

**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979**

DATE: March 2006  
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

Our next issue will be part of "Special Addition." That's the free newsletter compiled twice a year for families of children with special health care needs by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. MCHB provides federal content and invites nationwide Title V programs, such as CSHCS, to add state information. The Spring edition's federal theme is "Coping with a traumatic brain injury."

Professionals in local health departments (LHDs), hospitals and agencies can help us reach more Michigan families of children with special needs. Please encourage families to read this memo online or to join our mailing list. At last count, only 2,100 persons are on our mailing list and 120 subscribe via email. We appreciate our top LHD recruiters of parent readers: Chris Buczek, Lois Jacobs and Lynn Pall, all of the Kent County CSHCS office. Professionals may add names and addresses to our list by phoning Leah at (313) 456-4381 or e-mailing her at WatersLea@michigan.gov. Families may send email or phone 1-800-359-3722. ♥

## ***CSHCS Update***

Two new CSHCS publications address issues youth with special health care needs face as they become adults.

A new brochure, *Family Guidance: Transition Planning for Youth*, is enclosed. It lists items for thought by youth approaching adulthood and their families. Topics are health care skills, health care coverage, education/employment and independent living.

CSHCS produced a new 60-page *Transition Resource Manual* for local health departments. Ten tabbed sections detail transition issues. The *Transition Tools for Youth and Families* section

includes separate planning worksheets for families and for youth. The manuals were mailed to every CSHCS office in local health departments throughout Michigan. Families who want a copy, may contact Transition Analyst Gina Tremonti on the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. ♥

## ***PPP Update***

Michigan's new *Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center* (F2FIEC) is taking shape. PPP is the lead agency for the three-year project funded by a federal grant. The 21 project partners

include consumers and agencies.

A list of statewide training sessions is attached. Most are for parents of children with special needs. One series is for community mental health professionals.

We spotlight three project partners on the F2FIEC Resources list that begins on page three. ♥

## ***Events***

Parents can learn about early intervention services for infants with hearing loss on **March 27 in Lansing** at the **Michigan Early Hearing Conference**. The *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program* has details at (517) 335-8884 or

www.mphi.eductrng.net.  
Registration deadline is  
March 6. ♥

The **Michigan Hear Here Conference and Expo** takes place **April 28-29** in **Grand Rapids**. For details contact the *Hearing Loss Association of Michigan* at (517) 487-2583 or go to [www.mi-shhh.org](http://www.mi-shhh.org). The group's former name is Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People. ♥

## Resources

Parents seeking help in understanding tax issues related to children with special needs can check two resources:

■ Download an order form for **The Arc Michigan's 2006 Tax Guide** at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org). Or, order by phone by calling Don Robbins at 1-800-292-7851. It covers "tax deductions stemming from the care and support of a minor child or adult child or other persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities."

■ [ScwabLearning.org](http://ScwabLearning.org) has a **four-page article on federal tax benefits for parents of children with learning disabilities and other special needs**. It is posted at [www.schwablearning.org](http://www.schwablearning.org). ♥

There is **online support for families of children who are Technology Dependent and Medically Complex and/or Fragile** and who have other special needs at [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com). The description is "a place for mutual family to family information and support." At the site, choose groups, then search for "MIHealthSpecialKids." Make sure to type the name without spaces. ♥

The **MI Healthy Children Project's Monthly e-News**, is a new publication of the *Learning Disability Association of Michigan*. The project offers up-to-date information about environmental factors that impact fetuses, newborns and young children. The inaugural issue covers chemicals, toxins and pesticides, lead and mercury, environmental effects on learning and more. Find it at [www.ldaofmichigan.org/healthychildnews.htm](http://www.ldaofmichigan.org/healthychildnews.htm). ♥

Parent and professional input is sought for a draft of an updated **knowledge path on children and adolescents with special health care needs**. It is a product of the *National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health* at Georgetown University. The knowledge path and feedback form are posted online at [www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp\\_CSHCN.html](http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_CSHCN.html). ♥

## Dose of Humor

Excerpts of **A Mom's Dictionary**

**Feedback:** The inevitable result when your baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

**Full Name:** What you call your child when you're mad at him.

**Grandparents:** The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

**Independent:** How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

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.

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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](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs)**

Free online course on CSHCS  
**[www.training.mihealth.org](http://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 CSHCS Family Phone Line or send e-mail to [pdp@michigan.gov](mailto:pdp@michigan.gov). Others, phone (313) 456-4381 or send e-mail to [pdp@michigan.gov](mailto:pdp@michigan.gov).