

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: October 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

Media coverage of Hurricane Katrina led many of us to wonder about fellow families of children with special needs. *Family Voices* reports a federal count of more than 900,000 children with special needs living in the four affected states. In response, *Family Voices* asks for donations to its *Families Helping Families Relief Fund* at 1-888-835-5669 or www.familyvoices.org.

In Michigan, CSHCS offices in local health departments are able to expedite CSHCS enrollment for evacuees. A person *may* be found eligible without medical reports. Details were e-mailed by CSHCS to local health departments.

The tragedy also is a grim reminder of the importance of emergency plans. An *Emergency Information Form for Children with Special Needs*, in both a pdf and interactive version, is online at <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/emergprep.htm>. The *American Academy of Pediatrics* and the *American College of Emergency Physicians* jointly created it.♥

PPP Update

"We often hear that our children don't get many birthday party invitations," said Randy Krause, Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) coordinator. *"So, we're having one Big Birthday Party for children with special needs and others in Chippewa County."*

Randy is available to help FSN volunteers replicate the idea across the state. FSN is the parent-to-parent support arm of PPP.

"It's easy," she said. "You set a date, place and time, and everyone buys their child's own present (with dollar limits). We coordinated mailing to parents through the local health department and our ISD."

The **Big Birthday Party** in Sault Ste. Marie takes place **Nov. 12**. Advance registration is required. Families may reach Randy on the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. ♥

CSHCS Update

CSHCS members who have private insurance with a mandatory mail-order pharmacy benefit have new rules. Details of the new rules are in an August letter CSHCS sent to members.

In short, CSHCS will pay the co-pay for eligible mail-order drugs. Mail-order pharmacies must bill the CSHCS co-pay to 4D Pharmacy Management Systems, Inc.

To resolve a bill or other problem with a CSHCS mail-order co-pay, families may phone 4D toll-free at 1-888-274-2031. Help also is available from the CSHCS office in local health departments.♥

Youth with special needs have loads of concerns about moving into the adult health care system. Thirty-eight of them from across Michigan shared their views in CSHCS discussion groups in June, July and September. Among issues, they want more information about moving from their parents' to their own insurance, how to talk with doctors, and how health care coverage works.

Summary reports are available from Gina Tremonti,

CSHCS transition analyst, by e-mailing to tremontig@michigan.gov.

Youth and family members may still sign up for the **Oct. 8 transition discussion group** in **Midland**. For details, phone the CSHCS Family Phone Line. ♥

Events

An **October trip to an accessible cider mill in Macomb County** is among fall activities of Bridges, a support group for families of children with special needs. A monthly meeting is set for **Oct. 13** and a small group meeting for **Oct. 27**, both at 7 p.m. in Sterling Heights. For details, phone FSN Coordinator Barbara Waldorf at (586) 778-5454 or via the CSHCS Family Phone Line. ♥

The **Special Parents Initiative for Down Syndrome Education and Resources (SPIDER)** holds monthly meetings in Lapeer. The next ones are **Oct. 24** and **Nov. 28**. Meetings include a speaker and sign language instruction. SPIDER gives gift baskets to new parents, loans DVDs and answers parent-to-parent phone calls 24/7 at (810) 245-3797. Reach support parent Barb McDonald at lapeerbarb@yahoo.com or click to www.lapeerspider.org. ♥

Resources

Expectations: Parenting Children and Teens with Limb Differences is a guide of the *Amputee Coalition of America (ACA)*. For a copy in English or Spanish, phone ACA toll-free at 1-888-267-5669, ext. 8102. ♥

Michigan families with private insurance have a new web resource. The *Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS)* has a new page of basic information about health insurance and health coverage in Michigan. The intent is to help consumers make informed decisions when choosing health care coverage. To reach it, go to www.michigan.gov/ofis then click on the blue box titled *Health Insurance Information*. Consumers also can get help from OFIS staff toll-free at 1-877-999-6442. ♥

Her six-year-old's words inspired a *new book, I'm Not Afraid of Needles*. Author Kelly Tucker hopes the book helps children deal with chronic illness. Read details at www.kidstalkmag.com or phone (903) 436-0858. ♥

Excerpt of Reference Points (www.ncset.org), a project of the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition, funded by and a partner with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs:

Transitioning from Teenage to Adulthood With Diabetes: How Others Did It... And What It Can Mean For You is an article by a

college student. It's online at www.diabetesportal.com/teentalk/articles/adult.htm. ♥

Dose of Humor

from 7-year-old Gabrielle Rennie-Ford

Q. What's a snake's favorite subject?

Answer follows box below.

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.

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CSHCS and this Update online
www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Free online course on CSHCS
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. Others, phone (313) 456-4381 or send e-mail to ppp@michigan.gov.