



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.

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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.

A Word from Mary...

Insurance policies are often documents that people cannot understand even if they take the time to read them. It's important to know what can be provided for your family through your policy. We are fortunate to have been provided the funding to sponsor an insurance training by Kathy Neville, a nationally known Insurance Advocate. Amy Chapko, Insurance Specialist with CSHCS is also going to speak on the Insurance Premium Payment program that may be available to CSHCS clients. More detailed information can be found below.

Mary J. Marin

Sibling Support

The national Sibling Support Project is dedicated to the concerns of brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental and mental health concerns. They specialize in providing lively, family-friendly and highly-rated workshops on sibling issues to audiences of parents, service providers, university staff and students and siblings of all ages. Workshops have been conducted in all 50 states, England, Canada, Ireland, Japan, Iceland, Italy, Guatemala and New Zealand. Over 270 replications of the Sibshop program have been established in eight countries. Books available for families include Sibshops, Views from Our Shoes, Living with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs, Uncommon Fathers, The Sibling Slam Book and Thicker than Water. Addressing siblings' concerns benefits everyone: brothers, sisters, parents, agencies, taxpayers and the family member who has special needs.

If you would like to learn more about their workshops, seminars, and keynote speakers, please contact Don Meyer, Director, Sibling Support Project. A Kinderling Center Program at (206) 297-6368 or donmeyer@siblingsupport.org. You can also visit the Sibling Support Project website: <http://www.siblingsupport.org>.

Don Meyer has presented at every Relatively Speaking Conference that the Family Center has presented and we fully support the valuable work that Don has done for families of persons with special needs.

Insurance Training

A no-charge training on insurance issues, facilitated by the Family Center will be held on May 14, 2010 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids. Spots are still available to hear Kathy Neville, a nationally recognized insurance advocate and expert on

insurance. Amy Chapko, Insurance Specialist for Children's Special Health Care Services, will also be presenting. The training will occur 8am-4pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

If overnight accommodations are necessary, the hotel is offering rooms with a special rate of \$82.00 + 14% tax.

You can call the hotel at (616) 957-1770 to make your reservation. You must mention Michigan Department of Community Health to receive this rate. **There is no charge for this training, however space is limited.**

Call (800)359-3722 to register or for more information. Last date to register is May 7th.

This Insurance Training program is supported in part by Grant Number D70MC09826, State Implementation Grant Systems of Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA, US DHHS.

May is National Foster Care Month

Michigan has 20,498 children and youth in foster care. We thank the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers for the children and youth in our state. Success stories come about when someone takes the time to offer comfort, support, give advice or simply share a moment with a youngster when their own families are in crisis and not able to care for them. Some famous people who spent part of their youth in foster care include Ice T (Rap musician and actor), Dr. Ruth Westheimer (Psychologist and author), Tom Monaghan (founder of Domino's Pizza), Duante Culpepper (NFL quarterback), John Lennon (member of the Beatles and songwriter) and Eddie Murphy (comedian and actor). Foster Care is seen as a short term solution to an emergency situation. Michigan needs committed individuals who are willing to work with the child's birth parents, able to work with children who may have significant emotional, behavioral or physical needs and are supportive of efforts to return the child to their home.

For more information on the Foster Care Program contact your local Department of Human Services office.

Videos for Safety Improvement to Protect Child Health

The best Public Health is invisible- the disease you didn't get- the accident you didn't have- the disaster that didn't happen. To further those results, the Safe Kids organization and the MetLife Foundation have partnered to bring you a series of online safety videos highlighting how you can take precautions in the home to help prevent injuries to children with physical, developmental or cognitive disabilities. The series profiles three families, all of whom have a child with a different special need. The videos address fire and burn prevention, drowning prevention, and choking and falls prevention. These videos will help viewers learn safety guidelines and step-by-step instructions geared towards making safety improvements in the home. *Safe Kids USA is a nonprofit organization solely dedicated to eliminating preventable childhood injuries, the leading cause of death and disability to children ages 1 to 14. Safe Kids USA has 600 grassroots coalitions across the United States dedicated to educating families and implementing programs on child passenger safety, home safety, water safety, bike safety, fire prevention and more. For additional information visit, www.safekids.org.*

Thanks to Janine Chittenden at the Ottawa County Health Dept. for sending this information.

Resource available for Michigan Families and Professionals

The Parenting Awareness Michigan (PAM) has a limited supply of the "Toolkit" available. The kit is a resource for health care professionals, early intervention providers, service coordinators, support parents and others who work with infants, children and their families. It includes information on support services available to families as well as condition-specific resource materials. These kits are "Free". **Supplies are limited, order one today by contacting Luanne at 800-968-4968 x12. Or, email at pamcampaign@preventionnetwork.org.**

Upcoming event

The 2010 Arc Michigan Conference will be held on June 17, 18 & 19th at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The keynote speakers will be Derrick Dufresne and Dr. Beth Harry. Derrick is the founder and senior partner of Community Resources. He is also the President and CEO of the Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities. Dr. Harry is a professor of special education and an acclaimed author. She is also a parent of a child with special health care needs. A native of Jamaica, Dr. Harry's research focuses on the impact of special education on children and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. For more information, contact www.arcmi.org.

In Honor of Spring

First a howling blizzard woke us,
Then the rain came down to soak us,
And now before the eye can focus -
Crocus. ~Lilja Rogers

