



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

Plans are firming up for our every-other-year conference **Relatively Speaking** on October 7-9, 2011 in Grand Rapids. This conference focuses on siblings of children with special needs. It gives the siblings of children with special needs the rare opportunity to meet with other siblings and have fun, talk, and connect heart-to-heart. The children meet in age-appropriate workshops while the parents attend workshops dedicated to "mom and dad issues." Don Meyer, the founder of *Sibshops* will be one of our speakers. Emily Holl and Nora Handler are also presenting. Both Emily and Nora are adult siblings of brothers with special health care needs and have presented at state and national conferences on sib issues. Stipends for families are still available that will cover most of the costs of the conference. The [Children with Special Needs Fund](#) is a generous supporter of this conference. For more information, call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722, or email Dianna at Rigatod@michigan.gov.

Mary J. Marin

Staff Updates

Please join the Family Center and Customer Support Section in welcoming Veronica Perez to the Region I team as General Office Assistant, effective June 13, 2011. Veronica comes to CSHCS with education and experience in medical **terminology**, electronic medical record data entry, medical coding/billing as well as direct care experience with adults who have special health care needs. This is Veronica's first permanent, full time state position, having served as a seasonal employee with the Department of Treasury this past tax year. Congratulations Veronica!

Courtney Pendleton accepted the position of Departmental Analyst on May 30, 2011. She has worked for the state 13 years. Courtney started out at the Department of Treasury and moved to MDCH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), where she worked for 11 years. She has been married almost 11 years and has two children, a son and a daughter. Courtney says, "I'm very happy to be here and look forward to all of the new learning opportunities!" Welcome Courtney!

Saying Farewell

Richard Cummings, who served as Manager of the Customer Support Service, retired on June 30, 2011. Richard plans on pursuing his love of travel and history. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Janet. We are going to miss Richard's dry sense of humor and ever present smile.

Betty Jo Douglas also retired on June 30, 2011. Betty started working for the Department of Treasury and also worked in the MICHild/Healthy Kids area of the Medical Services Administration. After moving to CSHCS, she worked diligently on getting the application packets mailed out in a timely manner. She was excellent at answering phone calls, answering caller questions and forwarding calls to the appropriate staff member. Betty Jo has two children and three grandchildren that she will be spending time with. She is enjoying her retirement in Kansas and says she "feels like she is on vacation". Enjoy your retirement years, Betty Jo and remember that we will miss you greatly.

QuickRamps for Kids®

The QuickRamps for Kids® program provides free portable wheelchair ramps to families of children who experience Cerebral Palsy and other paralysis-causing conditions. QuickRamps are a fast and inexpensive alternative to permanent ramps. Best of all, they give a child immediate access to their community.

For more information contact UCP Detroit at (800) 827-4843 or visit <http://quickrampsforkids.org/>.

Resources

Assistive Technology (AT) Xchange
www.atxchange.org

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

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

Down Syndrome Association of West MI
<http://www.dsawm.org/>

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

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

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

Back-to-School Conference for Students with Type 1 Diabetes

No Fee to Attend

Students with type 1 diabetes need a strong support network at school to help them manage their diabetes. JDRF is here to help! We're having a conference which includes everything you need to know about creating a safe learning environment for students with diabetes.

The conference is for parents/caregivers, school administrators & staff including teachers, support personnel, lunch room aides, bus drivers, and school nurses! Dates for the conference is as follows:

August 9, 2011 – Madison Heights, MI
August 16, 2011 – Perrysburg, OH
August 23, 2011 – East Lansing, MI
Program Hours – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Hear presentations from Certified Diabetes Educators: Diabetes Basics • Educational tools and templates • The “team” approach to keeping students safe. Receive information from JDRF: School Advisory Toolkit • Health Care Providers Toolkit • Service & Support.

Questions? Contact Denise Pentescu at dpentescu@jdrf.org
248-936-1284 or register online @ <http://www.jdrfcares.org/Contact>

SNApps4Kids is a community of parents, therapists, doctors, and teachers who share information on how they are using the iPad, iPhone iPod Touch and Android devices with children who have special needs. They have found these mobile devices to provide accessibility for children who may have been previously disengaged from the world because of challenging language, motor, or other developmental delays. Given the rising number of apps on the market and the diverse skills of children with special needs, parents have found each other to be one of the best resources for choosing apps to enhance everyday life for our children. While their group is primarily parent-driven, their efforts are naturally collaborative with the people who help children develop particular skills — therapists and educators. **For more information** go to: <http://www.snapps4kids.com>

Health Reform Fact Sheet - Benefits for People with Disabilities

from Michigan Consumers for Healthcare Advancement (MCHA)

The Affordable care Act (ACA) increases access and choice in health care:

- Eliminates discrimination by Insurance Companies
- Expands and Strengthens Medicare and Medicaid
- Provides More Choices
- New Options for States to Offer Long-Term Care Choices
- Provides for More Accessible and Better Quality Health Care

To access the fact sheet go here: <http://www.arcmi.org/pdf/MCHA%20Disabilities%20Fact%20Sheet%20052611.pdf>

For more information go to <http://www.healthcareadvancement.org/index.html>