



SPECIAL KIDS' CORNER

News & Updates From Ottawa County CSHCS

February 2022

From the Desk of Leslie Ver Duin, BSN RN CSHCS Coordinator & Child-Health Team Supervisor

Dear CSHCS Families,

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! We are excited to bring you the latest CSHCS program updates, including an introduction to Robin Twiest, our newest CSHCS nurse. We are happy to have Robin on our team, and are excited to report that she's completed her training and has already begun working with our CSHCS families. You can get to know a bit about Robin on page 3, and check the nurse areas on page 2 to confirm which one of our nurses is assigned to your area. Please keep in mind, that all of our team members are able to answer most questions, but our nurses are assigned to cover certain areas in order to really get to know families and better serve them over time.

You can read all about new OCR guidance on civil rights protections for those with disability, and recent updates to the CDC Milestone Check Lists. We've also put together some important information for you regarding lead exposure in children, including when parents should have their children tested, and how families are connected with our OCDPH Lead Case Management nurses for support if a child tests positive for lead above a specific blood lead level (see page 5).

There are currently several fantastic grant & scholarship opportunities, each with it's own deadline, so please check due dates carefully. You'll find information on Sibshops, and many educational webinars for parents and caregivers, and some fun events for special needs families.

The Family Center continues to be a valuable support for families with special needs. Learn more about this parent-directed section of CSHCS on page 6, the grants and scholarships they provide on page 8, and about their parent mentor trainings and the exciting and important Father's Conference they are co-sponsoring, on page 7.

Finally, because we had so many amazing resources to share, we've created a companion special edition newsletter: A Guide to COVID-19 Resources and Information for Special Needs Families. The guide also contains a don't miss article on managing chronic stress by our parent consultant, who is also a special needs parent.

As always, please contact a team member when needed (see the updated contact list on the next page). We look forward to working with you!

In health and hope,

Brenda Kempf
CSHCS Program Representative
616 393-4445
bkempf@miottawa.org

Contact Brenda for:

- CSHCS enrollment & renewal
- Billing and insurance issues
- Adding providers or diagnoses
- Travel & lodging requests
- Changes in income or financial concerns
- Changes in insurance, name, address, phone, or email address

CSHCS Program Nurses, contact yours for:

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

Samantha Leffman BSN, RN
616-393-4442
sleffman@miottawa.org

Nurse for CSHCS families in:

Byron Center	Wyoming
Allendale	Grand Rapids
Grandville	zip code 49534
Hudsonville	Any GR zip codes
Jenison	in Ottawa County
West Olive	

Robin Twiest BSN, RN
616-393-4416
rtwiest@miottawa.org

Nurse for CSHCS families in:

Grand Haven	Casnovia
Spring Lake	Ravenna
Fruitport	Coopersville
Nunica	Holland zip code
Marne	49424
Conklin	

Aimee Dekker BSN, RN
616 393-4440
adekker@miottawa.org

Nurse for CSHCS families in:

Zeeland
Macatawa
Holland zip codes 49422 & 49423

Irene Atwood, Program Clerk
616 393-4439
iatwood@miottawa.org

Contact Irene for:

- Name, insurance, phone, home or email address changes
- Annual CSHCS Information Update via secure email

Amy Fontaine, Parent Consultant
616 402-2275
afontaine@miottawa.org

Contact Amy for:

- Special Families' Corner Facebook group
- Newsletters & Community Resources
- CSHCS Webinars & Outreach

Leslie Ver Duin BSN, RN
CSHCS Coordinator
616 393-4444
lverduin@miottawa.org

Contact Leslie for:

- Complex issues requiring extra assistance
- 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

CSHCS Websites:

Ottawa County: www.miottawa.org/cshcs

State of MI: www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Payments: <https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/dch/cshcs>



Meet Robin Twiest, BSN, RN

Our Newest CSHCS Nurse

Dear CSHCS Families;

Please allow me to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me. I am excited to have this opportunity to work as a program nurse for CSHCS. For the past 20 plus years, I have thoroughly enjoyed working as a nurse in various health care settings, including a hospital, in elder care, as a school nurse, and as a maternal infant health nurse too.

I grew up in Ottawa County, and after living out of the area for ten years, we are so happy to be “home”. Having the support of family and friends nearby means so much. We love the beauty of Lake Michigan, the parks, and the wonderfully welcoming communities that make up West Michigan.

My husband, Mark, and I have been married for 38 years. We have 3 amazing sons and 3 beautiful daughters-in-law, 2 sweet adopted daughters, and 7 (soon to be 8) very engaging grandchildren. We also have one dearly-loved Aussiedoodle, named Winston. I enjoy baking, reading, walks in nature, and quilting.

Two of our children had the opportunity to be enrolled in the CSHCS program. Now, I am eager to be on the “other side” and look forward to providing support to our CSHCS families.

With warm regards,

Robin



Our newest
program nurse,
Robin, with her
husband, Mark

CSHCS Expands Eligibility for Adults with Sickle Cell Disease



Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is pleased to announce expanded program eligibility for adults ages 21 and older with Sickle Cell Disease.

As of October 1, 2021, Sickle Cell Disease has joined the list of CSHCS eligible diagnoses for adults 21 years of age or older, which currently includes Cystic Fibrosis and some bleeding disorders, such as Hemophilia. The CSHCS program will now cover services directly related to Sickle Cell Disease, including co-pays, deductibles, transportation, care coordination, access to clinics and case management.

For details regarding CSHCS enrollment for adults with Sickle Cell Disease, read the full release from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [here](#).

For more information regarding adult eligibility for Sickle Cell Disease, or for help with the CSHCS the enrollment process, contact our Ottawa County CSHCS representative, Brenda Kempf: 616 393-4445 or bkempf@miottawa.org.

You may also contact the CSHCS Family Phone Line at: 1-800-359-3722.

There's a "CSHCS" App for That— And For Michigan Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, or MiChild Too

The State of Michigan has two new applications to help you securely access information on your health care benefits and services. **Now, families can:**

- Access CSHCS Qualifying Diagnosis Information
- View authorized provider(s) for each qualifying diagnoses
- Review CSHCS Payment Agreements
- Make monthly payments, or view payment history
- Complete the annual Income Review/Payment agreement form within the Benefits Details screen of their CSHCS plan.

Register to use both Apps here: <https://milogin.michigan.gov>



[myHealthButton](#) — Download this application to any smart phone or tablet from the Google Play or Apple App Stores



[myHealthPortal](#) — Access this application from any internet connected device at this link: https://myhbcld.state.mi.us/myHBPublic/landing.action?request_locale=en#load_page



Civil Rights Protections for People with Disabilities: New HHS Guidance for Health Care Providers

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued guidance to health care providers clarifying civil rights protections for people with disabilities.

The guidance makes clear that in light of the continuing public health emergency, when resources can be scarce, it is vital that individuals with disabilities are not prevented from receiving needed health care benefits and services as this violates federal civil rights laws.

"During a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic, biases and stereotypes may impact decision-making when hospitals and other providers are faced with scarce resources," said OCR Director Lisa J. Pino. "OCR will continue our robust enforcement of federal civil rights laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination, including when Crisis Standards of Care are in effect."

Read the full HHS guidance [here](#).

New Child Development Guidelines Released

New Developmental Milestones Checklists were released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help identify children with developmental delays earlier.

Developmental Milestone Checklists have helped parents know what to expect during each developmental stage since their creation in 2004.



The original checklists listed milestones that 50% of children of a certain age had reached, which may have inclined parents and pediatricians to take a wait and see approach when a child missed a particular milestone. After all, 50% of their child's same aged peers hadn't reached it yet either.

The drastically revised checklists now list milestones that 75% of children have reached by a specific age. This gives parents and pediatricians a better gauge for whether a child's development is lagging behind their peers and whether a more formal developmental screening should be done.

The revised checklists were developed by early childhood experts, the CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. New checklists for 15 and 30 months of age were added to provide a checklist to correspond to each recommended well-child checkup. Tips for encouraging child development at the various stages and developmental red flags are also included.

See the new Developmental Milestone Checklists [here](#).

Has your child been tested for lead?

What you need to know about lead exposure in children, how and when to test lead levels in your child, and resources that are available for families if their child(ren) tests positive for lead

There is no safe level of lead in children. Their developing brains and bodies make children more vulnerable to harm from lead exposure. Even low level lead exposure can cause serious health problems in children, including anemia, behavior issues and hyperactivity, slowed growth and development with speech, hearing and learning problems, or kidney and nervous system damage.

It is important to know these potential sources of lead exposure in children, so that exposure can be avoided:

- The most common source of lead exposure in children is lead paint and dust that contains lead from deteriorating lead paint in homes built before 1978.
- Lead exposure also occurs through contaminated water, air, and soil and from contact with objects containing lead. Children's proximity to the floor and ground, and their tendency to put their hands and objects into their mouths, increases their opportunity for lead exposure.
- Children's toys and jewelry may contain lead or lead paint, and plastic toys may be softened with lead. Caution is especially advised for antique, inexpensive, and imported toys. Read more on lead in toys here: [Lead Hazards in Toys \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- Some hobbies or parents' jobs, such as shooting, welding, pottery, stained glass, automotive work, etc. can expose children to lead.
- Some spices and canned goods, especially if made outside of the U.S., home remedies used Ayurvedic medicine, and cultural practices, like wearing a necklace containing a piece of coal, can increase a child's exposure to lead.

Some of the early signs and symptoms of lead poisoning in children are:

persistent tiredness or hyperactivity, irritability, loss of appetite or weight loss, reduced attention span, difficulty sleeping, and constipation. These vague symptoms can be easily missed or attributed to other health issues, making lead testing so important.

In Michigan, children are usually tested for lead at 12 and 24 months, but if missed at those ages, then testing once before age five is recommended. Lead testing should also be done any time there is concern about lead exposure or symptoms. Lead testing is done with a simple finger poke at your doctor's office. A follow-up blood draw is done to confirm any positive test.

Be sure to discuss your concerns about lead exposure, testing and treatment with your child's doctor. The OCDPH Lead Program is notified of all blood draw levels higher than 3.5 µg/dL through the state and local laboratory reporting system, so that a nurse case manager can contact families to provide support and help them navigate their next steps. **If you have questions or concerns and would like to speak with one of the nurses in our Elevated Blood Lead Level program, please call the OCDPH main line at 616-396-5266.**

Here are some helpful links on lead exposure in children:

[Lead Poisoning Information - Ottawa County, Michigan \(miottawa.org\)](#)

[MDHHS - Childhood Lead Exposure \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[Lead | US EPA](#)

Special Families' Corner Facebook Group



*Parent and caregiver support for raising children
and young adults with special needs*

Learn about issues affecting special needs families

Find out about events and community resources

Get support from fellow parents and caregivers

Join our growing community today!



Request to join us at Special Families' Corner:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/480920718777204/>



***Note:** The Family Center serves 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 for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs — The parent-directed section of CSHCS

The Family Center can help with:

- CSHCS Enrollment & Program Assistance
- Conference & Camp Scholarships (see page 8)
- One-on-One Support from a Trained Parent Mentor
- Resources for Your Family & Your Child's Diagnosis
- Transition Support for Youth & Families



Call the Family Phone Line:

1-800-359-3722 or email:

cschscf@michigan.gov



The Family Center's March Parent Connect Call:

“Seven Steps for Sibling Support”

Wed. March 9, 2022 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm

On Microsoft Teams

Emily Holl, the Director of The Sibling Support Project at Kindering, discusses how siblings of children with disabilities play important roles in their families, often experiencing concerns and opportunities similar to parents. This interactive session will present some common issues that siblings experience, and share seven simple ways that parents and providers can help minimize sibling concerns and maximize opportunities to build close sibling bonds.



To register on Eventbrite, click [here](#).

Contact The Family Center with questions:

1-800-359-3722

Family Center Conferences & Trainings

Fathers' Conference: Father Engagement in Families who have Children with Special Needs



Open to all Michigan fathers, mothers, and caregivers raising special needs children, and the professionals who support them

Sat. March 19, 2022 from 9:00 to Noon
on Zoom

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and the 21st Century Dads Foundation/Special Fathers Network are excited to be hosting the **"Father Engagement in Families of Children with Special Needs" Conference.**

Each conference presentations (see below) will feature insider perspectives from two Special Fathers Network Mentor Fathers and be followed by breakout discussions:

Respite & Marriage: Brian Page, Homewood, IL & Rick Daynes, San Diego, CA

Grieving The Life Anticipated: Josh Jacobs, Farmington Hills, MI & Jarrell Roach, Lincoln, NE

Siblings & Family Balance: Lenn Boston, Kalamazoo, MI & Scott Newport, Royal Oak, MI

The cost of the conference is \$10.00. You will receive a resource packet and a Great Dad Coin with each registration.

To register for the unique opportunity, click [here](#).

Become a Trained Parent Mentor and participate in the Parent-to-Parent Support Network for the Family Center



Parents, caregivers, and guardians wouldn't you like to make a difference in the lives of others raising a child or youth with special health care needs?

Trained parent mentors are a vital part of the Family Center's statewide network of volunteer parents supporting one another, sharing resources, and helping to navigate various systems.

Spanish-speaking parent mentors are encouraged to join us as we strive to support all special needs families!

**A \$50 gift card and a few other gifts will be provided upon training completion!*

Contact Dawn Adkins with questions: adkinsd@michigan.gov or 1-800-359-3722.

Virtual Parent Mentor Training—one or three day options

Three sessions on Microsoft Teams

Tues	March 8th	9 am—11:30 am
Wed	March 9th	9 am—11:30 am
Thurs	March 10th	9 am—Noon

(or) One session on Microsoft Teams

Sat	March 26th	9 am—3:30 pm
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Register for the 3-day FREE training [here](#).

Register for the 1-day FREE training [here](#).



Virtual Bereavement Parent Mentor Training

Two sessions on Microsoft Teams

Tues	March 15th	9 am—12:30 pm
Wed	March 16th	9 am—12:30 pm



This special training is for any parent who has lost a special needs child at least 13 months ago, who desires to help another parent who is looking for support in their journey with grief following their loss of a special needs child

Register for this FREE training [here](#).

Family Center Grants & Scholarships

BULLYING PREVENTION GRANT FOR SCHOOLS



The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Children's Special Health Care Services are pleased to announce a grant opportunity to reduce bullying for youth with special health care needs

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) and Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) are pleased to announce a small grant opportunity for school districts and/or schools to reduce bullying for students with special health care needs.

Grants for the 2022-2023 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2023) welcome school districts to apply for up to \$10,000 for their program.

With these grants, successful organizations will create or expand a peer-to-peer support program which replicates the Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) peer-to-peer program, while incorporating anti-bullying initiatives specific to students who have physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions that impact their activities of daily living.

Eligible programs need to demonstrate the ability to meet these objectives:

- Create safe cultures for children with special health care needs within school communities.
- Provide or enhance the school environment for peer support for youth with special health care needs.
- Increase social and emotional support in schools for children with special health care needs.
- Expand anti-bullying efforts for youth with special health care needs.

To view **Frequently Asked Questions** [click here](#). For more information, please contact Kate Jones at: JonesK50@michigan.gov or call 517-335-9096.

The deadline for the grant applications is March 18, 2022. Apply for the grant by filling out this [application form](#), and emailing it to Kate Jones at The Family Center: cshcsfc@michigan.gov.



Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Summer Camp Scholarships



The Family Center is offering camp scholarships of up to \$250, to help families send a child, aged 5 up to 21 with special needs to summer camp this summer.

Virtual camps are included this year as well. The camp must be in Michigan and have a camp license, except for camps that are operated by a university, school district, or city/township park & recreation program.

Applicants do not have to be enrolled in Children's Special Health Care Services to be eligible for a camp scholarship, but they do need to reside in Michigan.

Families will be required to submit a completed Camp Scholarship Application along with an Attendance Registration Form, which will need to be filled out by the Camp Director.

To apply for a scholarship, [click here for an application](#)

Hurry! Applications will be accepted until the end of March or until all funds are granted.



Did you know that The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs also offers **Conference Scholarships** for a parent and/or youth?

To learn more about this opportunity for you or your child, contact The Family Center on the **Family Phone Line: 1 800-359-3722**

Grant & Scholarship Opportunities

Children with Special Needs Fund



Ceiling and Stair Lift Grants

With a generous grant from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Children with Special Needs (CSN) Fund is accepting grant applications for ceiling and stair lifts.

Applicants must meet these eligibility requirements to be considered:

1. Under 21 years of age
2. Enrolled or medically eligible to enroll in Children's Special Health Care Services
3. Submit a completed application Form [DCH-1239](#) with this required documentation:
 - Complete Financial Assessment Form DCH-1273 (if not enrolled in CSHCS)
 - A letter from parents explaining the need and reason for the request
 - A letter from the child's specialty physician explaining medical necessity for the equipment as well as the child's diagnosis and prognosis.
 - Documentation of Assistance Form DCH-2423
 - Three (3) quotes with attached diagrams of the proposed ceiling/stair lift system
4. Ceiling and stair lifts will not be approved for rental units.

Applications received by Feb. 24th will be reviewed in March. Those received after that date, but before Aug. 29th, will be reviewed in September.

CSN Fund Grants—Applications for assistance with partial or full payment for equipment are reviewed year-round, and are considered when no other funding source is available. Here are some items that CSN Fund grants have covered:

wheelchair ramps, vehicle accessibility devices, transit options, therapeutic tricycles, air conditioners for certain medical conditions, weighted blankets or vests, adaptive recreational equipment, and more.

A CSN Fund application can be found online here: www.michigan.gov/csntfund. Families can call the CSN Fund directly at: (517) 241-7420 or email: csntfund@michigan.gov to ask questions or to have an application sent. Your CSHCS team can also help with your application.

Family Hope Foundation Therapy Scholarships Spring 2022

Family Hope Foundation's Spring 2022

Scholarship Cycle is now open.

Hurry! Applications are due March 1st!



Scholarships are meant to help cover therapy or interventions when there is little to no insurance coverage available. You may apply for up to \$1,000 of assistance.

[Therapy Scholarship Guidelines](#) must be followed for consideration.

[Therapy Scholarship Online Application link](#)

For questions contact Family Hope Foundation at: **616 729-8833**



Inspiring minds and encouraging hearts - one child at a time

Lori's Voice provides funding for equipment, educational resources, or expenses related to medical treatment of individuals up to the age of eighteen (18) who have neurological, muscular or other degenerative conditions resulting in permanent impairment or mobility issues.

[Application Overview—with downloadable application](#)

To contact Lori's Voice, email: lorisvoice@gmail.com

Follow **Lori's Voice** on [Facebook](#) and on their [website](#) to see the amazing things they do for our West Michigan special needs community.

Be sure to watch for the Lori's Voice 'Walk for the Challenged', which typically takes place in June, at Berlin Raceway. It's a blast and raises so much money to help West Michigan special kids and their families.

Ottawa County Sibshops



Offered in communities around the country and the world, Sibshops are a place for siblings to be heard, understood and supported.

Sisters and brothers will likely have the longest-lasting relationship with a sibling who has special needs or disabilities, one that can exceed 65 years. During their lives, children who have siblings with special needs or disabilities will experience most of the unique joys and concerns their parents do, yet few will have the chance to talk about their experiences with other siblings who “get it”. Sibshops offer that opportunity in a fun, engaging environment, and they are a valuable resource for children and families.

Sibshops are peer support groups that provide children with the opportunity to meet other sibs, have fun, talk about both the good and the sometimes hard parts of having a sib with special needs, play some great games, learn something about their siblings’ special needs or disabilities and the services their brothers and sisters receive, and learn new ways to cope with the challenges of having a sibling with special needs.

"She bounded into the car and said, "I looooooved it, and want to go every week!" She talked for 15 minutes about every detail and barely took a breath. Thank you for this. She deserves this experience and we're so grateful you offered it up."

~ Gwen, whose daughter had just attended her first Sibshop

Sibshops are now offered in Ottawa County for children ages 6-13.

Ottawa County Sibshops are held at Engage Therapy Center 10263 Chicago Dr. Zeeland. There is a \$10 participation fee per session, but scholarships are available for those who would not otherwise be able to attend.

Spring Ottawa County Sibshops:

March 5, April 16, & May 7 from 9:30 to 11:00 am

Please contact Ottawa County Sibshop Facilitator, Andréa Vugteveen at amvugteveen@gmail.com or 616-460-3781 for more information.

Like and follow Ottawa County Sibshops on Facebook.



Virtual Training

Introduction to Sibshops

For parents, educators, service providers, and anyone interested in sibling issues

Tues. May 17—Thurs. May 19, 2020

9:00 —10:30 am

\$35

Additional Facilitator Training Day

For those who would like to become Sibshop facilitators or administrators

Fri. May 20th

9:00 —11:00 am

Contact the Family Center with questions at: 800-359-3722. Register at this link:

[Michigan Introduction to Sibshops and SibShop Facilitator Training Tickets, Tue, May 17, 2022 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)



Income Tax Resources

2022 Tax Guide for Special Needs Families



The Arc of Michigan has published its 48th Annual Tax Guide to help families and individuals learn about tax deductions and credits related to the care and support of a child or an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability. The Arc of Michigan provides this valuable guide free of charge for families and tax preparers at this link: [Checklist for Free Tax Return Preparation | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The IRS's VITA program offers **free basic tax return preparation** to qualified individuals who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including

- People with disabilities
- People who make \$66,000 per year or less
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

Find VITA sites near you at this link, or call 211 for help:

[Find a Location for Free Tax Prep | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

What to bring to your VITA tax appointment:

[Checklist for Free Tax Return Preparation | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

Free Online VITA Tax Support (getyourrefund.org):

[Free tax help from IRS-certified volunteers. | GetYourRefund](#)

MiABLE Savings Accounts

The Michigan Able Act was signed into law in October 2015, following passage in December 2014 of the federal Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which authorized states to establish tax-advantaged savings programs for individuals with a disabilities.

The MiABLE disability savings program provides individuals with disabilities and their families a tax-advantaged way to save for a wide range of expenses to maintain health, independence and quality of life **without jeopardizing government benefits** like Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance or Medicaid.

To be eligible for a MiABLE account, your disability must be present before the age of 26; and one of the following must be true:

- You are eligible for SSI or SSDI because of a disability
- You experience blindness as determined by the Social Security Act; OR
- You have a similarly severe disability with a written diagnosis from a licensed physician that can be produced if requested.

Up to \$16,000 in total annual contributions may be made to MiABLE savings accounts. MiABLE funds may then be used for qualified disability expenses.

For more details on MiABLE, including answers to FAQ's, click this link:


[Home | Michigan ABLE Plan \(savewithable.com\)](#)

A promotional graphic for the MiABLE Disability Savings Program. It features a purple border around an orange and yellow background. At the top, it says 'Join Us!' in large white letters. Below that, a white box contains the text 'Follow [MiABLE on Facebook](#) to Join Our Monthly MiABLE Disability Savings Webinars'. A purple button with white text says 'Save Without Losing'. At the bottom left is the MiABLE logo with the text 'MIABLE Disability Savings Program'. At the bottom right are three stylized, overlapping mountain-like shapes in purple and yellow.

Join Us!

Follow [MiABLE on Facebook](#) to Join Our Monthly MiABLE Disability Savings Webinars

Save Without Losing

 **MIABLE**
Disability Savings Program

Special Education Meetings and Webinars:

Young Adult Services & OAISD Transition Services

Mon. Feb. 21st 4:30 — 5:30 pm

**At the OAISD Educational Services Building
13565 Port Sheldon St. Holland, MI 49424**



Learn more about the transition process and Young Adult Services (YAS), the continuum of services that the Ottawa Area ISD offers for special education students, ages 18-26, living in Ottawa County and the OAISD regions of Allegan County, who will not be earning a high school diploma.

As students leave school and transition into adult lives, it's important they make community connections and receive education, training and other support services that help them meet their personal goals and gain a sense of fulfillment. **We will share information on the referral and assessment processes designed to identify individual goals for maximum independence for adult students.**

Pre-registered attendees have an opportunity to submit questions in advance that will be answered during the session, along with other questions as time permits.

Register here: [Young Adult Services Open Meeting Registration \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/events/details/ottawa-area-isd-2022-02-21-430-530pm-young-adult-services-open-meeting-registration)

For more info contact Sarah Torrez: 877 702-8600 ext. 4022 storrez@oaisd.org

Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship

Tues. Feb. 22nd 6:00 — 7:00 pm

Zoom Webinar

Open to parents, caregivers & professionals



Building the Future
Virtual Transition Workshop : 2022 WINTER SERIES

When children with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) transition to adulthood at age 18, they may continue to need extra support with decision making and navigating life. Knowing the options for balancing support with autonomy, can help parents/caregivers choose the appropriate level of support for their child.

Join Peg Fakler, Executive Director of Arc Advocacy and Resource Center of Ottawa County to learn about the process of guardianship for those with IDD, and the possible alternatives to guardianship, including no-cost options, such as: Release of Information, Consent for Advocacy, Patient Advocate, Representative Payee, and Power of Attorney.

For questions or more on this webinar, contact OAISD Transition Coordinator, Krista Krefeld-Freier: 616 796-1517 or kkrefeld@oaisd.org

Register & submit questions here: [BUILDING THE FUTURE: VIRTUAL TRANSITION WORKSHOPS - 2022 Winter Series \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/events/details/ottawa-area-isd-2022-02-22-600-700pm-guardianship-and-alternatives-to-guardianship)



Debbie Whitford, MAF Parent Mentor

Ottawa, Ionia, Montcalm & Greater Kent Counties
616-987-0583

debbier@michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Upcoming Parent Webinars

Rethinking Guardianship: Supported Decision Making with Dohn Hoyle

February 24

12:30-2:30pm

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8tzxbz>

Building Parent Leadership Skills in Early Childhood: For parents of children from birth to age 5 who receive/received Early On® services

Feb 24 & Mar 3, 10, 17

7:00-8:00pm

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/229arffv>

Watch the new **IEP Video Series** on the MAF You Tube channel here:

[MichiganAlliance - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK8tZxbz)

Coming Events:



A Kid Again Michigan helps Michigan families who are raising children living with life-threatening conditions by providing **cost-free, fun-filled, family adventures** throughout the year.

A Kid Again ‘Adventures’—whether they be trips to a zoo or theme park, a sporting event, or a day filled with fun or pampering—**provide the chance for a child to forget about being sick and just be “a kid again”**.

These Adventures help families take time away from hospitals, doctors, and medical care to just have fun and build lasting memories together. Space is provided for families to meet, get to know and support one another.

A Kid Again will soon be scheduling Adventures for 2022. Sign up now to be ready for the fun. In the meantime, enroll for their “Adventures in a Box” to have the fun delivered right to your door. See details, and start the enrollment process here:

[Enroll with A Kid Again | Cost-Free Events for Kids | A Kid Again](#)



Family Hope Foundation Presents: **Sensory Showtimes at Participating* Celebration Cinemas**

See 2D movies with open-caption, brighter lights, lower sound, & limited previews, with guests and staff who understand your family's needs!

Movie Line—up 11am Showtimes

3/26 – The Unbreakable Boy
4/16 – Sonic 2
4/23 – The Bad Guys
5/28 – DC League of Super-Pets
6/25 – Lightyear
7/9 – Minions: The Rise of Gru

**\$2.00 off tickets with this
Friends of Family Hope
Foundation Barcode**

Payment Voucher:



7400 1300 0000 0102 3381

Expires 12/31/2023

***Note:** Limited Theaters are participating at this time. Check Family Hope Foundation’s website for participating theater updates:

[Upcoming Events - Family Hope Foundation \(thefamilyhopefoundation.org\)](https://thefamilyhopefoundation.org/upcoming-events)



Gilda's LaughFest 2022 tickets are on sale now!

2022 LaughFest is showcasing: Maria Bamford, Tone Bell, Charlie Berens, Fortune Feimster, and the Clean Comedy Showcase. Learn more about their shows at the website below.

Proceeds from LaughFest and LaughFest's High Five Campaign support the FREE cancer and grief emotional health programs that are offered through Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

Get tickets and learn more here: [LaughFest \(laughfestgr.org\)](https://laughfestgr.org)