

- Some were not attended, lots of work for those folks
- Evening to allow more attendance
- Opportunities to attend more than 2 sessions
- Longer, More time 11111111
- Position speaker differently, had back to some, have stand on stage 11
- Improve sound, hard to understand 1
- Include presentation of local dropout statistics
- Different types of breakouts
- More advertisement
- Christian Moore's info sent to Grand Rapids and Holland area
- Regional meeting (quarterly)
- Create a larger cooperative movement to formulate all ideas into a strong and real application
- More practical outcome focus in breakout sessions
- More teen opinions
- Meet the kids where they are at
- Spend the whole time with Moore
- Invited others
- More time to connect with folks
- Spread the word in more ways. I personally would have asked my bosses to come
- Better communication leading up to conference
- What about rural?, most focus was on inner city

The session I found the most useful was: (and Why?)

- The keynote general session-the scope of the problem revealed, inspiring, motivating, reality, thought provoking, about intervening with hope, about revealing link between L.D. issues and incarceration, has packaged what we've known for years in a great way, outside of the box approach, practical, a program to use now, gives economics education and social problems cause and effect, because I work with teens and pregnant moms, innovation of WhyTry program, specific solutions offered, practical application, overview of a successful program WhyTry, learned more about what looks like a good program, positive information, Mr. Moore is so on!
11111111111111111111111111111111
- Christian's breakout for showing more of program, WhyTry, can take back ideas to implement with youth, inspirational and informative, have been looking for this 15 years (have at-risk teen), because is a strength-based approach, his presentations made the most sense, WhyTry is awesome, helped me learn that each child needs to learn their own way, teaches us it's time for a new way to educate, we are doing similar program at FHS, can use this in therapy with kids, confirmed my beliefs of needs for youth and families, WhyTry-I truly think this program would be beneficial, data support WhyTry, explanation of WhyTry touched on a lot, 11111111111111111111111111111111
- Session 1 How to get on children's level and relate, building relationships
- Session 2 Education
- Session 3 It was real
- Student Focus Group, we need to listen to them, so everyone knows what they think 11
- The second half-realizing that there is still not much talk about understanding the parent, really listening to the parent.
- Mentoring, promotion of mentoring opportunities, our children are our best resource, I learned what it is about 111
- All, The whole-morning was excellent 111
- Opening: Statistics and new ideas
- Report Out
- Student Advocacy-dialogue was great but too short
- Idea Sharing
- Human Services Network-brainstorming/informative, learn about all the resources we have, need better communication between services 11
- Faith-based: It's what I think probably could be the most helpful, people talking about working together, concrete ideas coming together in our community and churches 111
- Service Learning: Helped identify ways to engage students
- Breakout session B
- Business and Community-at-Large

As a result of this conference I will: *(all responses listed singly)*

- Continue to expand after-school opportunities for our students
- Try to get kids into programs that are available and try to get kids help
- Work to get WhyTry implemented in our alternative school program
- Do all I can to help
- Share
- Pursue WhyTry training!
- Share ideas to combat the student drop out rate. Get more involved (volunteer my time and skills)
- Try being a mentor
- Continue my involvement in support of our youth/families
- Send our therapists to WhyTry training
- Put forth greater ___?_
- Try to implement WhyTry
- Better use these resources
- Continue to develop and work on programs that benefit youth
- Follow up with contacts
- Commit and do my share
- Attend another session
- Use WhyTry curriculum
- Commit myself to work with our children
- Speak/plan w/staff to look at service
- Become more involved in the community
- Renew my efforts to help this process
- Be more involved in efforts
- Connect with several agencies to partner for activities for the students
- Get my church involved and continue myself
- Encourage my district to use the WhyTry curriculum with our at-risk students
- Demonstrate love to youngster to foster relationships with more youth-talk with and hug youth often
- Relax at work and preach more hope and opportunity
- Continue to make change
- Use some of the WhyTry visuals
- Continue to try to do what I can
- Take a stance and do what it is that I have learned today, to impact students I am in contact with.
- Initiate a wider mentoring program
- Be more responsive to my child's needs in school/college. I will get more involved in more children's lives!
- Look into implementing WhyTry in my district
- Continue to try and do more to help students at risk
- Keep updated on the community, school, and church events
- Continue to participate
- Encourage the libraries to utilize the WhyTry music and videos if possible
- Stay in school
- Be better at my job
- Think outside of the box all of the time
- Continue to commit to resolution
- Be active with faith-based community, create relationships
- Help in any way I can, I want to see WhyTry implemented and community coordination continued
- Develop the idea of the resource center and share WhyTry vision with my school.
- Reach out more to our young people through mentoring and individual relationship building
- Participate in other Graduation Generation activities
- Help where I can
- Push for WhyTry
- Strive harder to make a difference in the lives of my students and work with others to reach more students and families
- Keep the dialog open
- Continue to be involved-this was a great beginning!

- Continue my involvement
- Continue to be involved in this issue at a higher level
- Engage more people in solutions, work on this area
- Continue to learn about this program to implement in school
- Network
- Continue to build relationships with other organizations
- Fight more and more for Anti-Stigma and those that fall through the cracks
- Seek links between my congregation and Steele youth
- Do more for the best results for others who attend
- Continue to participate
- Work on creating an in-house Senior To Freshman Mentoring Program
- Work harder to make graduation a reality
- Volunteer
- Beg my bosses to look at this program for our 50 most at-risk kids in HS
- Be more dedicated to support students
- Help me re-evaluate how I relate to young people
- Focus on ways to help youth in my community
- Share with my agency and church
- Be more aware, learn more about services, help kids build better relationships, motivate and inspire kids
- Spend more time helping at-risk kids

I was most surprised by:

- The large turnout 11111111
- The variety/diversity of people attending this event 1111
- The amount of genuine interest of the community, hope to see more of these conferences
- The Keynote speaker
- The speaker with his “dis”abilities and accomplishments in the field
- The approach of WhyTry 11
- The amount of people turning out for WhyTry
- All districts suffer from this problem
- The amount of passion in the community that wants to make a change
- number of academic leaders in the area who attended
- Nothing 11
- The joy of all who were present
- Number of agencies represented
- How I agreed
- The amount of community participation 11
- That more did not attend the conference
- Having students be part of the group—this is SO IMPORTANT—please always include them
- The number of community sectors represented 1
- Emotional reaction/support from community
- Great participation/involvement of the students 11
- That I liked the conference
- That the STRIVE program is only offered to Muskegon PS, I’m bummed!
- Christian’s background, I’ve known other underprivileged and homeless children overcome and be successful. God, has given Chris a great gift!
- 70% person in the TAWIF have a learning disability
- The national statistics 11
- The creative approach of the WhyTry program
- How much I don’t know about the program
- The turnout, impressive
- Some people who still don’t get it
- Seeing a few friends I haven’t seen in years
- Illiteracy rate among inmates
- Most professionals don’t (still) understand “walking in the shoes of consumers and still assume.”
- The fact that the answer to helping youth stay in school isn’t solving social issues.

- Ideas from those in the community toward schools

Other comments: *(all responses listed singly)*

- Less on programs-more on kids
- Loved conference
- Excellent kick-off
- Nice facility
- Great conference
- God bless all who led the implementation
- Need more this
- Thank you
- Thanks to church and members for hosting the program
- Great Job!
- Good job
- Great breakfast!
- Breakfast/break food was nice
- Nice church and facility
- Thanks for putting this together! For the next step, personally ask every person to do something and bring it back to our next meeting. Be specific, make it public (Mr. X did this, Ms. Y did this...and here's what we'll do with these actions).
- I think Christian should be brought in to train adults and teens.
- Relationships were brought up as being so very important in all lives.
- Feel good program
- Hope to see more of these conferences
- Excellent conference
- Judge Pittman was an excellent facilitator!!
- Thank You!
- Once county, one district working together for **ALL!** Muskegon Opportunity looking at providing 2 yeazars \$ post secondary education.
- KEEP IT GOING
- The fact that professional people who do not work in a school setting are willing to make critical and detrimental comments about school policies and how schools operate. I expected here that I would not have to face the typical "blame the school" mentality and I was offended at the misguided info out there from people even in the human services sector. Schools are bound by laws/policies we must follow. People who do not work in the school do not know how/why things are done the way they are. We are caring, conscientious professionals who love kids and working with them. Let's stop with the finger pointing!!
- I would like copies of materials and notes from all breakout sessions-maybe they can be e-mailed(?)
- Great participation of the students
- We must continue this forum in an on-going manner to find feasible and do-able solutions to our drop out rate.
 - Purchase the "WhyTry" program and/or get facilitators trained to teach the concept to those who desire to reach and teach struggling students and their families.
 - Give more support to schools and teachers by funding student advocacy programs to be set up like the CASA Child Abuse Program. An Advocate will take a student as an individual interest and advocate for that student in all aspects of life.
 - Show students how much we care about them by going above and beyond our job duties to help all students succeed.
- As far as the WhyTry program-I worry about the music component for teacher buy-in. I totally get it, but...
 - What about older teachers? How genuine will the delivery be?
 - What about the teachers who don't like the music?
 - What can you do to change this?
 - It kinda feels like the teaching the old dog a new trick!
 - Also, the role of vocational training. When will the government see the importance?
 - P.S. Whatever happened to the other 11?