



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 provides specialty health care coverage, care coordination and other support services to children and certain adults 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...

I am pleased to announce that funding for Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2F HICs) has been extended through 2012. These statewide, family-run centers were slated to lose all funding in May. With this extension, F2F HICs will be able to continue their invaluable help to families whose children have special health care needs and disabilities. These centers provide information and assistance in obtaining health care and health care financing for the complex health needs of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

Look over the enclosed F2F HIC brochure for information on workshops that may benefit your family. These workshops are offered at various locations throughout the state. For more information you can call the Family Phone Line at (800)359-3722.

Mary J. Marin

Spotlight on the Family Support Network

The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is for families who have children with special health care needs. FSN is made up of parents who listen to your concerns and share information about resources. Like you, they have children with special health care needs. Trained volunteer parents offer practical suggestions for day-to-day living and one-on-one support. FSN also provides information about other services that can help your family. This includes training programs for parents, information about support for brothers, sisters, fathers and grandparents. We also have information about local, state and national resources. Our services are free and for families with children of all ages. Personal information shared is kept confidential. Randy Krause is the FSN Coordinator and is the parent and grandparent of youth with special health care needs. She has worked for the Family Center for 14 years. Randy will be happy to talk to you about support groups, parent to parent matching, resources and how to become a FSN Support parent. She can be reached through the Family Phone Line at (800)359-3722.

Insurance Training Reminder The Family Center is facilitating two more trainings on insurance issues. Previous trainings have been greatly appreciated by families. Insurance Advocate Kathy Neville is recognized both statewide and nationally as an expert on insurance issues and will be the primary presenter. Amy Chapko, Insurance Specialist for Children's Special Health Care Services, will also be presenting. The Detroit area training is on October 13, 2010 at the *Wayne County RESA*. The Marquette area training is on October 7, 2010 at *Northern Michigan University Center*. **(New location)** Time will be 9 am-3 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

There is no charge for this training, however space is limited. Call (800)359-3722 to register or for more information. *The 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.*

If you are currently receiving the Heart to Heart Memo in regular mail, please consider receiving it via email.

This change will allow us to save on postage and printing costs.

Call the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722 to add email and delete “snail” mail.

Or, email Rigatod@Michigan.gov

Thank you

School is starting soon. Here are some tips to help your children get from home to school and home again safely.

- Show your child an easy way to walk to school or the bus stop. Ask if there is anything they should watch out for along the way. Have them walk with a brother, sister, neighbor, or friend.
- Remind them not to talk to, go anywhere with, or take anything from strangers.
- Teach them their phone number and address, even the area code and zip code. If the child has trouble remembering them, write them down and keep them in a safe place.

Adapted from the National Crime Prevention Council and McGruff the Crime Dog.

Look for additional information and fun games to reinforce safety rules at www.mcgruff.org

Sorry past due.....The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Michigan is hosting a one-day conference, “A Best Practice Approach.” The purpose of this conference is to provide tools to create a happy and safe environment for both children and adults with Prader-Willi Syndrome. The tools provided are a “best practice” approach to an “appropriate” IEP and positive behavior plan, medications addressing behaviors and understanding the implications of a “free” food environment with proven methods of prevention and food security. It will be held on September 18, 2010 at *The Gilmore Center, Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo*. Time is 8:30am to 5:00pm. Additional information can be found at www.pwsausa.org/mi. Or call Lori at (616)897-0215 / Eric at (734)998-3507

Opportunities.....The FamilyWize Prescription Drug Discount Card may benefit those in your family who do not have health insurance or prescription coverage. It enables you to receive discounted pricing on prescription drugs, with immediate savings at participating pharmacies. It is for prescription medicine not covered by health insurance, Medicare and other benefit plans. This is not insurance, nor is it intended to replace insurance. You simply present your FamilyWize card with each prescription from your doctor to the participating pharmacy to receive your discount. Visit www.familywize.org for more details.

Ingham County..... Residents who have a surplus of incontinent supplies are able to donate their excess to CSHCS families in Ingham who are in need of these items. You may drop off unused incontinent supplies at the Olive Baptist Church, 5455 Willoughby Rd, Lansing between the hours of 9am to 2pm, Tuesday-Friday. You can call the Ingham County CSHCS office at (517)887-4501, (517)887-4553 or (517)887-4309 for information on this program.



A Dose of (School) Humor

A seven-year-old was giving his kid brother some advice as the younger one was going to school for the first time. “Don’t learn how to spell ‘car’, because if you do, after that the words keep getting harder and harder.”