From the Desk of Leslie Ver Duin BSN, RN
CSHCS Program Coordinator

Dear CSHCS Families,

We are excited to announce that due to the ever-growing population in Ottawa County, we have hired a new part-time Program Nurse! Aimee Dekker, BSN, RN, is a wonderful and welcomed addition to our team. Aimee will be finished with her extensive training and ready to work directly with CSHCS families soon. The Program Nurse coverage areas have been planned, but in the meantime, Aimee continues her orientation with Leslie, Kelsey and Rachel until the full transition happens. You can ‘meet’ Aimee on page two of this newsletter, and find an updated CSHCS contact list on page three. Each of our (three) Program Nurses are wonderful, knowledgeable and compassionate and I am confident that you will all be in great hands.

This edition of Special Kids’ Corner newsletter is also bursting with many exciting grant opportunities and amazing events for special needs families. We are especially excited that Sibshops will be coming to Ottawa County (see page nine). Finally, know that the whole CSHCS team wishes your family a Happy Valentine’s Day! We are thankful to be a part of your journey and inspired by your tremendous love that shines brightly every day.

With care,

Leslie Ver Duin, BSN, RN
CSHCS Program Coordinator

‘Special Kid’s Corner’ is brought to you by Ottawa County CSHCS with funding from The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
Introducing Our New CSHCS Program Nurse, Aimee Dekker BSN, RN

Ever since I was a little girl I can remember wanting to be a nurse! Throughout high school and college I worked at a local nursing home. I am from Holland and graduated from the Hope-Calvin College of Nursing. I love Holland!

My first career job was as a Public Health Nurse and now I am excited to have come full circle and returned back to Public Health. In the past, I’ve also worked in several doctors offices, at the InterCare Community Health Center, and I was the director of In-Home Services at Evergreen Commons. I am excited to meet with families and work with the team in Children’s Special Health Care Services.

My husband and I met on my grandpa’s farm and the rest is history! We’ve been married 26 years and have 2 children, Brad and Nicole. Brad recently bought a house and is engaged to marry Emma in August. Nicole attends GRCC and works at Evergreen Commons Adult Day Care Center, she is a CAN working to be a Physical Therapy Assistant. She’s been dating Andrew for 3 years.

I enjoy traveling and being outside. We have a large garden which we share with anyone who will take vegetables, there’s always plenty. We also enjoy having laying chickens and sharing our eggs. As a family, we like to kayak, play volleyball, 4 square, darts, and bean bag toss (corn hole).

I look forward to assisting with all your Children’s Special Health Care needs!

Our new CSHC team member, Program Nurse, Aimee Dekker with her beautiful family!
Ottawa County CSHCS
Contact List

Brenda Kempf, Program Representative
616-393-4445
bkempf@miottawa.org
Contact Brenda for:
• enrollment and renewal
• billing and insurance issues
• income changes
• travel and lodging
• provider additions or changes

Irene Atwood, Program Clerk
616-393-4439
iatwood@miottawa.org
Contact Irene for:
• insurance updates
• name, address, phone, and email changes

Amy Fontaine, Parent Consultant
afontaine@miottawa.org
Contact Amy for:
• Special Families’ Corner Facebook Group
• feedback on local CSHCS services
• presentations by the CSHCS team

Leslie Ver Duin, BSN, RN
CSHCS Program Supervisor
616-393-4444
lverduin@miottawa.org
Contact Leslie for:
• issues other staff have been unable to answer
• feedback on CSHCS customer service

Sandra Lake, BSN, RN, MPH
OCDPH Community Health Manager:
CSHCS, MIHP, and Hearing & Vision Programs
616-393-5753
slake@miottawa.org

Contact Your CSHCS Program Nurse for:
• Plans of Care (POCs)
• medical questions
• coverage questions
• adding a new diagnosis or provider

Kelsey DeMull, BSN, RN, MPH
CSHCS Program Nurse
616-393-4442
kdemull@miottawa.org
Kelsey is the Program Nurse for families in:
Byron Center, Allendale, Grandville, Hudsonville, Jenison, Macatawa, Holland Zip Code 49422, Grand Rapid Zip Code 49534 & all Grand Rapids Zip Codes located within Ottawa County
Kelsey is fluent in Spanish, so serves our Spanish speaking families

Rachel Pohl, BSN, RN
CSHCS Program Nurse
616-393-4436
rpohl@miottawa.org
Rachel is the Program Nurse for families in:
Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Nunica, Coopersville, Mane, Norton Shores, Fruitport, West Olive, Conklin, Casnovia, Ravenna, Holland—Zip Code 49424

Aimee Dekker, BSN, RN
CSHCS Program Nurse
616-393-4440
adekker@miottawa.org
Aimee’s Part Time Office Hours:
Mon. & Thurs. 8:30—4:00
Wed. 8:30—3:00
Aimee is the Program Nurse for Families in:
Holland Zip Code 49423 & Zeeland Zip Code 49464

CSHCS Program Fax: 616-393-4435

www.michigan.gov/cshcs
www.miottawa.org/cshcs
“CSHCS Information Update—You have received a secure message”

*What does it mean when you see this message in your inbox?*

CSHCS takes your privacy seriously, so annually, when it comes time to verify your confidential information, you’ll receive a **secure email from Irene Atwood**, Program Clerk for Ottawa County CSHCS.

The first time you receive this message, **you’ll need to register** with Cisco Registered Envelope Services (CRES), the company that CSHCS employs to ensure that your personal information is kept confidential. To register with CRES, download /open the attachment and you will be prompted to create a password.

**Once you’re registered, please review the information CSHCS has on file for you.**

Accurate insurance information ensures proper billing and enables us to help you with any billing issues that arise.

**If your primary insurance has changed, CALL** Irene Atwood, CSHCS Program Clerk, 616-393-4439. Sending insurance information via email may not keep your information safe and secure. **Note:** MiHealth and Medicaid Health Plans (MHP) changes do not need to be reported—they’re updated automatically in our system.

**Reminders:**

⇒ **Out of State Care** requires yearly authorization. Call your program nurse immediately upon receiving the above message to start this process.

⇒ **To add a provider,** call or email Brenda Kempf with: the provider’s full name, address, specialty, and first date of service.

⇒ **If there are changes in your health care or medical needs,** notify your program nurse or Brenda Kempf.

⇒ **If financial and/or medical updates are required,** you’ll receive written notification from the Lansing CSHCS office.
Special Families’ Corner Facebook Group

CSHCS invites you to join our growing community of special needs parents & caregivers. Learn about news and issues that affect special needs families. Discover resources, services, and events for the special needs community. Get answers, support and encouragement from fellow special needs parents.

Here’s the group link:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/480920718777204/
Or search for Special Families’ Corner on Facebook and request to join.

The Family Center Provides:
- Connection with a parent mentor from The Parent-to-Parent Support Network
- Help enrolling in or navigating CSHCS
- Health-specific and national, state and local resource and support information
- Disability related conference scholarships for a parent or youth
- Transition support for youth and families

The Family Center serves all special needs families, regardless of CSHCS enrollment.

The Family Phone Line & Parent-to-Parent Support Network

1-800-359-3722
Mon.—Fri. 8 am to 5 pm

Please Update Your Email Address—especially if you received this newsletter via regular mail

CSHCS sends emails to families to announce special events or important program updates.

Families can also use email to ask questions, request forms information, and more!

Please send your new e-mail address to:
iatwood@miottawa.org

Your Opinion Matters!

We welcome your feedback, so please tell us about your experiences with CSHCS by contacting any team member, or by sending a confidential e-mail to our Parent Consultant, Amy Fontaine:
afontaine@miottawa.org

If you’ve experienced outstanding customer service from any Ottawa County employee, we would love for them to be recognized. Nominate them here:
https://www.miottawa.org/CustomerServicenominate_employee.htm
Grant & Scholarship Opportunities

Children with Special Needs (CSN) Fund Grants

Ceiling and Stair Lift Grants—With a generous grant from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the CSN Fund has announced that they are now taking grant applications for ceiling and stair lifts.

If your child could benefit from a ceiling or stair lift, contact your local CSHCS office to learn who qualifies and to find out how to apply, or call the CSN Fund directly at (517) 241-7420.

The CSN Fund also provides financial assistance to children with special health care needs to purchase equipment when no other funding source is available. More detailed information can be found on the CSN Fund website or by contacting your local CSHCS office:

https://www.michigan.gov/csnfund

Family Center Scholarships

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, the parent-directed section of CSHCS, offers Camp and Disability-Related Conference Scholarships. HURRY, these scholarships go quickly!

Link to Camp Scholarship Application:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Camp_Scholarship_Application_679459_7.pdf

Disability-Related Conference Scholarships:

The Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
Mon.—Fri. 8 am to 5 pm
cshcsfc@michigan.gov

Family Hope Foundation Therapy Scholarships

Effective February 1, 2020, the Family Hope Foundation’s Spring Scholarship Cycle is open and accepting applications for individuals with special needs. You may apply for up to $1,000 of assistance and scholarships are intended for therapy that is not covered by insurance. Hurry! Applications are due March 1st!

Therapy Scholarship Guidelines (see link) must be followed to be considered for funding, so be sure to read and follow them carefully:

Therapy Scholarship Application link:
https://thefamilyhopefoundation.org/images/Scholarship_ApplicationUPDATED_Fall_2018.pdf

Contact Jane Eppard with questions at:
(616) 729-8833

Lori’s Voice

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—w/application:
http://www.lorisvoice.org/app-for-assistance.html

Lori’s Voice Walk for the Challenged
June 13, 2020. Click here for details:
http://www.lorisvoice.org/events.html

To contact Lori’s Voice: lorisvoice@gmail.com

CSHCS congratulates Lori’s Voice on reaching the astounding milestone of giving away One Million Dollars to date to help special needs families!
Supported Decision-Making

This 2-part workshop is geared toward families wanting to know more about Supported Decision-Making

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and Self Advocates from West Michigan, will co-facilitate this workshop with members of the statewide Supported Decision Making Advisory Group.

The 4-hour, 2-part, workshop was developed to provide families with the tools they need to begin the journey of Supported Decision-Making with their loved one. Participants will receive a Supported Decision Making Resource Manual complete with Power Point, video, brochure, and other resources they can use to discuss this topic with colleagues and other families.

Please join us to learn more about this important topic. Share with your colleagues, the students you support, and other families.

Light refreshments will be served, limited child-care available (with reservation).

This workshop is co-sponsored by the following organizations:

This workshop will be in 2 parts
—Participants should plan to attend both sessions

Part I  Wed. March 25, 2020
6pm—8pm

Part 2  Wed. April 1, 2020
6pm—8pm

Compassionate Heart Ministries
404 Centerstone Court
Zeeland, Michigan 49464

Please pre-register by March 20, 2020 to attend and to reserve possible child care by contacting: Amy Fontaine @ afontaine@miottawa.org or text 616- 402-2275
Legal Planning
for Your Loved One with a Disability
With Attorney Sarah L. Kirkpatrick

**Thursday**
**February 27, 2020**
**6:45 pm**
**Evergreen Ministries**
4512 48th Ave
Hudsonville, MI
**R.S.V.P. to:** tiffany@egm.org

Join us for information on:
- Supplemental Security Income
- Social Security Disability Benefits
- Medicaid & Medicare
- Wills and Special Needs Trusts
- Estate Planning/ABLE Accounts
- Guardianships
- Alternatives to Guardianships

Sarah L. Kirkpatrick specializes in disability law, special needs trusts and preparing for the future for families with a loved one who has disabilities. Sarah is an attorney with the firm Daniel L. Blauw, PLC, which has served the West Michigan disability community for over 20 years. [http://www.blauwkirkpatricklaw.com/](http://www.blauwkirkpatricklaw.com/)

With Sarah’s personal insight as a sibling to someone with severe special needs, she understands first-hand the issues that are most important to families. Sarah also serves on the Executive Board of Directors of IKUS.

Enjoy a disability-friendly environment where everyone is welcome to be who they are!

Special families can enjoy brighter lights, lower sound, and limited previews with a group of peers who get it!

All shows are 2D with Open Caption. Seating questions should be directed to the box office.

**10:30 a.m. Movie Line Up:**
- February 22 — Sonic the Hedgehog
- March 14 — Onward
- April 4 — Mulan
- April 11 — Peter Rabbit 2
- April 25 — Trolls World Tour
- May 23 — Scoob!
- May 30 — Sponge Bob: Sponge on the Run
- June 27 — Soul

**Participating Theaters:**
- Cinema Carousel in Muskegon
- Celebration! Cinemas North & South in Grand Rapids
- Celebration! Cinema Crossroads in Portage
- Celebration! Cinema Lansing
- Celebration! Cinema Mt. Pleasant
- Celebration! Cinema Benton Harbor

$2.00 Off Guests of Family Hope Foundation Regular Matinee Tickets

Payment Voucher:

7400 1300 0000 0101 4869
Expires: 9/30/2021
Saturday, February 29, 2020
8 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Prince Conference Center at Calvin University
1800 E. Beltline Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

The Rare Disease Day Symposium aims to bring members of the rare disease community—patients, caregivers, and families, researchers, advocates, and students—together to learn from one another and to support one another. The event is free and open to all who are interested in attending. The symposium will begin with a common morning session with invited talks from a scientist studying rare diseases, a medical geneticist and patients with various rare disease diagnoses. After lunch, participants will select breakout sessions to attend based upon their particular interests.

Please register using the following link: https://www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/rarediseaseday2020

MORE AMAZING EVENTS

Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) Conference — Grand Rapids
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 — Friday, March 6, 2020 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

LEAP Conference 2020—Lead, Empower, Assist, Parents — Kent ISD
Saturday, March 14, 2020 (Register before 3-11-20) 8:30 am - 2:50 pm
https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0001-0020-1cbfeb42321844c2a2f9a8586f60ac31

START Conference—Statewide Autism Resources and Training (Project) — East Lansing
Monday, April 27, 2020 8:30 am — 3:30 pm
https://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-conference-167.htm

Challenge of Children — Holland
Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:30 am — 3:30 pm
http://www.challengeofchildren.org/schedule.htm

Sibshops are coming to the Lakeshore in April 2020. Stay tuned for more information or contact Andréa Vugteveen to be added to an email list and receive specific details as they become available. 616-460-3781 or amvugteveen@gmail.com.
Won't you be my Valentine and buzz away with me?
We'll bumble along together, because you're my honey bee!

Bzzzzzzzzzzz