There were some great sessions
- ▶ Organizers provided a feeling to the participants of being taken care of with all the good food, snacks. There were a lot of diverse topics each sessions for participants to select from. Very empowering presenters such as Brett Judd, Jessica Duersch and Michael Davis made learning fun.
- ▶ Good location and physical capacity. Well laid out in terms of the structure and planning.
- ▶ The breakout sessions I attended this year did not seem to have a lot of "meat" to them as far as direct ideas
- ▶ I enjoyed being able to go to the break out sessions.
- ▶ Overall, this conference was great! There were a variety of sessions to attend, the speakers were generally knowledgeable about their topics, it was VERY well organized, and I came away with a lot of information and insight. As someone who will be working in the education system, I am walking away from this conference with a broader understanding of services outside of the schools. I also learned a lot about crisis planning and mental health issues as they relate to children.
- ▶ This was a well organized conference and I came home with lots of new information.
- ▶ There were great sessions and instructors. I liked that I could choose when I got there what classes I wanted to take. During the course I decided to take a different class that I had originally planned on taking. I liked that I could decide at any time what sessions to take. Thanks for the great 1st experience.
- ▶ The handbook that was given out
- ▶ As a first-time attendee, I really enjoyed the set-up and the different areas that were taught; time for a lot of learning and networking.

### *Parent/Youth/Professional Participation*

- ▶ The increased number of parents actively participating as well as youth involvement.
- ▶ The parents and professionals learning together.
- ▶ Fitting the needs of professionals and the family
- ▶ Family and children attendance
- ▶ Parent and youth participation
- ▶ Integration of families and professionals on the same level.

### *Other*

- ▶ Encouraging, motivating, informative
- ▶ I did not attend the entire conference
- ▶ It was very informative and helped me to understand my clients better and taught me many ways to help my clients.
- ▶ Informative and interesting