

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979



DOSE OF HUMOR
<http://laughlines.blogs.nytimes.com>

Joke Classic:

Time is an illusion. Lunchtime
doubly so. — *Douglas Adams*

DATE: **October 2008**
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs
FROM: Mary J. Marin, Executive Director, Family Center (FC)
Nancy Deising, Parent Communications Consultant Specialist,
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division

SUBJECT:  **Heart-to-Heart Updates**



A Word from Mary...

The Family Center (FC) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health.

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

Mary J. Marin
Executive Director

Lisa Cook-Gordon
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Nancy Deising
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CSHCS Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday- Friday

Events and resources are compiled by the Family Center from a variety of sources. A listing does not stand for endorsement.

With funding from the *Children with Special Needs Fund*, the *Family Center* was able to award **25** adult scholarships and **2** youth scholarships to attend **27** conferences throughout the United States. Some of the conferences attended were the Pull-through conference in St. Louis, the Prune Belly Syndrome conference in Philadelphia, and the Williams Syndrome convention in California. Families sent in information gathered at the conferences for the *Family Center* resource file and submitted a report upon their return home.

I want to take this opportunity to announce that, with the start of the new fiscal year, conference scholarship applications are again available. For more information, call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722.

We hope that you like receiving the *Heart to Heart Updates*. We have received positive response to the new format. Remember the *Heart to Heart Updates* is for you! If you would like to offer suggestions, or submit information for publication, please contact Nancy Deising, Parent Communication Consultant Specialist at DeisingN@Michigan.gov. *Mary J. Marin*♥

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) & Family Center (FC) for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Updates

Welcome Carole! Carole Keefe is the new project coordinator for the Community Integrated Systems of Care grant. The goal of the project is to develop a statewide network to implement the six core outcomes for children and youth with special health care needs. (The six national core outcomes are Family Participation, Medical Homes, Early and Continuous Screening, Adequate Health Insurance, Community-Based Services, and Transitions to Adulthood.) Carole recently retired as Associate Professor from the Office of Medical Education Research and Development with the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University. She holds degrees from the University of Georgia including a PhD in Educational Psychology. Carole and her husband enjoy keeping busy with five granddaughters, ages seven to ten. She worked with the division several years ago and looks forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. She can be contacted at 517-241-7097 or by e-mail at KeefeC@Michigan.gov. ♥

Welcome Kristie! Kristie Ferris is the new General Office Assistant for CSHCS. Prior to accepting this position with CSHCS, she served as an Office Manager for a State Farm Insurance Agency. She has an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. Kristie is excited to be a part of CSHCS! ♥

CSHCS recently received information that the Medicaid rate for mileage reimbursement increased to 50.5 cents per mile effective July 1, 2008. According to CSHCS policy, the CSHCS mileage reimbursement rate is the same as the Medicaid rate; therefore the mileage rate for CSHCS families has also increased to 50.5 cents per mile with a retroactive effective date of July 1, 2008. The new rate has already been updated on the CSHCS database on the MDCH website.

Families who have submitted requests for mileage reimbursement for dates of service on or after July 1, 2008 that were processed at the former mileage rate (18 cents per mile) will receive additional reimbursement from MDCH. MDCH Accounting is in the process of running a report to identify these families. At this time, no further action is required on the part of the LHD to assist families in receiving the additional mileage reimbursement. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Cindy Linn at 517-241-8862, or e-mail LinnC@michigan.gov. ♥

Transition to Adulthood: Local Health Department (LHD) Survey Results

Back in 2004 the CSHCS division began to focus efforts on transition to adulthood. During this time a survey was conducted with LHD staff to assess areas of need in the creation of information and assistance necessary for clients to effectively make the transition into adult life. The questions asked local health department staff their perception of the adequacy of resources available to assist clients/families. The 2004 results were utilized in material development that have since been distributed and in use. In 2008, the same survey was administered again to assess whether any progress has been made. According to the results there has been a 39% increase in the reported adequacy of available resources since CSHCS began efforts in transition to adulthood. ♥

Events

October 2008 – January 2009 Early Childhood Conferences For more information visit http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Early_Childhood_Conferences_2006_149277_7.pdf.

October 4, 2008 National Down Syndrome Society Buddy Walk: The Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan is having a walk and activities from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kensington Metropark (East boat launch). Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. For more information visit www.dsgemi.org. ♥

October 11, 2008 Annual BUDDY WALK of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM) takes place at 10 a.m., at Millennium Park in Grand Rapids. DSAWM is a support and resource group for parents of children with Down syndrome. The goal of the Buddy Walk is to promote understanding and acceptance of all individuals with Down syndrome. For details, phone toll-free at 1-866-665-7451 or go online at www.dsawm.org. ♥

October 22, 2008 Parenting Awareness Michigan Conference in Marquette: Each year the Parenting Awareness Michigan Conferences are held to bring together professionals and volunteers who work with families to learn about issues facing today's parents and caregivers. This year's keynote presentation will be by Barbara Flis, Founder of Parent Action for Healthy Kids. The Registration Booklet and other materials can be found at the Michigan Prevention Network site: <http://www.preventionnetwork.org/index.html>. ♥

October 29, 2008 Life Without Limits Through Assistive Technology Conference and Expo presented by: United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Silver Garden of Southfield, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield 48075. For more information call 248-557-50-70 or visit www.ucpdetroit.org. ♥

Resources



CSHCS Course www.training.mihealth.org/coursedetail.htm#CSHCS



Down syndrome Guild (formally Parents of Children with Down syndrome) www.dsgsemi.org 248-827-9135



Family Center 1-800-359-3722 and www.bridges4kids.org/f2f



Heart-to-Heart Updates www.michigan.gov/cshcs E-mail Dianna Rigato at RigatoD@Michigan.gov for electronic copies of the Updates.