



SPECIAL KIDS' CORNER

News & Updates From Ottawa County CSHCS

September 2023

From the Desk of Leslie Ver Duin, BSN RN

CSHCS Coordinator & Child-Health Team Supervisor

Dear CSHCS Families,

You may have heard of potential budget cuts to the public health budget which could affect programs and services in Ottawa County. At this time, budget discussions are ongoing, and a final budget has not been approved. However, if the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners moves ahead with the cuts as proposed, the health department will be forced to make significant reductions to programs and services. Your (or your child's) enrollment in the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program will continue despite these potential budget cuts, as the CSHCS program is provided through mandates at both the state and federal levels. As we know more, we'll be sure to communicate it to you.

We have some exciting news to share! On October 1, 2023, the CSHCS program will be expanding eligibility up to the age of 26 for all covered diagnoses. Learn more about this important and welcome expansion on page three.

We want to send our best wishes to our friend and colleague, CSHCS nurse Robin Twiest, who will be retiring on September 20th. Thereafter, **if Robin is your program nurse**, you may contact any CSHCS team member for assistance (see page two for our contact information). If you'd like to send Robin a farewell message, please email her before the 20th at: rtwiest@miottawa.org.

The CSHCS team is here when you need us—our contact information can be found on page two. In addition, **the Family Phone Line: 1-800-359-3722** is a great way to find information about the CSHCS program and to get help locating resources and support for your family.

In health and hope,

Leslie Ver Duin ❤️

Contact Information for Ottawa County CSHCS

Brenda Kempf, Program Representative

616-393-4445

bkempf@miottawa.org

Contact Brenda for:

- Enrollment & renewal
- Billing & insurance
- Adding providers
- Adding diagnoses
- Travel and lodging pre-approvals
- Changes in income
- Financial concerns
- Changes in insurance, name, address, phone, or email address

Contact your* CSHCS nurse for:

- Plans of Care & Case management
- Medical questions
- Questions about CSHCS coverage
- Adding a new diagnosis or specialist

***Nurse for CSHCS families in:**

Aimee Dekker BSN, RN

616-393-4440

adekker@miottawa.org

- Zeeland
- Macatawa
- Holland Zip codes 49422 & 49423

Samantha Leffman BSN, RN

616-393-4442

sleffman@miottawa.org

- Allendale
- Byron Center
- Grandville
- Hudsonville
- Jenison
- West Olive
- Wyoming
- GR ZIP codes in Ottawa County—49534 and others

Robin Twiest BSN, RN

616-393-4416

rtwiest@miottawa.org

Note: After Robin's retirement on September 20, 2023, please contact Any other team member for assistance

- Casnovia
- Conklin
- Coopersville
- Fruitport
- Grand Haven
- Holland ZIP code 49424
- Marne
- Nunica
- Ravenna

Irene Atwood, Program Clerk

616-393-4439

iatwood@miottawa.org

Contact Irene for:

- Annual CSHCS Information Update via secure email
- Changes in name, insurance, phone, home or email address

Amy Fontaine, Parent Consultant

616-402-2275

afontaine@miottawa.org

Contact Amy for:

- Empowered Parents webinars
- Special Families' Corner FB group
- Special Kids' Corner Newsletters and help finding resources and support

Leslie Ver Duin BSN, RN

CSHCS Coordinator

616-393-4444

lverduin@miottawa.org

Contact Leslie for:

- Extra assistance for complex needs
- Questions other team members have been unable to answer

Sandra Lake BSN, RN, MPH OCDPH Community Health Manager

616-393-5753 slake@miottawa.org

CSHCS Program Fax: 616-393-4435

Links for CSHCS Websites: [Ottawa County](#) [State of MI](#) [Payments](#)

News & Updates

AMAZING NEWS!

CSHCS Program Eligibility Expands to Age 26



Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program eligibility has been expanded to individuals **up to age 26!**

The expansion becomes effective October 1, 2023. It may take up to six months for computer system updates to be completed. Enrollment will be backdated to October 1st whenever possible for those who were eligible as of that date.

The age expansion applies to all 2,700 plus CSHCS covered conditions, however clients with Hemophilia, Sickle Cell Disease, or Cystic Fibrosis are currently eligible regardless of age.

To stay enrolled in the CSHCS program if you are approaching the (former eligibility) age of 21*:

1. Fill out and return the required renewal documents.
2. Ensure a **current medical report from your subspecialist** is on file. If you aren't sure, contact your CSHCS team to find out.

***Note:** If you have passed your date for financial review just before turning 21, or if your medical report is not current, you will not automatically be re-enrolled in CSHCS.

To re-enroll in the CSHCS program if you had previously aged out of eligibility and are currently under the age of 26:

1. Ask your subspecialist's office to send a **current medical report** to CSHCS in Lansing on your behalf. You'll need to provide them with a **[CSHCS Release of Information form found here](#)**.
2. Once you're found eligible, you'll receive an invitation to join the CSHCS program. Fill out and return your enrollment application—including the financial form—to CSHCS in Lansing.

Other eligibility requirements still apply, such as citizenship and residency, as well as those related to CSHCS covered condition(s), such as meeting severity and chronicity guidelines and the need to visit a medical subspecialist at least yearly. Program benefits and financial obligations also remain the same.

Letters were sent by MDHHS/CSHCS on September 1st notifying families of the eligibility expansion. Additional letters will be sent, notifying families of what will be required to enroll/extend coverage based on current eligibility status.

See this Frequently Asked Questions Guide to CSHCS Age 26 expansion for more information : [A26 FAQ.pdf \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

If you have additional questions regarding the CSHCS eligibility expansion to age 26, contact your local CSHCS office (see page two for Ottawa County CSHCS contact information).

You may also contact The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs by calling the CSHCS Family Phone Line: **1-800-359-3722**, or by emailing: cshcsfc@michigan.gov.

News & Updates

Avoid Identity Theft! Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) will never ask you for your bank account information, checking account or routing numbers.

If you’re ever asked for banking information by someone saying they represent CSHCS, do **not** share your information and notify CSHCS or your local health department right away.



The **Safe Homes Campaign** from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health provides free locking bags for the safe storage of medication, cannabis, and other substances that need to be kept away from children.

Find a list of pick up locations, community resources, safe medication disposal locations, and tips for a safe home [here](#).



MDHHS Behavioral Health 1915(c) HCBS Waivers Renewal Feedback Sessions

MDHHS is hosting several listening sessions to receive your input on how Michigan’s Behavioral Health 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers—which are up for renewal—should be improved.

These waivers are the Habilitation Supports Waiver (HSW), the Children’s Waiver (CWP), and the Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver (SEDW). Learn more about them [here](#).

Register for an upcoming listening session [here](#).



Check Medicaid Renewals off Your To-Do List

- Update your address, phone number, and email address, and report any changes to your household or income.
- Check your mail for a renewal form. **Return your paperwork**, even if you think you’re no longer eligible, the children in your household might still be.

NOTE: If you no longer qualify for Medicaid, you’ll receive information about other affordable health coverage options, including [HealthCare.gov](#), where eligible applicants can purchase plans for as low as \$10 per month. Read more in this MDHHS [press release](#).

For more information, visit: [MI Bridges \(michigan.gov\)](#).

Grants & Scholarships

Family Center Conference Scholarships

Diagnosis-related conferences can help families learn more about a condition, care, and treatments, discover the latest research and resources, become empowered to advocate/self-advocate, and gain a network of support from fellow youth, parents, and professionals.



Who is eligible? A parent of a child up to age 26 with a physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional diagnosis, and a young adult ages 14 to 26. Recipients must reside in Michigan at the time of application and conference attendance. Individual eligibility is limited to every two years. There is a limit of three scholarships awarded for a particular conference.

What is covered? Registration for attending a diagnosis-specific conference in the U.S. for a parent/youth (age 14 up to 26). Travel expenses, lodging, meals, child-care, and special accommodations that are necessary to attend the conference may also be covered depending on the conference location and individual circumstances.

Find details and an application [here](#). If you have more questions, call the **Family Phone Line: 1-800-359-3722**.

CSN Fund Grants

The Children with Special Needs (CSN) Fund provides financial assistance to families for the purchase equipment or services for their child when no other funding source is available.



The child must be under the age of 21 and be enrolled in CSHCS **OR** be eligible to enroll in the CSHCS program.

Types of equipment that may be covered by a CSN Fund grant are listed at the link below, including information on limited ceiling and stair lift grants that are sometimes available depending on funding.

For help with a grant application, contact your local CSHCS office, or the Family Phone Line: 1-800-359-3722.

Learn more about the CSN Fund and find an application [here](#).



INSPIRING MINDS AND ENCOURAGING HEARTS—ONE CHILD AT A TIME

***Lori's Voice** provides financial assistance for families who are unable to afford adaptive equipment, travel, therapy, and items that are not fully covered by insurance or other organizations.*

To be eligible for financial assistance for Lori's Voice, a child must be under the age of 21 with mobility issues due to a neuro-muscular or degenerative disease with a **financial need**.

Lori's Voice Accessible Van Giveaway—Summer/Fall 2023

You could win a **brand new accessible van** from Lori's Voice if your child is under the age of 21, lives in Michigan, and has a neurological, muscular or degenerative disorder.

Sign up by November 10, 2023—extended deadline!

Here's the link: [Lorisvoice.org/vangiveaway](https://lorisvoice.org/vangiveaway)



Family Matters

Family Assistance Program Grant for Pediatric Feeding Disorder (PFD)

Feeding Matters will award **four families \$2,500** to combat the financial strain of Pediatric Feeding Disorder (PFD). Families with a child under age 18 with a diagnosed PDF or documented feeding difficulties may apply.

The deadline to apply is Friday, September 29, 2023 at 11:59pm.

See the [Family Matters website](#) for complete details and an application.



Special Families' Corner Facebook Group

Our CSHCS Facebook group for parents & caregivers of children or young adults with disabilities or special needs. We also welcome adults with chronic health conditions or disabilities themselves.

- Discover events, grants & community resources
- Learn about news & issues affecting families
- Find support from fellow parents & caregivers
- Become a part of our growing community!

Just search Facebook for *Special Families' Corner* & request to join. Answer the membership questions too. Only group members can view posts in this closed group. CSHCS enrollment is not required to join.

Special Families' Corner is made possible by a grant from The Family Center



The Family Center for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (The Family Center)

The parent-directed section of CSHCS

Serving all children and youth who have—or are at an increased risk for—physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions, regardless of CSHCS enrollment

The Family Center can help with:

- CSHCS Enrollment & Program Assistance
- Camp & Conference Scholarships (see p.11)
- Individual Support from a Trained Parent Mentor
- Resources for Your Family & Your Child's Diagnosis
- Transition Support for Youth & Families

Family Phone Line:

1-800-359-3722 or
cshcsfc@michigan.gov



The Family Center's September Parent Connect Call

“Nurturing Yourself & Cultivating Community”

Wednesday September 13th from 4:00 to 5:00pm
on Microsoft Teams

In the fast pace of everyday life, are you making yourself a priority? Are you nurturing yourself to live a more fulfilling and meaningful life?

Join this Parent Connect Call as Kristen Reese from the Family to Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC) presents insight on connecting with and nurturing yourself and cultivating a community of support.

Register [here](#) on Eventbrite



Family Center Parent Mentor Training

For parents with a child who has Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

Saturday September 30, 2023 — 9:00am to 3:30pm (on Microsoft Teams)

Held in honor of SCD awareness month, attendees of this special parent mentor training may choose to become a part of the [Parent-to-Parent Support Network](#), a state-wide group of trained, volunteer parents who support other parents, share resources, and help navigate various systems.

Register for this special parent mentor training [here](#).

For future parent mentor trainings and other events, follow the Family Center on [Eventbrite](#) or call the Family Phone Line at: **1-800-359-3722**.

Hearing & Vision Services from the OCDPH

Hearing & Vision Concerns:



An undiagnosed hearing or vision problem may impact your child's development and ability to learn.

Our Ottawa County Department of Public Health's (OCDPH) hearing & vision technicians have many techniques and specialized instruments to provide hearing and vision screenings for your child. Even infants can be screened!

Your child may be having hearing problems if he/she:

- has a history of ear infections or drainage
- wants music, video games or TV loud
- misunderstands or often asks to have things repeated

Your child may be having vision problems if he/she:

- squints or tilts the head to see
- has an eye that crosses or wanders when the child is ill or tired
- holds objects close to the eyes

If your child is experiencing any of the above symptoms or you have any concerns, call 616-396-5266 to schedule a FREE screening today. The earlier a problem is identified, the sooner it may be corrected and permanent damage may be prevented.

Kindergarten Entrance Screening Clinics:

Children who will be entering Kindergarten are required by Michigan Public Health Code to have had both hearing and vision screenings at least once between the ages of 3 and 5. Schedule your child's FREE hearing and vision screening appointment at the OCDPH clinic location of your choice (Grand Haven, Holland, or Hudsonville) by calling: **616-396-5266**.

School Hearing & Vision Screenings:

Did you know that the OCDPH Hearing and Vision Team provides hearing and vision screenings at your child's school?

- Hearing is screened during Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade.
- Vision is screened in 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th grades.

[Notice for parents with children who have a Programmable Shunt or Implanted Medical Device that could be affected by strong magnets](#) (under School Screenings)

If a child is home schooled, Hearing and Vision screenings are FREE and available by appointment. **Call us at: 616-396-5266.**



Call to schedule a FREE OCDPH Hearing & Vision screening appointment: 616-396-5266

www.miottawa.org/hearingvision

FREE year-round hearing & vision screenings are available to anyone under the age of 18 at the OCDPH clinics in Grand Haven, Holland, and Hudsonville.



Ottawa County Department of Public Health's Hearing & Vision Team:
(back row) Sandra Lake, Cecilia M. Garcia, Esther Arizola, Michelle Postma
(front row) Loreen Waite, Candice Höegen, Leslie Ver Duin, Katie Staroba



Ottawa Area ISD Special Education Directors

"Parents are a very important part of our education system, feel free to reach out to your Special Education Director with any questions that you have."

~ Katie Flynn OAISD Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

OAISD Special Education Programs: Jen Wolters jefield@oaisd.org
616 738-8940 ext. 4615 Secretary: Sara Torrez ext. 4022

Early Childhood Services: Tami Mannes tmannes@oaisd.org
877 702-8602 ext. 4133 Secretary: Brenda Davidson ext. 4106

Early On: Megan Decker mdecker@oaisd.org
616 738-8940 ext. 4751 Secretary: Candi Zambelli ext. 4650

Young Adult Services: John Koerner jkoerner@oaisd.org
877 702-8602 ext. 4910
Secretaries: Samantha Blanton ext. 4909 & Sarah Moss ext. 4085

Allendale: Ryan Harp harprob@apsfalcons.net
616 892-3460 ext. 6144 Secretary: Heather Kennedy 616 892-3460

Black River: SueEllen Martinez martinezs@brpsk12.org
616 355-0055

Coopersville: Nicole Price nprice@capsk12.org
616 997-3503 Secretary: Karen Hecksel 616 997-3509

Grand Haven: Cassady Krumm krummc@ghaps.org
616 850-5143 Secretary: Kelly Ohlendorf 616 850-5142

Hamilton: Sara McIntyre smcintyre@hamiltonschools.us
269 751-5148 ext. 1007 Secretary: Erin Raak 269 751-5148

Holland: Laura McCloud lmccloud@hollandpublicschools.org
616 494-2100 Secretary: Melissa Bosch 616 494-2100

Holland Christian: Katie Clausing kclausing@hollandchristian.com
616 820-3518

Hudsonville: Mandy Thomas mthomas1@hpseagles.net
616 379-2010 Secretary: Donita Nurenberg 616 379-2015

ICademy/Innocademy: Jennifer Weis jennifer.weis@iesschools.org

Jenison: Julie Roby jroby@jpsonline.org
616 667-3235 Secretary: Brenda Campbell 616 667-3240

National Heritage: Kara Green kgreen2@nhaschools.com
616 777-3640

Ottawa Area Center: Joanne Thorsen jthorsen@oaisd.org
877 702-8602 ext. 4605 Secretary: Michell Jaarsma ext. 4608

Saugatuck: Katie Gibbie kgibbie@saugatuckps.com
269 857-2133

Spring Lake: Amy Kendall akendall@springlakeschools.org
616 846-9240 Secretary: Lisa Lowe 616 846-9240

Sheldon Pines School: Brandie Navarro bnavarro@oaisd.org
616 738-8940 ext. 4801

Walden Green: Charles Freeman charlesfreemant@waldrengreen.org
616 842-4523

West Michigan Academy: Joey Bennick jbennink@westmichiganacademy.org
616 844-9961 Secretary: Candice Tease 616 844-9961

West Ottawa: Becky Oudbier oudbierr@westottawa.net
616 786-2085 Secretary: Nickey Pugh 616 786-2058

Zeeland: Autumn Dawdy adawdy@zps.org
616 748-3022 Secretary: Annmarie Revette 616 748-3048



OCSN

Ottawa Community Schools Network

The community schools strategy—where community partners, school staff, families, and students work together collaboratively to meet the needs of students—is employed by many Ottawa County schools to coordinate in-school and out-of-school resources, supports, and opportunities in order to support student wellness, engagement and success.

Essential components of a community school are:

- Powerful student and family engagement
- Collaborative leadership and shared power and voice
- Expanded and enriched learning opportunities
- Rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction
- Culture of belonging, safety, and care
- Integrated systems of support

The primary goal of Ottawa Community Schools Network is to ensure that all students are physically, emotionally, and socially well, with strong family supports to help ensure each student develops to their own potential.

A Community School Coordinator's key responsibilities:

- Increase parent engagement
- Increase resources & support for students, families, and staff
- Develop and maintain partnerships with local community partners and service providers
- Connect students to needed services both in-school and out-of-school
- Lead comprehensive needs assessments and school priority setting
- Lead efforts to coordinate and integrate systems and services in order to create conditions in which all students have opportunities and access to grow and learn
- And more!

The role of Community School Coordinators, as a part a Community School team, is to help provide resources and assistance for our families & students in the areas of:

- Mental Health (information and referrals)
- Basic Needs (food, clothing, housing, etc.)
- Dental, Vision, and Medical Services
- Pregnancy
- Attendance Barriers
- Employment
- Parenting Needs
- And MORE! Just ask!

The following schools districts utilize the community schools strategy to meet student needs:

Allendale Public Schools, Coopersville Area Public Schools, Hamilton Community Schools, Holland Public Schools, Hudsonville Public Schools, Jenison Public Schools, Ottawa Area ISD Programs, and Zeeland Public Schools.

Reach out to your school and connect with their Community School Coordinator to receive support if:

- your student is in need of supportive in-school or out-of-school services
- you aren't sure how to access resources to support your student
- you have barriers to accessing support that you could use help with

For more information about the **Ottawa Community Schools Network**, contact OCSN Director, Angela Dershem: adershem@oaisd.org.



CSHCS Family Fun Day at Fellinlove Farm

What fun! The whole CSHCS team offers a huge, heartfelt thank you to the Kaletka family—Cheryl, David, Ashleigh, and Alyssa—who welcomed our families to their beautiful **Fellinlove Farm** with open arms and created a magical time for all! The amazing pics below show just a small glimpse of the fun.

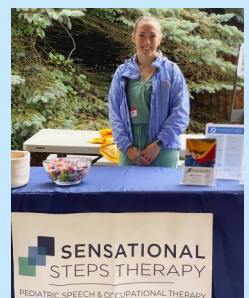
Be sure to plan a fall outing to this accessible, peaceful, magical farm! See Fellinlove Farm's [fall event schedule here](#) (and on page 11 [here](#) too). Learn more about their mission to enrich the lives of individuals with special needs and anyone who visits the farm on the [Fellinlove Farm website](#).

Thank you also to the Rocky's Rocks team! Everyone had a so much fun painting beautiful rocks with you! Profits from all [Rocky's Rocks' events](#) help them gift adaptive bikes to special needs programs at local schools.

And thank you to Stephanie Smith from [Shoreline-Music](#); water color drum painting was a blast! Removing the tape from the canvass, revealed Fellinlove Farm spelled out amidst all the splashes of color! Stephanie offers private and small group music classes at her home studio and is experienced with students who have special needs.

Finally, thank you so much to these organizations for braving the raindrops to provide information to families, and fun and games for the kids:

[Arc of Ottawa County](#), [Benjamin's Hope](#), [Hard of Hearing Services](#), [IKUS Life Enrichment Services](#), [Kenzie's Be Café](#), [Maggie's Be Café](#), [MOKA](#), [Ottawa Co. Collaboration to Strengthen Youth & Families](#), [One Day Niche](#), & [Sensational Steps Therapy](#).



EVENTS



Fall 2023 Events at Fellinlove Farm

6364 144th Ave. Holland, MI 49423
616-283-7555

[Fellinlove Farm video tour](#)



[Fellinlovefarm.com](#)
[Fellinlovefarm.com/](#)

Sept. 16th 2:00—5:00pm

Brats & Bags at the Barn

Round robin Tournament
Cornhole \$50/Team, Includes Dinner

Don't want to throw cornhole? That's okay!
Come out for great food, farm tours,
boat in the pond, walk the nature trail!
Fun for ALL ages & abilities
\$15 per person or \$25 per family

100% of ALL proceeds will support
The important services of Fellinlove Farm,
A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

To Register for the Tournament
Or for more information, **text:**
616-283-7555 or **email:** cmnyhuis@gmail.com

BONFIRE AND FRIENDS

Sept. 16th
5—8:00pm

AT FELLINLOVE FARM
FOR ADULTS WITH
DIVERSE ABILITIES



Activities: Pizza, dancing, sunset trail walk,
basketball/games, pedal boat/kayaks/canoe,
animal visits & s'mores by the bonfire. Dress
casual or wear country attire.

Register by Sept. 14th by texting your name
and number of people to: 616-283-7555

Sat. October 7
2—5pm

**Unicorns
& Pumpkins**

Sat. October 14
2—5pm

**Tails & Treats
& Not So
Spooky Trail**

Sat. October 21
& October 28
2—5pm

**Not So
Spooky Trail**

November 4
2—5pm

**Fall Fun
at Fellinlove
Farm**

To register for an event: Text date, name, and number attending to: **616-283-7555**

Michigan Alliance for Families 5 Week IEP Course

For parents of a child/youth with an IEP

Five Thursday evenings from September 28th — October 26th

Online from 7:00 to 8:30pm.



Ottawa County Fall 2023 Sibshops

Saturdays 9—11am Oct. 7th Nov. 4th Dec. 2nd

Engage Therapy Center 10263 Chicago Dr. Zeeland, MI 49464



Brothers and sisters, ages 6 to 13, who have siblings with special needs, disabilities and chronic illness have a group that's just for them, Sibshops!

These peer support groups offer a safe and engaging space for siblings to learn, have fun, meet and be supported by other children who understand what it's like to have a sibling with special needs. \$10 fee per session, scholarships available.

Register with Andréa Vugteveen: amvugteveen@gmail.com or 616-460-3781.

Ottawa Area Center (OAC) Open House Fall 2023

Thursday September 14th from 5:00—7:00pm

10160 96th Ave. Allendale, MI 49401

5:00 — 6:00 Wagon Rides, open building & department visits
6:00 — 6:30 Classroom presentations
6:30 — 7:00 Open building resumes following presentations

17 community organizations will share information about their organizations.

All are welcome, even if your child is not attending OAC this year.



Mezkla Taco
food truck tacos
& burritos for
purchase

Renew Mobility Pediatric Equipment Pop Up

Thursday September 21st — 9am to Noon

Hillside Learning Behavioral Center
212 Grove St. Allegan, MI 49010



To volunteer, or to
make a monetary or
equipment donation,
call: 616-493-2620
renewmobility.org

Come to receive FREE mobility equipment for your children.

Renew Mobility offers: Crutches, Bath Aides, Reverse Walkers, Power Wheelchairs, Manual Wheelchairs, Hoyer Lifts, Pediatric Stenders, Car Seats, and Pediatric Strollers

EVENTS (continued)



Fall Festival FREE Event
Sat. Sept. 23rd 1:00—3:00pm
5080 146th Ave. Holland 49423

Renew Therapeutic Riding Center's Fall Festival is an annual family event that takes place on the farm. Carriage rides, farm tours, face painting, pumpkin decorating, and barrel train rides comprise the traditional fall fun activities that take place each year.

There will also be Renew apparel available for purchase, yummy snacks, miniature horses, and you can feed the fish in the pond. This event is completely **free** to attend, though donations are welcomed.

Parents Night at Maggie's Be Café with Disability Network Lakeshore

Tues. Sept. 26th — 6:00pm to 7:30pm
6490 28th Ave. Hudsonville, MI

Come learn about Disability Network Lakeshore's (DNL) free services, such as advocacy, information and referral, peer support, and skill development. They also help with SSI/SSDI benefit and transition services. Learn how DNL can support your young adult with a disability. Light refreshments served.

Limited seating. FREE tickets [here](#).



Lunch & Learn at Kenzie's Be Café With Disability Network Lakeshore

Thurs. Oct. 17th — 11:30am to 1:00pm
1103 Washington Ave. Grand Haven, MI

Join Disability Network Lakeshore for a discussion on **What is a Reasonable Accommodation for employment?** What businesses need to do to make accommodations for employees who need them, and how an employee should ask for the accommodations they need. **Free event.** Lunches for purchase at Kenzie's.

Seating limited to 25. RSVP [here](#).



Deaf Awareness Celebration

Thursday September 28, 2023 — 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Special Olympics of Michigan building
160 68th St SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services invites you to join them to a celebration to recognize Deaf community, culture, and the importance of accessibility. There will be resource tables, games, and food. Come to socialize and celebrate with the deaf and hard of hearing community.

ASL interpreters will be provided for announcements. If you need additional accommodations, such as DeafBlind interpreters, specific seating arrangements, or other accessibility needs, please email Erica Chapin: community@deafhhs.org

Recommended donation is \$5 per attendee. Donate at the door, or when getting your FREE tickets on Eventbrite:

[Deaf Awareness Celebration Tickets, Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



BENJAMIN'S HOPE Harvest Festival

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 3 - 6PM

live music • hayrides • train show •
games • food • first responder
vehicles • alpacas & bunnies •
free all-abilities fun!

15468 RILEY STREET, HOLLAND, MI 49424

Join this FREE, fun, all-abilities gathering to celebrate the community of Benjamin's Hope on **Saturday, September 30th from 6 to 8pm**. There will be a Holland Model Train show with a full HO Train layout, hayrides, live music, games, first responder vehicles, food, and hands-on outdoor activities. Everyone is welcome! Benjamin's Hope: **15468 Riley St. Holland, MI 49424**

EVENTS (continued)



Navigating Healthcare Training for Parents of Children with Epilepsy

Saturday, September 30th, 2023
9:00 am - 3:30 pm on Zoom

This interactive medical advocacy training was created to provide parents with information, tools, and resources to better navigate the healthcare system for their child with epilepsy (seizure disorder).

Topics include:

- Navigating a new diagnosis
- Where to find reliable information and resources
- How to prepare for a successful healthcare visit
- Improving communication and building partnerships with healthcare providers
- Becoming a good advocate
- Helping your child be active in their own care
- Self-care and peer support

Free to attend, registration required. To register, please call Kristen Reese at (517) 324-7396.

Brought to you by the Pediatric Epilepsy Project* in partnership with Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center** and the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

AN INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

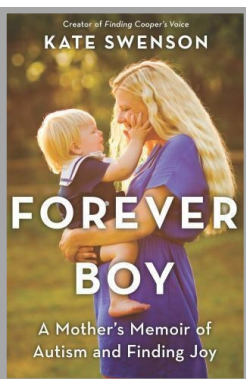
Training will be held via Zoom

Criteria to attend:

- Must be a Michigan parent (bio, adoptive, foster, step, kinship, etc.) of a child birth to 18 with a epilepsy diagnosis (or seizure disorder)
- Must attend both days
- A computer or tablet with internet connection (with camera preferred, but not required)
- If both days are completed, receive a \$100 VISA gift card

For questions and to register contact Kristen Reese at (517) 324-7396 or kreese@mphi.org

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**MI Family to Family Health Information Center is funded under HRSA Grant # H84MC26214



The Shoreline Center presents

Kate Swenson

Author of *Forever Boy*

Thursday November 2, 2023 at 7pm

The Trillium Event Center

17246 Van Wagoner Rd. Spring Lake, MI 49456

Purchase tickets at the Shoreline Center

Kate Swenson, author of *Forever Boy*, will share her story, followed by a book signing and meet and greet. Learn about Kate and her family on her [Finding Cooper's Voice Facebook page](#).

Disclaimer: Special Kids' Corner Newsletters contain information and resources (with internet links) that may be useful to families with special needs. The content is for your consideration only and not endorsed by Children's Special Health Care Services of Ottawa County.