

**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979**

DATE: August 2005  
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs  
FROM: Mary Marin, Executive Director, Parent Participation Program (PPP)  
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division  
SUBJECT: Heart-to-Heart Information Updates

We are pleased that families have begun to register for *Relatively Speaking*. Please note that parent stipends are available to help cover conference expenses, including lodging and mileage. Preference is given to families attending *Relatively* for the first time. For an application, phone PPP Administrative Assistant Jean Rennie at 1-800-359-3722. Families also may call Jeannie to request a brochure on *Relatively*, our every-other-year conference that focuses on issues of young siblings of children with special needs. It takes place Nov. 4 - 6 in Grand Rapids.♥

### ***CSHCS Update***

**The Children with Special Needs (CSN) Fund is out of funds for the remainder of this fiscal year.**

Through September, no requests are being accepted.

"While this is a difficult time for the CSN Fund, please understand that our goal still is to help as many families as possible," said Lisa Splawn, CSN Fund director. "When the new fiscal year begins October 1, 2005, the Fund again will be able to assist families."

Budget constraints may force the Fund's grant criteria to change. Therefore, applicants should check in the fall with the CSHCS office in their local health department for an up-to-date application packet. As always, families may reach their local CSHCS office toll-free via the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722.♥

**A new definition of family-centered care and an updated set of principles** were issued in July by the federal agency responsible for nationwide services to children with special needs. They are from the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Bureau's Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs, a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The new definition states:

"Family-Centered Care assures the health and well-being of children and their families through a respectful family-professional partnership. It honors the strengths, cultures, traditions and expertise that everyone brings to this relationship. Family-Centered Care is the standard of practice which results in high quality services."

The new definition was distributed with a letter to colleagues from Merle McPherson, MD, director of MCH's *Services for Children with Special Health Needs*. Her

letter explains that the definition is intended to "guide and assist you to infuse professional practice" and to "heighten family expectations..." For a copy of the letter, new definition and related principles, phone 1-800-359-3722 or send e-mail to [ppp@michigan.gov](mailto:ppp@michigan.gov).♥

<p>The issue of cultural competence, both from the federal and Michigan viewpoint, will be covered next month in Special Addition. That newsletter, partially funded by MCH, is published twice a year for nationwide families of children with special health care needs. PPP is compiling a Michigan edition to replace next month's Update.</p>
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### ***PPP Update***

Thanks to 180 respondents to last month's *Reader Poll*, we learned that most readers value the *Update*. As this issue went to press, we'd heard from parents from 41 counties, including some in the Upper Peninsula and every region of Lower

Michigan. Your input will help us redesign this memo.

A number of respondents asked for help such as finding doctors, getting information about specific diagnoses, special diets and medical procedures. For medical information related to a special health need, please dial 1-800-359-3722 to connect to your local CSHCS office.

Others asked for help with transitioning teenagers into adult health care, jobs and other aspects of the adult world. Help with such needs is available from PPP Transition Consultant Lisa Cook-Gordon, again at 1-800-359-3722.

Several respondents need help with mental health services, special education and other issues outside of CSHCS. Though those issues are out of our scope, we usually can help you find the right number to call. Just phone 1-800-359-3722 to talk with PPP Information and Resource Specialist Dianna Rigato. Also, she can help find an organization that may sponsor a conference related to a child's special need -- another respondent wish.

Some respondents suggest that we invite input from parents. Your comments and information contributions are always welcome at 1-800-359-3722. Also, you may send a message to our new e-mail box: [ppp@michigan.gov](mailto:ppp@michigan.gov). At either place, you also may request copies of our 44-page

*Family Guide to Michigan's Children's Special Health Care Services Program* and update your address.

Another option is to tell us to delete your address from our mailing list in favor of reading the *Update* online (at [www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs)). Producing fewer paper copies will help us reduce mailing costs -- another concern aired by a few respondents. ♥

## Events

An **Abilities Expo** takes place **Aug 26-28** in **Novi**. It showcases the latest independent and assisted living services and products -- including pediatric equipment -- to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Admission is free for children under age 12. Others may get free admission by going to [www.abilitiesexpo.com](http://www.abilitiesexpo.com), selecting the Metro Detroit event, clicking on *Ticket Information*, then downloading a free admission form. ♥

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the **Brain Injury Association of Michigan** takes place **Sept. 29-30** in **Lansing**. Scholarships are available to a limited number of families and persons with brain injury. For information, phone 1-800-772-4323 or click to [www.biami.org](http://www.biami.org). ♥

## Dose of Humor

Circulating on the Internet

You Know You're From Michigan If:

"Vacation" means going to Cedar Point.

The Parent Participation Program (PPP) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services Division (CSHCS) of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Children and Family Programs. CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with a qualifying diagnosis. PPP serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is PPP's parent-to-parent support arm.

**Mary J. Marin**  
Executive Director

**Lisa Cook-Gordon**  
Transition Consultant

**Linda Lyles Daniels**  
Parent Communications Consultant

**Randy Krause**  
FSN Coordinator

**Jean Rennie**  
Administrative Assistant

**Dianna Rigato**  
Information & Resource Specialist

**Rebecca Start**  
Program Specialist

**Nelinda Treviño**  
Phone Line Operator

**Leah Waters**  
Secretary

CSHCS Family Phone Line  
**1-800-359-3722**  
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday – Friday

CSHCS and this Update online  
**[www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs)**

Free online course on CSHCS  
**[www.training.mihealth.org](http://www.training.mihealth.org)**

Events and Resources are compiled by PPP from a variety of sources. A listing does not denote endorsement.

If you receive multiple copies of this memo by mail, please let us know. To add your name to our postal mailing list or to remove it, *families* may call our CSHCS Family Phone Line or send e-mail to [ppp@michigan.gov](mailto:ppp@michigan.gov). Others, phone (313) 456-4381 or send e-mail to [ppp@michigan.gov](mailto:ppp@michigan.gov).