

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

Newsletter – April 2022

CSHCS is a secondary insurance program designed to support children with eligible chronic health conditions and their families. CSHCS is also available for adults with cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and bleeding disorders. Call the office for more information at 269-373-5015.



Disability Network Southwest Michigan Education & Events

Below is a list of upcoming events sponsored by Disability Network Southwest Michigan. All events are free and open to the public.

Summer Job: Advocacy Academy 2022 - This is a paid 8-week summer job for youth & young adults with disabilities. For details, qualifications, and instructions to apply, visit:

https://www.dnswm.org/services_menu/advocacy-education/advocacy-academy/

Virtual Film Festival: Nothing About Us Without Us - All films presented feature a disability theme and reflect the values of the Independent Living Movement. For more information, visit:

<https://www.dnswm.org/virtual-film-festival-2022/>

Virtual Exercise Program: Spirit Club – Spirit Club is a one-hour (once a week) virtual exercise program that is specifically designed to present a range of options to suit everyone. For more information, visit: <https://www.dnswm.org/spirit-club/>

Online Book Club: Sitting Pretty (May) – Get the book and join online to discuss *Sitting Pretty*. This is a memoir-in-essays from disability advocate Rebekah Taussig who possesses a lifetime of memories to paint a beautiful, nuanced portrait of a body that looks and moves differently than most. For more information, visit:

<https://www.dnswm.org/online-book-club/>

Camp Scholarships

Parents/Caregivers of a child/youth with special health care needs are encouraged to apply for up to \$250 for a camp scholarship from the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center). Camp scholarships are not just limited to face to face, virtual camps are considered as well. Applications are being accepted through **May 31, 2022**. For questions or to request the application forms, please contact the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722.

2022 Summer Camps

When looking at camp for your children, there are many options. Below is just a sampling of the different camps in our area.

- **Pretty Lake** – free for children ages 8-13. summer@prettylakecamp.org
- **Sherman Lake YMCA** – Includes traditional camp, horse camp, robotics camp, and piano camp. www.shermanlakeymca.org
- **Kzoo Parks** – Summer day camps for kindergarten to 8th grade. There are free and affordable options, and financial assistance is available for city residents. <https://www.kzoozoo.org/Home>
- **Kirk Newman Art School** – <http://kiarts.org/educate-learn/>
- **The Civic Academy of Theatre Arts** – <https://www.kazoocivic.com/>
- **Sizzlin' Summer** – Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center has one and two-week camps for preK through high school. Call 269-337-0004 or visit <https://kamsc.org/>

For next month's Newsletter, please go to <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/mch/cshcs/newsletters.php> . If you have questions or concerns please call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or the Kalamazoo CSHCS Program Representative, Heather, at 269-373-5015.

COVID-19: Vaccination Information

COVID-19 vaccines are offered at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, 311 E. Alcott Street. There is no cost and no ID required.

The HCS COVID-19 vaccine clinic is open **Monday** through **Friday** from **9:00am to 3:00pm** for ages 5 years and up. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 269-373-5203. You may find additional COVID-19 updates and information at: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php>.

CSHCS has been granted funds to assist CSHCS enrollees and their families as well as children with special needs in obtaining vaccinations of both COVID-19 and childhood immunizations. Please call **269-373-5010** if you are having difficulty in obtaining vaccines for your child or your family.

Parent Connect Calls

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) is excited to offer a series of free virtual Parent Connect Calls each month. The next call is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 13, 2022**, at **11:00am**. LifeCourse Ambassador, Aleisha Leavitt, will be explaining the framework with parents that was developed to help individuals and families of all abilities, and at any age or stage of life develop a vision for a good life. In addition, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live.

The May call will be on **Wednesday, May 11, 2022**, at **4:00pm**. This session will cover the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for infant safe sleep. Common questions from parents will be addressed as well as ideas on how to manage cords and tubes for babies with special medical needs.

To register for either event, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/cshcs-division-and-the-family-center-for-cyshcn-10213159148>

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability

Need Home Repairs?

Community Homeworks offers no or low-cost support to income-eligible homeowners in the City of Kalamazoo to provide critical home repairs such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and other health and safety issues. Call 269-998-3275 ext. 209 to see if you are eligible. For more information, visit: <https://communityhomeworks.org/>



Wings of Mercy “Free Flights for Patients”

Wings of Mercy provides free air transportation to distant hospitals for families with financial need. Since 1991, Wings of Mercy have provided thousands of flights to hundreds of families with serious medical concerns. Wings of Mercy’s mission is to serve those who cannot afford to travel commercially. To be eligible for Wings of Mercy assistance, a patient must:

- Meet Wings of Mercy disposable income requirements
- Have a medical need for long distance travel (more than 2.5 hours one way by car)
- Be cleared by a doctor for travel in a small aircraft
- Currently reside in Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois

Please call Wings of Mercy home office at (616)396-1077 for more information or visit <https://wingsofmercy.org/>