



A Word from Mary

Those of you who receive Heart to Heart electronically have also received the January, February and March issues of Family Linkages. This newsletter has information from a variety of organizations that partner with the Family to Family Health Information and Education Center. After much discussion and thought, I have decided to discontinue the Heart to Heart Updates after the June edition. We will instead submit information from the Family Center and CSHCS to be included in Family Linkages. This will allow more efficient usage of staff time and state dollars. ***All mailings of Family Linkages will be sent electronically.*** If you are currently receiving your updates through the mail and would like to receive Family Linkages, please email Rigatod@michigan.gov to be added to the email list.

Mary J. Marin

Welcome Lori!

Lori Simon has been hired as the CSHCS Policy Specialist as of January 2012.

Lori's previous experience includes over 17 years working within the environmental health fields at Mid-Michigan and Ingham County Health Departments. She has worked in various roles over the past 10 years with the Department of Community Health on projects such as the department's Emergency Response and Continuity Planning. Lori's most recent position was as the Real Identification (ID) Act and Special Projects Coordinator in the Division for vital Records and Health Statistics. She comes to us with extensive experience in developing policies and procedures.

Lori is excited to be a part of what she calls "such a dynamic team here within CSHCS." Lori can be contacted at (517)241-8862, or SimonL6@michigan.gov.

Project Freedom is an organization funded by a grant from the Hospitalers Committee of Detroit Commandery No.1, Knights Templar, a Masonic organization. Project Freedom has an inventory of Lift-Aid 2000 home lifts and is making them available to eligible recipients throughout Michigan. There is no cost to the patient for the installation or use of the lift. All costs are covered by Project Freedom. When the patient no longer needs the lift, the unit will be removed, refurbished and made available to another family. To be eligible for this program, recipients must demonstrate that they would not otherwise be able to purchase the equipment because of insufficient insurance coverage and lack of financial resources. If you have any questions regarding this program, please call Roy Richardson at (734) 240-2565 or Theo Wilkinson at (810) 632-0596. View our website at info@projectfreedommi.org

The Family Center 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 Family Center serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is the Family Center's parent-to-parent support arm.

Mary J. Marin
Executive Director

Lisa Cook-Gordon
Transition Consultant

Lisa Huckleberry
Training Consultant

Valerie Smith
Office Manager

Randy Krause
FSN Coordinator

Dianna Rigato
CSHCS Program Specialist

Deborah Schaller
Administrative Assistant

Leah Waters
Secretary

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.

Diabetes School Policy

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recently released the State Board of Education Model Policy on the Management of Diabetes in a School Setting. This policy provides diabetes care best practices for schools (including training components, school-parent-child coordination, resources, etc.) and also provides an overview of related federal laws. Many of the policy components were adapted from the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) publication, Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel. Members of the DPAC Advocacy and Policy Workgroup as well as other statewide partners (including JDRF) worked closely with MDE on the development of this policy. The policy can be found on the DPAC website, www.dpacmi.org or you can visit the MDE website at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_38684_29823-208930--,00.html scroll down to Diabetes.



Lose The Training Wheels... and see where they go!

Lose The Training Wheels™ is a nonprofit tax-exempt charitable organization that is much more than just a bike-riding program. For many people with disabilities, it's a seemingly impossible task that they can typically master in less than a week's time through our program. Within days of learning to ride, many children begin exhibiting independent behaviors at home. This achievement, in turn, creates a gateway of opportunity, helping them gain assurance and self-reliance in many other aspects of their lives.

For a listing of scheduled dates in Michigan go to <http://losethetrainingwheels.org/schedules.html>

Resources

Assistive Technology (AT) Xchange
www.atxchange.org

CSHCS Courses
http://www.training.mihealth.org/course_detail.htm#CSHCS

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

Autism Resource Network of Northwest Michigan
<http://www.autismresourcenetwork.org/>

Syndromes Without A Name-USA
<http://www.undiagnosed-usa.org/>
1-269-692-2090-or-1-888-880-SWAN(7926)

SNApps4Kids
<http://www.snapps4kids.com/>

bridges 4 kids
www.bridges4kids.org

Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan
<http://p2pswmi.org/>

Become an Informed Advocate for Your Child

The MI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics encourages you to talk to your child's pediatrician about your child health, parenting, and child development questions. Be an informed advocate for your child with his or her pediatrician. Check out these web resources for more information.

Looking for a trusted online resource that you can use to improve the health of your family? HealthyChildren.org is a virtual extension of the pediatrician's office. HealthyChildren.org empowers parents to be proactive about their children's health. Read the complete press release: AAP Launches Healthy Children.Org (PDF)

Need information on different child health topics or child development?
<http://www.aap.org/parents.html>

Get involved in your child's life right from the start. Looking for child care, a playgroup, parent education, preschool or other program to support your child's development before going to school? Find community resources to give your child a Great Start.
www.ecic4kids.org

All About Your Health for Teens. www.teengrowth.com

Camps for Kids with Special Needs: Advice for Families and Caregivers

Many kids with special needs want to go to overnight or day camp like their friends do. Depending on a child's condition, this may be possible, or not. Children whose special need is mild may be able to attend a regular camp, while those who are more severely affected may be able to attend a special camp. But, of course, first the camp must be carefully looked into to make sure that the environment is safe and nurturing for your child.

To view question and answer guides for camps for children with special needs go to this link:
<http://www.care.com/special-needs-camps-for-kids-with-special-needs-p1167-q227943.html>