

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



## Courageous Parents Network

Courageous Parents Network (CPN) is a non-profit organization and educational platform that orients, empowers, and accompanies families and providers caring for children with serious illness.

Courageous Parents Network programs and services are rooted in the experience of CPN's founder, Blyth Lord. From this, the Network has grown to include the insights and experiences of dozens and dozens of families and pediatric providers who stress the importance of creating an environment of mutual understanding and shared decision-making. They emphasize this importance through education, community, and advocacy.

- Education: Providing easily accessible, expertly vetted information and tools that address families' spoken, and unspoken questions and concerns.
- Community: Connecting families and providers sharing personal stories and questions about the illness journey, to minimize isolation and promote the benefit of shared experience.
- Advocacy: Increasing awareness of and demand for pediatric palliative care to enhance quality of life for the whole family.

To access the Courageous Parents Network website please visit:  
<https://courageousparentsnetwork.org/>

## 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 on **Saturday, September 24, 2022**, on Microsoft Teams. The training will be from **9:00am-3:30pm**.

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.

All participants will receive a \$50 gift card, Family Center Notebook, and a Medical Care Binder.

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](mailto:adkinsd@michigan.gov)

If interested, please register at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-saturday-parent-mentor-training-tickets-350626833297>

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 **8:00am to 4:00pm (closed from 12:00-1:00pm)** for ages 5 years and up. No appointment is needed. If you would prefer to make an appointment, please call 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.

## 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 September call is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 14, 2022**, from **4:00pm-5:00pm**. The topic for this call is CSN (Children with Special Needs) Fund. The CSN Fund provides support for children in Michigan with special health care needs not available through any other funding source. The fund helps with the purchase of equipment and services that promote optimal health, mobility, and development, enhancing the lives of children and their families.

To register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-csn-fund-tickets-372737978327>

## Staffing Changes at Kalamazoo CSHCS

As you may know, Phyllis Smith, RN, BSN and Dana Holtman, RN, have recently left our program to pursue other endeavors and they will be greatly missed. This leaves us with 2 open nursing positions. If you or anyone you know may be interested in applying, please visit: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hrd/openings.php> for more information and/or to submit an online application. Posting number 082-22.



## September Awareness

**Blood Cancer Awareness Month -**

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

**Childhood Cancer Awareness Month -**

<https://www.acco.org/childhood-cancer-awareness-month/>

**National Recovery Month –**

<https://www.samhsa.gov/recovery-month>

**Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month –**

<https://www.iabhp.com/national-wellness-observance-calendar/reyes-syndrome-awareness-month/>

**Sickle Cell Awareness Month –**

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/education/sickle-cell-month>

**Suicide Prevention Awareness Month –**

[https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Suicide-Prevention-Awareness-Month-\(SPAM\)](https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Suicide-Prevention-Awareness-Month-(SPAM))

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.