

The loss of our friend and colleague, Doug Davies



Doug Davies

**August 16, 1942 –
June 4, 2015**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that our dear friend, beloved mentor and colleague, Doug Davies, unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, June 4, 2015 from congestive heart failure. His obituary can be found here: <http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/annarbor/obituary.aspx?n=douglas-davies&pid=175023310>.

Notes of condolence can be shared on a website created by Doug's family, to honor his memory and provide details about his memorial service: <http://dougdaviesmemories.com/>. His family has requested that people write about Doug there so that they can feel the many ways that he was known and cared about.

Doug served MI-AIMH and the infant mental health community in countless ways. He was a long-time MI-AIMH Board member and member of the MI-AIMH Executive Committee. He used his extensive skills and knowledge to develop countless

trainings for the infant and family community in Michigan. In addition, he provided individual and group reflective supervision/consultation statewide and throughout the country, holding so many as they came to understand and embrace IMH principles and practices essential for best practice and work force development. Recognized and respected beyond the borders of Michigan, he worked with IMH colleagues for many years in Hawaii, Alaska, Virginia and West Virginia, to name a few places, as the leadership met criteria or planned to bring the MI-AIMH Endorsement® into their communities. Doug was a strong advocate for families and worked fiercely with MI-AIMH members and leaders from the Michigan Department of Human Services to write the Joint Policy Statement on Attachment in Infancy and Best Practice Recommendations for Decision-Making for Infants/Toddlers in Foster Care. Of great importance, Doug was a devoted admirer of toddlers and preschoolers and pioneered the integration of IMH principles into work with 3 – 6 year olds in Michigan. He was an engaging writer, a deep thinker, and a beloved mentor to so many.

Less than a month ago, we held our Biennial Conference in Doug's home community, Kalamazoo. At every point during the Conference, Doug was observed smiling ear to ear. Doug was delighted to share his home community with his beloved colleagues and friends who made up his IMH community. In addition to Doug being an active Conference planner, he was beyond thrilled to be part of the workshop, "Looking Back as We Look Forward." He was able to share his experience of being trained and mentored by Selma Fraiberg and how that experience shaped his career. Doug put his whole heart into everything that he did. The workshop was no exception. Doug found an old tape of Selma Fraiberg talking about her teachings and was able to share that with everyone. Doug's passion and excitement about IMH was palpable. After that workshop was over, Doug spoke with one of the Conference co-chairs, beaming, about how happy he was to be able to have been part of that workshop, in Kalamazoo, as the whole Conference meant so much to him.

A deeply loved and respected attachment figure, Doug Davies offered a secure and safe base for the IMH community. Moving forward, we will find ways as individuals and as an organization to keep in mind what he taught us about the importance of the early years and the power of relationships to effect growth and change.