Good afternoon and welcome to our focus group session. My name is Murari Suvedi, and I am an evaluation specialist at Michigan State University. Philip Alexander, District Ext. Tourism Agent and Ann Wright, 4-H Youth Agent in Otsego County will be helping me in this focus group. We are here today to listen to you, citizens concerned about Otsego county children and youth. More specifically, we are interested in your thoughts and opinions regarding the concerns or needs of children, youth and families in Otsego County and how could we work together on these concerns and needs. This is just one of several focus groups we are conducting in Otsego County.

Our discussion will be about children, youth and families in this county. There are no wrong answers, only differing points of view. Feel free to say what you think even if it differs from what was already said. We will be recording our discussion to be sure that we do not miss any comments. No names will be attached to any reports. We will be on a first name basis and we will first go around the table and get to know each other. Tell us your first name and briefly describe where you live.

Questions for focus group session in Gaylord:

1. In your opinion, what makes a family strong and successful?

2. What things in your communities help make families strong and successful?

3. Think about your community. What are the greatest concerns or needs of children, youth and families in your communities?

4. Let us follow-up on question 3 about the greatest needs of our children, youth and families. What needs are being addressed most satisfactorily by agencies serving children, youth and families?

5. What do people say about the agencies serving Otsego County’s children, youth and families? Are they working together? What can be done to improve the services?

6. How can citizens like yourself help children, youth and family serving organizations to better work together on behalf of children, youth and families in your community?

7. Have we missed anything?