



HEALTH & COMMUNITY  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – September 2023

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 certain bleeding disorders. Call the office for more information at 269-373-5015.

### ATTENTION: Meridian Health Plan Members

As of **January 1, 2024**, Bronson will no longer be “in-network” with the following Meridian Health Plan insurance:

- Meridian Health Plan Medicaid
- Meridian Health Plan MI Health Link (dual eligible)
- Meridian Health Plan WellCare Advantage

If you currently receive coverage through one of the plans listed above, it is recommended that you choose a new plan that ensures you are covered by insurance for care received at all Bronson locations (including primary and specialty care providers, outpatient centers and all four member hospitals: Bronson Methodist Hospital, Bronson Battle Creek Hospital, Bronson Lakeview Hospital and Bronson South Haven Hospital).

Alternative plans to Meridian Health Plan Medicaid that Bronson will accept are McLaren Medicaid, Priority Health Medicaid, and UnitedHealthcare Medicaid. We suggest that you double-check with your Bronson pediatric specialists to confirm which Medicaid Health Plans they will be participating with after January 1, 2024.

For Children's Special Health Care families on one of these plans, you may call **Michigan Enrolls** at **877-274-2737** for assistance. This line is specifically for CSHCS clients.

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 office at 269-373-5015.

### 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. In acknowledgement of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness month, this training will be open to all Michigan parents/caregivers who have a child with sickle Cell Disease. The training will take place on **Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 9:00am-3:30pm** on Microsoft Teams.

Does your child have Sickle Cell Disease? Would you like to be a listening ear or share resources and experiences with parents looking for support with their child's Sickle Cell Disease diagnosis? Please take this opportunity to become a trained Parent Mentor!

You will learn from a fellow parent about Parent-to-parent support, communication skills, listening techniques, and community resources.

All participants will receive a \$50 gift card, Family Center notebook, and a medical care binder. Register soon, space is limited.

If you have any questions prior to the day of training, please call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. If interested, please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-parent-mentor-training-sickle-cell-disease-tickets-441117994797>

## Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Clinic News

**Flu Shot Clinic** – Kalamazoo HCS will be offering a special flu shot clinic, with a focus on children, taking place on **Tuesday, October 24th** from **3pm-7pm**. We are located at **311 E. Alcott Street** and no appointment is necessary.

**Sensory Room** – We now have a sensory room available in our clinic. Please request this room at the front desk when you arrive if your child would like to utilize this room for their immunizations.

**Vaccination Assistance** - 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.

### A Kid Again

A Kid Again fosters hope, happiness, and healing for families raising children with life-threatening conditions. They provide ongoing, cost-free, year-round adventures for children battling life-threatening conditions, and their families, to remember what it was to live carefree. Their goal is that every child in America battling a life-threatening condition can smile, make memories with their family and just be...A Kid Again.

A Kid Again serves Children under the age of 20 who are qualified by a medical physician as having a life-threatening condition. Whether it's cancer, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, spina bifida, or any other life-threatening condition, they are there to help create a year filled with moments that feel normal. For more information, or to enroll, please visit: <https://akidagain.org/about-us/locations/enrollnow/>

**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.**

## First Day Shoe Fund

First Day Shoe Fund provides new athletic shoes to students in Kalamazoo County public elementary schools at no cost throughout the school year. The First Day Shoe Fund believes that every child should start school on an equal footing and distributes a new pair of properly fitting athletic shoes to any student in need. The goal is to help these students succeed both in and out of the classroom. For more information, or to order shoes, please visit: <https://firstdayshoefund.org/>



### September Health Awareness

**Blood Cancer Awareness Month** - <https://www.lls.org/>

**Childhood Cancer Awareness Month** - <https://www.stjude.org/get-involved/other-ways/childhood-cancer-awareness-month.html>

**Newborn Screening Awareness Month** - <https://www.babysfirsttest.org/newborn-screening/newborn-screening-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))