

## **CSHCS INFO #7-2017 - Introducing the New Manager of the Policy and Program Development Section**

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Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, Karla McCandless, Manager of the Policy and Program Development Section is retiring on February 28, 2017, after 22 years with CSHCS. She will be missed. However, we were able to hire the next manager before Karla left for some introductory job shadowing effective January 30, 2017.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that Theresa Christner, M.A., B.S., will be the new Section Manager for the CSHCS Policy and Program Development Section. Theresa has over 27 years of public health experience, which includes experience as the administrator for CSHCS at the Branch-Hillsdale- St. Joseph Community Health Agency. She has worked on the development and implementation of several state and federally-funded, multi-year grant projects which sought to improve access to care and the health status of residents. Most recently, as the Health Education/Health Promotion Director at the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, she was involved with the establishment of the Branch County School-based Telehealth program and the school-linked clinics in Sturgis and Three Rivers.

Understanding the importance of assessment, assurance, and policy development as core functions of public health, she has served as a health planner and health demographer and served as the local health agency's accreditation lead. She has also served as the administrator for Medicaid Outreach/Health Insurance Navigation, Tobacco Reduction, School Health, and Hearing and Vision Screening programs.

Prior to working at the local health department, she served for 12 years at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in various capacities, having worked within Health Legislation and Policy Development, Vital Records and Health Statistics, and Contracts areas. These experiences have provided her with a good working knowledge of the state and local public health system within Michigan and their interconnectedness.

Theresa resides in Homer, Michigan, and enjoys spending time with her seven grandchildren. Please join me in welcoming Theresa to our team! You can reach Theresa at (517)-241-7511 or [christnert@michigan.gov](mailto:christnert@michigan.gov).

Lonnie D. Barnett, Director  
Children's Special Health Care Services Division  
Bureau of Medicaid Care Management and Quality Assurance  
Medical Services Administration  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Lewis Cass Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
320 S. Walnut Street  
Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: (517) 241-7186  
FAX: (517) 241-8970

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