

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: September 2004
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs
FROM: Mary Marin, Executive Director, Parent Participation Program (PPP)
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division
SUBJECT: Heart-to-Heart Information Updates

We are excited about our upcoming tenth anniversary of *Relatively Speaking* next year. Hold these dates: Nov. 4 - 6, 2005. The location is Grand Rapids. *Relatively Speaking* is our biannual conference for siblings of children with special needs. Families who would like to be on our *Relatively Speaking* mailing list may call Leah on our CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or e-mail to her at WatersLea@michigan.gov. As far as we know, our state health department is the only one in the nation that hosts such a conference. Once again, we are grateful to the *Children with Special Needs Fund* for generously allocating dollars to support the conference. ♥

PPP Update

Families of adolescents with special needs are invited to **discuss issues related to medical transition on Sept. 13 in Detroit, Sept. 14 in Grand Rapids, Sept. 16 in Mount Pleasant and Sept. 25 in Marquette.** Medical transition is the time when teens move from pediatric services to adult services.

Parents and youth that would like to participate in a meeting may dial the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. At each location, participants have a choice of meeting from 10 a.m. to noon or 7 to 9 p.m. Participants are asked to register at least one week in advance. ♥

Fourteen new books are in PPP's **Lending Library**, donated by the *Autism Society of Michigan*. The titles are:

- Childhood Feeding Disorders
- Children, Families and Substance Abuse

- Children with Acquired Brain Injury
- Communication Development and Disorders in African American Children
- Counseling in Terminal Care and Bereavement
- Developing Cross-Cultural Competence
- Educating Students Who Have Visual Impairments with Other Disabilities
- European Farm Communities for Autism
- Exploring the Speech-Language Connection
- Neuromotor Speech Disorders
- The Physician's Guide to Caring for Children with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions
- Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Through Parent Education
- Strengthening the Family-Professional Partnership in Services for Young Children
- Transitions in Prelinguistic Communication

Family members may borrow those and other titles by phoning Leah on our CSHCS Family Phone Line. Professionals should phone (313) 456-4381. ♥

FSN Events

Tools for a Successful Individualized Education Plan

(IEP) is the topic of two **Sept. 21** meetings of the *Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN)* and *the Arc of Livingston* in **Howell**. Details: Livingston County FSN Coordinator Kathy Maher, 1-800-359-3722 or (517) 546-8825. ♥

FSN Support Parent Training takes place **Sept. 25 - 26 in Marquette**. Parents and caregivers of children with all types of special needs are invited. Our hope is that with parent-to-parent support Michigan families will feel less isolated, have access to resources, and feel empowered to help their child reach his or her potential.

Training topics include parent-to-parent support, communication skills, listening techniques, and community resources. There is no cost to participate. Lodging plus mileage and childcare reimbursement are offered. Details: 1-800-359-3722. ♥

Other Events

The annual **Family Retreat for families of children and young**

adults who are deaf/blind takes place **Sept. 10 - 12** in **Midland**. Information: 1-888-758-0508. ♥

The *Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council* is seeking public comment on barriers that keep persons with developmental disabilities from living fully included lives. Topics include community supports, health, transportation, employment, housing, education and family support. Remaining dates and cities in the series are **Grand Rapids, Sept. 15; Detroit, Sept. 17; Saginaw, Sept. 20; and East Lansing, Oct. 5**. Details: (517) 334-6123. ♥

A free **Diabetes Clinic for youngsters** is set for **Sept. 17 - 18** in **South Haven**. Appointments are required. Information: *Wayne State University's Morris J. Hood Jr. Comprehensive Diabetes Center*, 1-888-324-6852. ♥

Please note correction of phone number given in last month's Update:

Participants can explore recent advances in disability products and services at the **Abilities Expo, Sept. 17 - 19**, in **Novi**. For details, phone 1-800-385-3085; or visit www.abilitiesexpo.com ♥

The *Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan's* annual **Buddy Walk** takes place at 10 a.m., Saturday, **Sept. 25**, in **Grand Rapids**.

Phone (616) 956-3488, go to <http://www.dsawm.org> or e-mail to <mailto:dsawm@iserv.net> for details. ♥

A conference on autism spectrum disorders takes place **Oct. 18 - 20** in **Grand Rapids**. Sponsor is the *Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding*: (616) 954-9747 or www.TheGrayCenter.org . ♥

Resources

An **accessible tree house** is open at the Fowler Center in Mayville, in the state's Thumb. The *Detroit Free Press* Aug. 2 "Yak's Corner" article reported, in part: "*The amazing structure opened last month ... It took 45 volunteers two years to build it – with \$100,000 from several charities, including the Christopher Reeve Foundation.*" For camp and weekend respite information, phone (989) 673-2050 or go to www.thefowlercenter.org ♥

Children as young as age six can adequately understand and report on their own health, according to a new study. Click to a summary in the *Association of Schools of Public Health* e-newsletter at http://www.asph.org/press/fridayletter/pre.ss.cfm?fl_index=1318 . ♥

Dose of Humor

circulating on the Internet

Womanhood

One of life's mysteries is how a two-pound box of candy can make a woman gain five pounds. ♥

CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with a qualifying diagnosis. PPP serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is PPP's parent-to-parent support arm.

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Early On Liaison to CSHCS
Penny Verran

CSHCS Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday – Friday

CSHCS online:
www.michigan.gov/mdch then click "Health Care Coverage," then "Children and Teens," then "Children's Special Health Care Services"

Events and Resources are compiled by PPP from a variety of sources. A listing does not denote endorsement.

To receive this memo via e-mail, e-mail your request to rigatod@michigan.gov. To add your name to our mailing lists or remove it, families may call our toll-free CSHCS Family Phone Line. Others, please phone (313) 456-4376.

If you receive multiple copies of this memo, you are on more than one of our mailing lists. Please share extra copies you receive.

The Parent Participation Program (PPP) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services Division (CSHCS) of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Children and Family Programs.