On behalf of the Michigan Pediatric Epilepsy Project, we would like to share some information about our statewide efforts to improve services for children and youth with epilepsy (CYE) as well as resources you may find useful in your work.

**Improving Access to Care for CYE**
Since 2010, the Michigan CSHCS Division has led efforts to increase access to care for children and youth with epilepsy (CYE) in rural and underserved areas. Building on previous successes, such as telemedicine visits with specialists, over the next 3 years the project will focus on training and education, direct services (care coordination, telemedicine, transition planning, epilepsy action plans), technology designed to support families, family engagement (including parent and youth consultants), and marketing and outreach.

**Statewide Learning Collaborative**
A core strategy to improve the system of care is a statewide **Learning Collaborative** comprised of four Epilepsy Centers/Clinics (Beaumont, Children’s, DeVos, & Marquette General) and five primary care sites, the Michigan AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, and parent representatives. The goal of the Michigan Pediatric Epilepsy Learning Collaborative is to improve the quality, effectiveness, provision, and availability of health care delivered to children and youth with epilepsy (CYE) particularly those in rural and underserved areas of Michigan. A Change Package (attached) developed by the project’s Quality Improvement Leadership Team describes the Learning Collaborative mission, values, goals, the need, and the framework. Please feel free to share this with others who may be interested.

**Outreach and Education**
Our lead partner with outreach and education is the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. Cindy Handford, RN, is available to conduct training sessions for groups or individuals. This has proven to be an especially important part of the project due to lack of awareness and understanding about epilepsy among the general public and the fact that so few schools have nurses on staff to support students with epilepsy. The Family Center and our Parent Consultant, Rubontay Buckner, also offers Parent Mentor Trainings as well as one-on-one support for parents. For more information about these services, contact Cindy Handford at chandford@epilepsymichigan.org or Rubontay Buckner/Family Center at cshcsfc@michigan.gov.

**Telemedicine**
With the regards to the telemedicine aspect of our project, we also wanted to share with you an update on where this is currently offered and our plans for expansion. As of January 1, 2017, the primary care sites offering telemedicine visits with a CS Mott pediatric neurologist include:
- Alcona Health Centers (Alpena, Cheboygan, and Emmett),
- Dickinson Pediatric Clinic in Iron Mountain, and
- Partners in Pediatrics in Saginaw.
In the coming months, we anticipate adding telemedicine at Beaumont Children’s and Children’s Hospital of Michigan, as well as re-activating telemedicine at DeVos Children’s. We are also expecting to add telemedicine at primary care clinics in Port Huron and Sturgis. For those who have CSHCS clients in these areas, you may consider making families aware of this service once they are up and running.

For more information about pediatric epilepsy resources, please visit our website at [www.michigan.gov/pediatric epilepsy](http://www.michigan.gov/pediatric epilepsy) or contact the project coordinator at franksm2@michigan.gov.

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