MPAAA First Annual School Attendance/Truancy Workshop

April 19, 2016 - 9am to 3pm

MHSAA, Lansing

9:00–10am - School-Justice Partnership and Truancy Law Overview (Carolyn Claerhout, Oakland Schools)

In September 2013, Michigan held its first School-Justice Partnership Summit and started a dialogue on keeping kids in school and out of the justice system. Many communities are continuing that work. In this session, we will summarize the work of the School-Justice Partnership, review the laws that require youth ages 6-18 to attend school, and discuss options, consequences and strategies to keep all kids in school.

10am-11am - Attendance Policies, Practices and Enforcement – (Chris Howard, Lenawee ISD and Terry Harrington, St Clair ISD)

Lenawee ISD and St. Clair ISD have new truancy protocols and encouraged their school communities to use common definitions of excused vs. unexcused absences or at least those that count and don't count for truancy purposes. Both counties also address chronic absenteeism in their truancy protocols.

11am-12pm - Issues with Homeschooling and Cyber Schools (Harriet Dean, Eaton ISD and Shelly Marcusse, Wexford-Missaukee ISD)

The compulsory school attendance law exempts homeschoolers and does not address cyber schools. Learn how two ISDs work with homeschoolers and cyber schools to insure kids are "in school."

12pm-1pm - Lunch

1pm-2pm - Reasons kids miss school – excused vs unexcused, head lice, medical, bullying, school refusal, school anxiety, alcohol, drugs, mental health, etc (Sally Washington, Clare-Gladwin ISD)

There are hundreds of reasons why kids miss school and hundreds of ways we can encourage positive school attendance. In this session, we are going to identify the reasons for school absences and start the discussion on how to address these reasons. Expected topics include: medical issues, school anxiety, mental health, head lice, alcohol, drugs, trauma, bullying, and head lice. Come prepared with your list of reasons students miss school.

2pm-3pm - Resources to tap into (Panel – all Presenters)

School attendance is not just a school issue but a community issue and every community has resources. Learn from the panelists how to tap into school and community resources to promote positive school attendance and address school attendance issues.

3 pm - Workshop ends but there will be a brief follow-up meeting after the workshop to identify other topics of interest.