

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: July 2005
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

Enclosed is a *Reader Poll*. We genuinely want to know what you think of this memo. Please take time to fill it out.

In a separate mailing, you should receive our "Relatively Speaking" brochure. It details our Nov. 4 - 6 conference in Grand Rapids that uniquely focuses on the issues of siblings of children with special needs. We hope you read that parent stipends are available to cover registration, lodging and child care expenses. For details, families may phone PPP Administrative Assistant Jean Rennie at 1-800-359-3722.

CSHCS Update

Changes in the CSHCS medical travel policy effective Aug. 1 bring good and bad news for families.

Two policy changes favor families:

- The CSHCS **mileage reimbursement rate increases** to 12 cents per mile.
- CSHCS **clients with a payment agreement can receive in-state travel assistance** if they meet the criteria.

In the least welcome change, **CSHCS no longer will reimburse families for meals during in-state travel** for medical treatment related to their child's CSHCS eligible condition. The policy change also applies to hospitals. That means that CSHCS will no longer reimburse hospitals for meal tickets they give to parents or caregivers.

Families with Medicaid coverage have another option for meal support. They may request meal assistance through the local Dept. of Human Services (formerly named the Family Independence Agency) office.

Meals will continue to be covered for out-of-state travel.

The CSHCS policy regarding lodging assistance during medical travel has not changed. Families may continue to seek such help from the CSHCS office in your local health department.

The revised policy also allows CSHCS to reimburse for airline tickets that families book themselves **only if** MDCH gave approval before the purchase.

Families should be able to look up travel reimbursement rates on the MDCH website, starting July 1. The address is www.michigan.gov/mdch.

There, click on "*Providers*," then "*Information for Medicaid Providers*," then "*Provider Specific Information*," then "*Children's Special Health Care Services*." ♥

PPP Update

A call for translation help from one CSHCS office in a Local Health Department (LHD) prompts this reminder. CSHCS subscribes to Language Line, an over-the-phone translation service. LHDs are welcome to use the service for any CSHCS call. Also, families get basic program information in Spanish on the CSHCS Phone Line from Nelinda Treviño. In addition, LHDs may order the CSHCS brochure and the Family Support Network of Michigan brochure in Spanish and Arabic from PPP by phoning (313) 456-4381. ♥

Events

Ways to communicate with nonverbal children who have complex or multiple disabilities is the topic of a free **Family Learning Workshop** from 6 to 9 p.m. **Aug. 1** at Oakland Schools in **Waterford**. It condenses information in the comprehensive **Aug. 2 - 3 workshop**. A brochure detailing both workshops is under "Training" on the website of one of the presenters Philip Schweigert, M. Ed.: www.designtolearn.com/pages/PreSymbolic_1.pdf. Although there is no cost to participants, registration is required by July 8. To register, phone 1-888-263-3867 or click to www.oakland.k12.mi.us. ♥

Resources

Individuals without prescription coverage may qualify for **free or nearly free brand-name medicines**. For help, phone the *Partnership for Prescription Assistance* at 1-888-477-2669. Trained specialists, including ones who speak Spanish, answer the line. Information also is online at www.pparx.org. ♥

July 15 is the deadline to apply for the new **Mattie J.T. Stepanek Intergenerational Scholarship**. Applications are welcome from current caregivers who want further training as well as from

students pursuing a career in a caregiving field. Sponsor is the Rosalynn Carter Institute Caregivers Program. For an application, visit www.rosalynncarter.org or phone (229) 928-1234. ♥

Nine cans of powdered Neocate formula -- required by some preemies -- is available at no charge from the County Health Department's CSHCS office in Mount Pleasant. For details, reach Sue Presnell, RN, at (989) 773-5921, ext. 147, or at spresnell@cmdhd.org. Families may phone her toll-free via the CSHCS Family Phone Line: 1-800-359-3722. ♥

Clear and easy-to-follow **information on calming a fussy child** is online at www.thehappiestbaby.com, points out CSHCS Nurse Katherine Schlappi, RN. She notes the site's value to families, such as those caring for shaken babies. ♥

A new curriculum enables professionals to present intervention strategies to parents of children with disabilities who are the targets of bullying. It is available in both English and Spanish from the PACER Center in Minnesota. A flier about it is online at www.pacer.org/publications/BullyingFlyer.pdf. Or, get information from the PACER Center at (952) 838-9000 or via TTY at (952) 838-0190. ♥

Dose of Humor

Excerpts of an Internet post,
Know Your State Motto

Florida

Ask Us About Our Grandkids, and Home of the Early Bird Special

New Mexico

Lizards Make Excellent Pets

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. 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.

Mary J. Marin

Executive Director

Lisa Cook-Gordon

Transition Consultant

Linda Lyles Daniels

Parent Communications Consultant

Randy Krause

FSN Coordinator

Jean Rennie

Administrative Assistant

Dianna Rigato

Information & Resource Specialist

Rebecca Start

Program Specialist

Nelinda Treviño

Phone Line Operator

Leah Waters

Secretary

CSHCS Family Phone Line

1-800-359-3722

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday – Friday

CSHCS and this Update online

www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Free online course on CSHCS

www.training.mihealth.org

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

If you receive multiple copies of this memo by mail, please let us know. To add your name to our postal mailing list or to remove it, *families* may call our Family Phone Line. Others, please phone (313) 456-4381.