

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: **September 2008**
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs
FROM: Mary J. Marin, Executive Director, Family Center (FC)
Nancy Deising, Parent Communications Consultant Specialist,
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division

SUBJECT:  **Heart-to-Heart Updates**



A Word from Mary...

The Family Center (FC) 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 FC serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is the FC's parent-to-parent support arm.

Mary J. Marin
Executive Director

Lisa Cook-Gordon
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Parent Communications Consultant

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Information & Resource Specialist

Leah Waters
Secretary

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.

An Anniversary to Remember! Formerly the Parent Participation Program, now the Family Center (FC) is 20 years old. We began in 1988 with the Family Phone Line and the Family Support Network. With the support we receive from CSHCS and the Children with Special Needs (CSN) Fund, we have been able to maintain the Family Phone Line, the Family Support Network, hold focus groups, expand various types of trainings and address timely issues such as transition, and to better address the barriers for families of children and youth with special health care needs.

Their support has also allowed us to publish the monthly Heart-to-Heart Updates, offer conference scholarships, hold the Relatively Speaking Conference for siblings of children with special needs and more. We hope you join us in thanking the CSN Fund and the Department of Community Health/CSHCS for their continued recognition and support of partnering with families.

Cheers for Rebecca! Rebecca Start, the Program Specialist for the Family Center (FC), began her duties on July 28 with CSHCS as the Region I Unit Manager. Rebecca worked with the FC for 10 years. She has vast knowledge of CSHCS and is an expert in family-centered care. She is an excellent addition and is well known to all staff as well as local CSHCS staff. We wish you well Rebecca! *Mary J. Marin*♥

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) & Family Center (FC) for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Updates

Young Adult Conference Scholarship: These are available to Michigan young adult(s) between the ages of 16-25. The application is for a stipend to help cover expenses to attend a conference related to their diagnosis, condition, or treatment, or a conference related to disability advocacy, and education. Conference scholarships are limited to one every two years.

Conference scholarships for young adult(s) are funded by the CSN Fund (*The donor-supported fund started in 1944 with a very generous bequest by Dr. James T. Pardee, a Dow Chemical Company founder, and his wife. The CSN Fund supports unique services and projects for children with special health care needs that are not provided by state or federal funds*). Call the **Family Phone Line** for more details **(800) 359-3722**. ♥

Parent to Parent Trainings: The Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center will be offering this upcoming year several "free" trainings for families of children and youth with special needs. Training topics may include:

- Becoming a Family Support Network Parent
- Health and Education: Planning and Advocating for a Child's Education and Health Needs
- Health Resource Support Parent Training
- Helping Families and Young Adults Protect Their Rights
- How to Access Mental Health Services for Your Child Using Public or Private Healthcare Coverage
- Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life?
- Project Resilience: Equipping Youth with the Skills, Knowledge, and Self Esteem They Need to Make Responsible Decisions
- Supporting the Supporter

To obtain a schedule listing dates, times, and locations you may visit www.bridges4kids.org or contact the **Family Phone Line** at (800) 359-3722. ♥

Medical Home Update

The Region 4 Genetics Collaborative: Medical Home Learning Workgroup has been busy developing "*Family is the Center of a Medical Home: A Guide for Families.*"

The Guide will give families who have children with heritable genetic conditions tools and resources to effectively connect with medical professionals, caregivers, and the community they live in through a medical home.

The **Region 4 Genetics 2008 Regional Meeting** will be held on September 16-17 at the James B. Henry Center in Lansing, Michigan. Parents who are involved from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin will be there to give input and feedback on the Guide. Nancy Deising, Parent Communication Consultant, will be in attendance.♥

Events

September 6, 2008 Family Recognition Day. The Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program at the MDCH is launching a Parent and Family Network initiative to increase parent and individual involvement with our program. A kick-off event is planned at the Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing. This event will be for children of all ages (and their families) that have been diagnosed with a disorder through the Newborn Screening program. Please contact the Newborn Screening Follow-up Program at (517) 335-8938 for additional information.♥

September 13, 2008 Duffey Adams Walk/Run for Autism: Join Ann Adams, her family, and friends for the 2nd annual event at Kensington Metro Park (East boat launch) in Milford. All proceeds benefit Judson Center's Autism Connections program. For more information, call Ann Adams at (248) 288-3711. Registration available soon! ♥

October 4, 2008 National Down Syndrome Society Buddy Walk: The Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan is having a walk and activities from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kensington Metropark (East boat launch). Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. For more information visit www.dsgemi.org.♥

Resources ...



CSHCS Course www.training.mihealth.org/coursedetail.htm#CSHCS



Heart-to-Heart Updates www.michigan.gov/cshcs



Family Center (800)359-3722 and www.bridges4kids.org/f2f . If you want electronic copies of the Updates ask *Dianna Rigato!* ♥



DOSE OF HUMOR

<http://laughlines.blogs.nytimes.com>

A Mom's Dictionary:

Word: **in-de-pen-dent**

Pronunciation: \,in-də-'pen-dənt\

How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.