

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – February 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 and bleeding disorders. Call the office for more information at 269-373-5015.



Father Engagement Conference

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, along with the 21st Century Dads Foundation/Special Fathers Network, is excited to be hosting a conference **Father Engagement in Families of Children with Special Needs: An insider's perspective for fathers, mothers, caregivers, and those who support families of children with special needs.**

There will be three sessions each featuring two Special Fathers Network (SFN) Mentor Fathers, a panel presentation followed by a breakout discussion. The session topics are Respite & Marriage, Grieving the Life Anticipated, and Siblings & Family Balance.

This conference will be held via Zoom on **Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 9:00am to 12:00pm.** The conference is open to parents, caregivers and professionals who live in Michigan. The cost of the conference is \$10.00 (includes a resource packet and a Great Dad Coin). For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/MIDADSCONF120421>

Mileage Reimbursement

CSHCS can help with your mileage reimbursement. The new rate for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) beginning January 1, 2022 is **\$0.585 a mile.** To request mileage reimbursement for an upcoming appointment, please contact the Kalamazoo CSHCS Admin. Assistant, Melissa, at 269-373-5104.

Virtual Parent Mentor Training

The Family Center for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) will be hosting a free Virtual Parent Mentor Training for Michigan parents/caregivers of children with special health care needs. Training will take place from **Tuesday, February 22, 2022 to Thursday, February 24, 2022** on Microsoft Teams. The trainings on Tuesday and Wednesday will be from **9:00am-11:30am**, and Thursday will be from **9:00am-12:00pm.**

If you are a parent, caregiver, or guardian of a child/youth with special health care needs and would like to make a difference in the lives of others, please take this opportunity to become a trained Parent Mentor.

This training is open to all families who have a child with a medical, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition. As a trained Parent Mentor, you will become a part of a statewide network of volunteer parents supporting one another, sharing resources, and helping to navigate various systems.

If you have any questions prior to the day of training, please call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or email adkinsd@michigan.gov

If interested, please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-parent-mentor-training-tickets-186178864997?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is vaccinating children ages 5-11 years old with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Parents/guardians wishing to protect their children from COVID-19 may schedule an appointment with the health department at www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine or by calling the Covid-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200 (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm). An appointment is required for the 5-11-year-old age group. 5-11-year-olds must be accompanied by an adult at the clinic.

If you are over the age of 12, no appointment is needed. Appointments are only being made for 5-11-year-olds at this time. The clinic is open **Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm**. If you have questions, you may call the Covid-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200. **Everyone 16 years or older is now eligible for a COVID-19 Booster**. For more information about boosters or third additional dose requirements, visit: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html

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.

Flu Vaccine

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season, especially people at high risk. This year, more than ever, it is important to get vaccinated to decrease the risk of serious disease from influenza and avoid the possibility of being infected by both influenza and COVID-19 at the same time. Kalamazoo Health & Community Services is offering influenza vaccines. Call 269-373-5203 to schedule your appointment.

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 now through **May 31, 2022**. For questions or to request the application forms, please contact the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722.

CSHCS Expands Coverage for Sickle Cell

Children's Special Health Care Services is pleased to announce an eligibility expansion for adults ages 21 and older with sickle cell disease effective 10/1/2021. CSHCS will cover services directly related to the sickle cell diagnosis. CSHCS also helps with copays and deductibles, transportation, care coordination, access to CMDS clinics, and case management.

For more information regarding CSHCS or the enrollment process, contact our office at 269-373-5015 or the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722.



February Awareness

American Heart Month –

<https://www.heart.org/>

Black History Month -

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

National Children's Dental Health Month -

<https://www.adha.org/ncdhm>

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.