

## Children's Special



## Health Care Services

# Heart-to-Heart

September 2009 Updates

From the Desk of

Mary J. Marin, Executive Director

Family Center

## A Word from Mary.....

Great news! For the second year, I am pleased that the Family Center was able to offer Family Involvement Mini-Grants to eight of the ten local health departments that applied. The mini-grants will increase interaction between the health departments and families, enabling them to work together to make program improvements at the local level. The grants will allow a variety of activities.

Examples of grant activities are:

- Increasing the use of parents as paid staff to perform various functions
- Building a CSHCS database of client e-mail addresses
- Conducting surveys to assess program effectiveness
- Conducting family forums
- Underwriting family oriented activities and events
- Providing programming costs such as childcare, stipends, and speaker fees

I am also excited to announce that Valerie Kimmons has accepted the position of Office Manager with the CSHCS Family Center. Valerie served for eight years as CSHCS representative at the Detroit Health Department. She has two sons in the US Army, one of whom had special health care needs as a child. Valerie's experience with CSHCS and working with families makes her a very valuable member of the Family Center team!

We also congratulate Linda Rutz on her new position in CSHCS, Departmental Technician in the Customer Support Section.

*Mary J. Marin*

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Needs 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 the MDCH's Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health.

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

**Mary J. Marin**, Executive Director

**Lisa Cook-Gordon**, Transition Consultant

**Valerie Kimmons**, Office Manager

**Randy Krause**, FSN Coordinator

**Jean Rennie**, Administrative Assistant

**Dianna Rigato**, CSHCS Program Specialist

**Leah Waters**, Secretary

**Robin Rennie**, Communications Consultant

**CSHCS Family Phone Line**

**1-800-359-3722**

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

Click on "Family Center"

8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday - Friday

## A Social Network for Seriously Ill and Chronically Ill Teens

Starbright World found at [www.starbrightworld.org](http://www.starbrightworld.org), is an online social network for seriously ill teens and their teen-aged siblings. It provides a chance to share experiences, thoughts and fun. This social networking site is one of the many services offered by the Starlight Children's Foundation, which brings together experts from pediatric health care, technology and entertainment to create programs to educate, entertain and inspire seriously and chronically ill children. It also offers programs to help their families cope with the challenges they face every day. For more information on the Starlight Children's Foundation's services go to: [www.starlight.org](http://www.starlight.org)

## New! Payment Agreement Fee On-line Payment Option

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) now has an on-line payment option for your payment agreement fees! Paying on-line is quick, easy, secure and available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This application allows you to pay all or part of your CSHCS payment agreement using your checking account, MasterCard, Visa or Discover credit card. This on-line service is a payment site only and will not display payment history. If you have questions regarding your payment history or need assistance using this on-line payment option, please call the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. Go to [www.thepayplace.com/mi/dch/cshcs](http://www.thepayplace.com/mi/dch/cshcs) to make a payment.

## Resources

**Assistive Technology (AT) Xchange**  
[www.abxchange.org](http://www.abxchange.org)

**CSHCS Courses**  
[www.training.mihealth.org/coursedetail.htm#CSHCS](http://www.training.mihealth.org/coursedetail.htm#CSHCS)

**Down Syndrome Guild**  
[www.dsgsemi.org](http://www.dsgsemi.org) 248-827-9135

**Family Center** 1-800-359-3722 and  
[www.bridges4kids.org/f2f](http://www.bridges4kids.org/f2f)

**Healthy Children Project Monthly e-News**  
[www.LDAofmichigan.org/healthychild.htm](http://www.LDAofmichigan.org/healthychild.htm)

**Heart-to-Heart Updates**  
[www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs), click on "Family Center"  
E-mail [Dianna Rigato at RigatoD@Michigan.gov](mailto:Dianna.Rigato@Michigan.gov)  
for electronic copies of the Updates.

**Judson Center Autism Connections**  
[www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)

**Michigan Loan Funds**  
[www.michiganloanfunds.org](http://www.michiganloanfunds.org)

**Natural Learning Concepts**  
[www.nlconcepts.com](http://www.nlconcepts.com)  
Toll free: 800-823-3430

**On the Spectrum: Autism Resources**  
[www.myspace.com/on\\_the\\_spectrum](http://www.myspace.com/on_the_spectrum)

**Syndromes Without A Name-USA**  
269-692-2090 or 888-880-SWAN (7926)

**The Special Needs Store**  
[www.thespecialneedsstore.com](http://www.thespecialneedsstore.com)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs)  
click on "Family Center"

**Family Phone Line-  
Important News!**

The Michigan House and Senate Appropriations committee has approved Executive Order 2009-22 to help eliminate a shortfall in the state budget. The Order requires six unpaid furlough days (temporary layoff) of state employees to achieve the needed savings. The last furlough day is September 4. The Family Phone Line WILL be available. We encourage all families to contact staff prior to these dates for any transportation or other needs.

## Upcoming Conferences:

**Fall Dyslexia Conference, 2009**  
**Response to Intervention: Building a Collaborative Culture to Assist the Struggling Reader**  
October 10, 2009 9:00 am to 3:30 pm  
Scholarships are available. For more information and to register:  
[www.idamichigan.org/home.htm](http://www.idamichigan.org/home.htm)

**Dr. Tony Attwood: A Complete Look at Asperger's Syndrome**  
Presented by the Autism Society of Michigan, October 21, 2009 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Lansing, MI.  
For more information call 517-882-2800 or toll-free 800-223-6722.  
Register online at: [www.autism-mi.org](http://www.autism-mi.org)

**Association for Children's Mental Health:  
Building a System of Care: Putting Principles into Practice**  
October 29-30, 2009 at the Lansing Center, Lansing, Michigan.  
The conference includes workshops related to School, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Building a System of Care, You and Family Involvement in Systems of Care.  
For more information: [www.impactssystemofcare.org](http://www.impactssystemofcare.org)

### Research Participants Needed

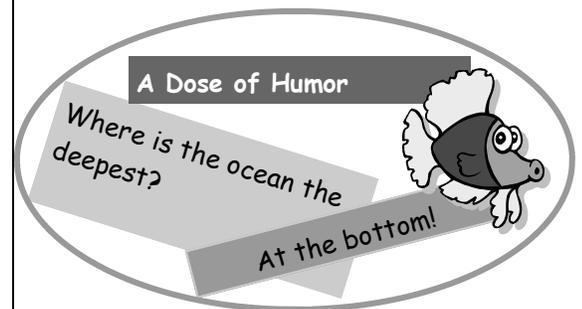
The Adaptive Cognitive Assessment Lab (ACAL) at the University of Michigan needs students to participate in a Thinking Speed Study. Students must be:

- Between the ages of 8 and 16
- Have a medical diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy
- Have a parent/guardian present to provide written and informed approval for their child to participate in the study
- Have no medical or psychiatric condition that affects the tests, including changes in doses of medication or a history of brain injury
- Participants will spend two to three hours in the study and will receive a \$50 honorarium for their time and effort.

To learn more about how your child can participate, email:

[ACAL-Research@umich.edu](mailto:ACAL-Research@umich.edu)

or call 734-936-6606 or 734-763-6189.



### Epilepsy Foundation Learn & Share Conference Calls

Gain knowledge about epilepsy, keep up -to-date on information and share experiences by participating in monthly conference calls simply by calling a toll-free number and entering a pass code. For information on topics and to register call 800-377-6226, option 1, ext. 302 or go to: [www.epilepsymichigan.org](http://www.epilepsymichigan.org)

### Attention Parents in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Iron, Dickinson, Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties: IEP Mini Learning Sessions

If you are a parent of a student receiving Special Education Supports & Services you may have already attended an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or will be attending one this fall. The Michigan Alliance for Families offers mini-learning sessions to help parents better understand how an IEP meeting works and how to best speak to a child's needs as a member of the IEP team. These sessions are informal, with one or more parents meeting perhaps over coffee or at a library. To schedule a time and meeting place, parents from the above counties should contact Liz at 906-337-3477, or 800-552-4821 or email: [Liz.Leach@arcmi.org](mailto:Liz.Leach@arcmi.org)

### Parenting Views: A Fun Newsletter for Macomb County Families

The Michigan State University Extension Service of Macomb County provides a fun and fact-filled family newsletter. To find out more call 586-469-5180 or go to:

[www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/familyindex.htm](http://www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/familyindex.htm)