



SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Welcome to the Spring edition of our CSHCS and FIMR newsletter!

In this newsletter we cover some exciting updates and opportunities for the next season as the weather starts to warm up. We have an announcement regarding our Parent Partner and an update for the Parent Support Group. Also, we will highlight a resource for families, another CSHCS eligible diagnosis, and get an update from our FIMR team member. Finally, we included some summer camp opportunities that are both accessible and inclusive to children with special needs

PARENT PARTNER

We are happy to announce that we have found a Parent Partner!

Brenda Bierens is a married mother of her 21-year-old son Carson. Her son has a genetic mutation called Duplication 15q syndrome that has resulted in autism, mild cognitive impairments, etc. She's been involved in the Autism and disability community for many years which has given her the opportunity to meet others who understand the challenges parents face and find support and friendship. She is excited to take on a new role as the Parent Partner and looks forward to meeting our families.

Brenda will be responsible for leading our Parent Support Group as well as monitoring and posting in our *Families with Special Needs Connect* Facebook page. Please join us in welcoming Brenda to the Kent County CSHCS team!



DID YOU KNOW?

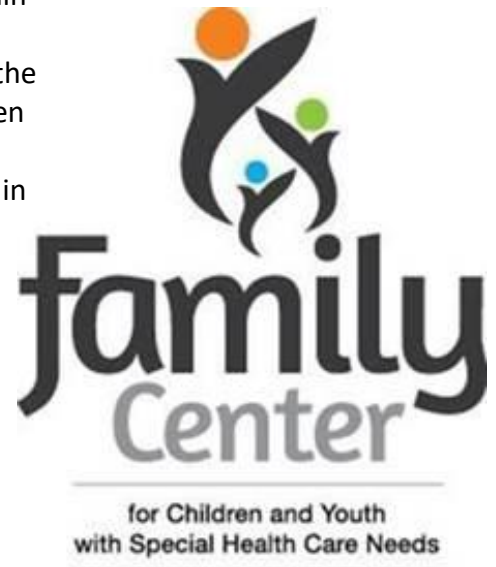
CSHCS now offers automatic payments through the Pay Place to pay your payment agreements! You can set up reoccurring payments with a bank account, credit card, or debit card with options to have the payments occur weekly or monthly on a specific date. For more information or to find out how to set up automatic payments call the Kent County CSHCS team at 616-632-7066.

THE FAMILY CENTER

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) is the statewide, parent-directed center within Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) and the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS). The mission of the Family Center is to support and connect Michigan families of children and youth with special health care needs, provide family-centered leadership throughout Michigan's health care settings, and partner in the decision-making process within the systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs.

Some of the services offered by the Family Center include:

- Referrals & resources
- Support for family & siblings
- Bereavement
- Parent trainings
- Scholarships for trainings & camps



To find out more about the Family Center or inquire about one of their services you can call 1-800-359-3722 or email cshcsfc@michigan.gov

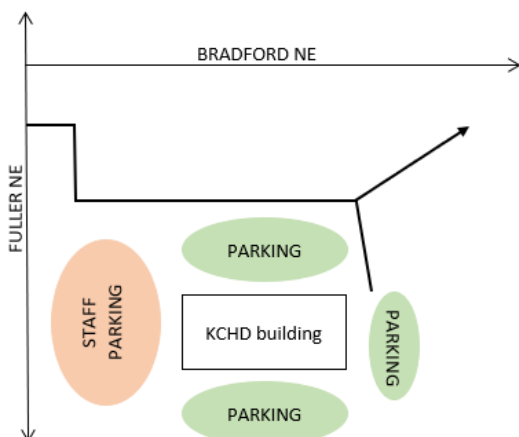
Parent Support Group Update

The CSHCS Parent Support Group will be resuming in person meetings on April 12th!

On the second Tuesday of every month, CSHCS hosts the Parent Support Group from 5:30-7 p.m. The support group takes place on the Garden level of the Kent County Health Department located at 700 Fuller Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

As always, food and childcare are provided by the CSHCS staff and volunteers. While the children socialize and play, parents will get an opportunity to have a focused educational time and an opportunity to discuss and support each other.

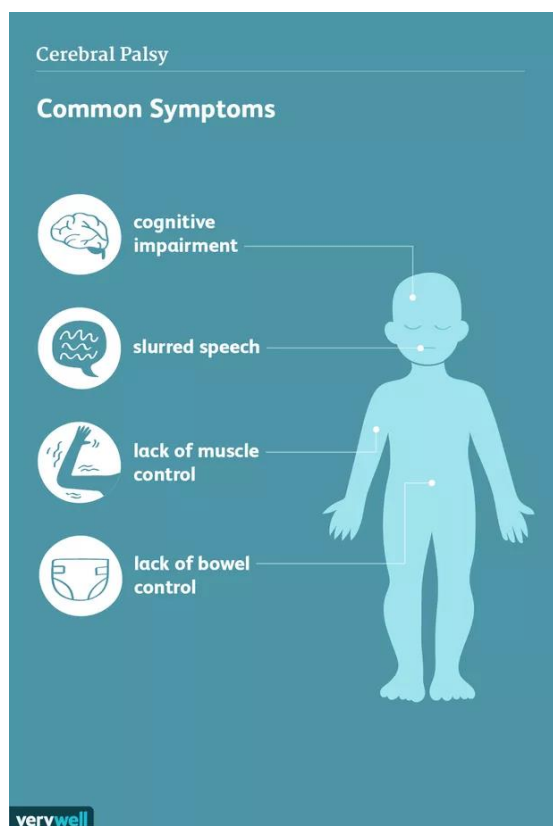
If you are interested in attending or have further questions, please contact the CSHCS team at CSHCS@kentcountymi.gov or 616-632-7066.



This is a parking map of the Kent County building with the green lots indicating parent parking. A CSHCS staff member will be at each door to greet you and provide directions to the meeting room.



DIAGNOSIS OF THE QUARTER



Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a physical disability caused by abnormal development or damage to the motor area of the brain's outer layer which controls muscle movement. CP can be congenital, meaning born with it, or it can be acquired, meaning it occurred after birth. Most individuals with CP have congenital CP although it may not be discovered until months or years after birth. Acquired CP can be caused by a brain infection, lack of blood flow to the brain, or a head injury. The severity of motor disability can range from minimal to profound impairment with both forms.

Getting an official diagnosis of CP may be delayed until age two or later, but signs may start appearing in the early months of a child's life. Usually, infants have developmental delays where they are slower to learn to roll over, sit, crawl, or walk. The severity of symptoms differs from person to person and may even change for an individual over time.

Along with motor impairment, other areas can also be impacted like sensation, perception, cognition, communication, and behavior.

Other issues that individuals with CP are more likely to have include seizure disorders, spinal deformities, impaired vision, hearing loss, and pain. This can lead to having multiple specialists being involved in their care.

While CP cannot be cured, there are a lot of treatment options that can improve or maintain an individual's capabilities. Every individual's treatment plan is different, so once they have their diagnosis, and the type of CP is determined, a team of specialists will work with the individual and their family to identify specific needs and develop an appropriate treatment plan. Some of the available treatments for individuals with CP include physical or occupational therapy, oral medications, surgery, and the use of assistive devices like wheelchairs, braces, communication devices, glasses, or hearing aids. (Cerebral Palsy Foundation, n.d.)

FIMR UPDATE

This spring, our FIMR Program has an exciting opportunity to produce a statistical summary detailing what infant death has looked like in our county for the past 5 years. We are partnering with Savannah Tallman, a master's in public health—epidemiology student at Grand Valley State University. The report will give our community a breakdown of the latest infant mortality rates, causes of death, and the health disparities that persist. Recommendations that were created throughout the past year of our reinstated FIMR program will also be shared. The goal of this project is to give our community partners, hospital systems, and other service systems a better idea of areas where care can be improved. Stay tuned for the release of the statistical summary later this year!





SUMMER Camp

As we head into spring, it is also time to start thinking about summer plans and activities with the school year coming to an end. Here are a few camps in the Grand Rapids area that are accessible and inclusive! Make sure you register for the camp you want your child to attend in time for summer!



indian trails camp

An adaptive, recreation camp with a safe, barrier free environment for all ages!
Summer Camp registration opened March 1st

Offers 3 camps this summer for varying diagnoses! Also have 'camp-at-home' virtual programs!
Registration opened end of February



North Star Reach
a seriousfun camp



Camps for varying ages with a focus on the ability of each camper to participate according to their abilities!
Registration is open

Multi-day, overnight camp for children with cognitive or developmental disabilities!
Registration opened in January



Offers day camps during summer break for children with eligible diagnoses!
Reach out to one of the CSHCS team members to see if your child's diagnosis qualifies

Provides both residential and day camps for children & adults with developmental disabilities!
Registration is open



CONTACT US

For questions about the information in this newsletter or if you have a problem or question relating to your child's CSHCS enrollment please contact us at:



616-632-7066



CSHCS@kentcountymi.gov



700 Fuller Ave NE

