



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 happy to announce that the Family Center is able to offer Family Involvement Mini-Grants to local health departments. The mini-grants will increase interaction between the health departments and families, enabling families to provide input and 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

Local Health Departments can call the Family Phone Line at (800) 359-3722 for additional information.

Mary J. Marin

Monroe County Mini-Grant Update

Monroe County held a family forum on April 14, 2010. They arranged for a speaker from Monroe's Human Potential Center to speak on *Self Care for Caregivers: The Long Run*.

An invitation was mailed to all CSHCS families, over 450. Monroe's three-person staff and the supervisor were there to meet and greet the families. Canvas bags (with the CSHCS logo) stuffed with informational materials was given to families. Results from the evaluations that were returned by families indicated that the event was a big success. Staff realized that parents need each other for support. It was decided to put together an ongoing support group to be held at the health department on a regular basis.

Insurance Training The Family Center is facilitating two more trainings on insurance issues. Previous trainings have been greatly appreciated by families. Insurance Advocate Kathy Neville, recognized both statewide and nationally as an expert on insurance issues, will be the primary presenter. Amy Chapko, Insurance Specialist for Children's Special Health Care Services, will also be presenting. The Detroit area training will be held on October 13, 2010 at the *Wayne County RESA*. The Marquette area training will be held on October 7, 2010 at the Marquette County ISD. Time will be 9 am-4 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 would 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

Randy Krause is the Coordinator for the Family Support Network (FSN) of Michigan. She frequently gets calls from families who want information about support groups in their area. Randy would like to compile a list of groups in Michigan. If you know of a group that is meeting in your area, she would appreciate a call with date, times and meeting place. Contact Randy through the Family Phone Line at (800)359-3722 or email at Krause111@yahoo.com.



If you are in the area, be sure to visit Francis Motz County Park! It is a 42 acre park near St. Johns, MI. There is accessibility in ALL areas of the park. Some of the features are:

Zero depth swimming entrance

Wide sidewalks

Accessible picnic tables

Accessible 60 ft. fishing pier

Loan of all-terrain wheelchairs for gravel and water

Barrier free restrooms with medical tables

Also, the WK Kellogg Foundation, along with many supporters, have created playgrounds throughout the country where children, with and without disabilities, can develop essential skills for life as they learn together through play. Hillman, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Holland and Watersmeet are just a few of the cities with such playgrounds. For more information or to find one in your area visit, www.boundlessplaygrounds.org

Opportunities.....

The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition is sponsoring a weekend event for high school girls with disabilities (any visible and/or invisible) ages 14-19. The weekend will include building leadership skills, swimming and a fully accessible rock/tree climbing team building activity. Scholarships are available.

Location : Camp Cavell in Lexington, MI. Dates : Aug 14-16.

For more information please contact Theresa Squires, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, at 517-333-2477x326 or email at Tsquires@prosynergy.org.

In Remembrance of Polly Arango

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Polly Arango on June 26, 2010. We extend our sympathy to her family, friends and associates. Polly focused her life on securing a full education and access to health care for children with chronic health care conditions. She helped in organizing Family Voices and was the first Executive Director. She was always focused on the needs of our community and how best to meet those needs. She will live on in the hearts and memories of those she touched.

For more information on Polly's work with Family Voices, visit www.familyvoices.org.