

# Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – October 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.



## Circle of Care Guidebook

Being a caregiver for a child with a rare disease or other serious medical condition can be both enormously gratifying and extremely challenging. For most, the experience is life-altering, and for some, all-consuming. In particular, the long and winding diagnostic odyssey and daily complexity of navigating care, treatment and support services can be overwhelming.

Global Genes partnered with the National Alliance for Caregiving and other caregivers, organizations, and experts to call attention to the unique needs of those caring for a child with a rare and serious illness and developed the Circle of Care Guidebook as a resource.

The extensive array of topics covered in the guidebook (nearly 100) underscores the many aspects of life and care that are impacted when caring for a child with a rare disease.

Fortunately, there are a wide variety of resources and organizations available to help caregivers, many of which are highlighted in this document. The Circle of Care Guidebook is intended to help caregivers navigate through the varied experiences and challenges of rare and serious medical conditions, guided by the insights, achievements, and learnings of other caregivers and experts. You can access this resource at:

<https://www.caregiving.org/guidebook-for-caregivers-of-children-with-rare-serious-illnesses/>

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.

## 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 beginning October 3, 2022. Call 269-373-5203 to schedule your appointment or visit our website at: <https://www.kalcounty.com/>



## Virtual Parent Connect Call

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 monthly. The October call is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 12, 2022**, from **11:00am-12:00pm**. The topic for this call is **Parents Networking to Empower**. Have you ever wanted a chance to meet other parents who have children with special health care needs? A place to meet new friends, share ideas and resources and empower one another? Then you are not going to want to miss out on this Parent Connect Call. This will be an informative presentation/discussion for parents and caregivers. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-parents-networking-to-empower-tickets-400291260937>

## 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 **Thursday** from **8:00am to 4:00pm** (closed from **12:00-1:00pm**) and **Friday** from **8:00am to 12:00pm** for ages 5 years and up. Please call for an appointment: 269-373-5203.

Kalamazoo County HCS Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines (6 months to 4 years) are scheduled by appointment only. Kalamazoo County HCS currently offers Pfizer for this age group. Please call 269-373-5203 to set an appointment. For more information, please visit:

<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.



## Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center

Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center (KDCCC) provides free, part-time child care for parents who are income eligible for Medicaid or meet the income requirements established by the Federal Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. KDCCC cares for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years old and they are open **Monday** through **Friday** from **11:00am-3:00pm**. Once registered, children may attend up to 6 times per month and may reserve spots up to two weeks in advance. For more information, please call 269-382-3640 or visit <https://kdccc.org/>

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/>



## October Health Awareness

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month –**

<https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month/>

**Down Syndrome Awareness Month –**

<https://ndss.org/syndrome-awareness-month-means>

**Liver Cancer Awareness Month –**

<https://www.aacr.org/patients-caregivers/awareness-months/liver-cancer-awareness-month/>

**National Spina Bifida Awareness Month -**

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

**Rett Syndrome Awareness Month -**

<https://www.rettsyndrome.org/octoberawareness/>

**SIDS Awareness Month –**

<https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov/resources/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids-awareness-month>