

Family Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 CENTER FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

February 2003

Introducing The Quarterly Parent Newsletter

Here it is – the start of our quarterly parent newsletter! The newsletter is a way for us to communicate with all of you and for you to communicate with each other. If you have a resource or something you feel other parents of children with special needs may be interested in, please feel free to let our office know so it can be shared in the next newsletter.

Introducing New Staff and Saying Goodbye to Old

We would like to let you know who is caring for your child(ren), and answering your phone calls. As many of you know Lauri Levin, MSW, left us in October to be a part of the American Academy of Pediatrics Special Needs Division in Chicago. We wish her well in all of her new endeavors.

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Big News – We Moved Again!

Our clinic moved from OPN Mason to Outpatient West Chester at University Pointe

We moved our clinic at OPN Mason to Outpatient West Chester at University Pointe off Tylersville. We will be at Outpatient West Chester on Monday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Our clinic on the main campus of Cincinnati Children's will remain on Tuesday afternoons. Please see the enclosed directions or call our office if you have any specific questions.

Prescription Drop-Off

We will be leaving prescriptions/completed forms at the new West Chester location, as well as continuing the service at OPN and the Information desk in the main Hospital Lobby. In order to accommodate your drop-off location request please call 5 days in advance of needing your refill. We also ask you to pick up the requested items in a timely manner. Items left at the Hospital Lobby will be returned to us after 24 hours.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SATELLITE HOURS:

Outpatient West Chester: Monday – Friday 9am-6pm
OPN Mason : Monday – Friday 7am-10pm
Saturday – 8am-7pm
Sunday – noon-6pm

Please make sure you know which location your requested items will be left.

New Team Members

Our newest team member:

Elizabeth Mathison, MSW, LISW, is our new social worker who started with us in January. She has been at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center since 1996 and was working in the Hematology/Oncology Department. Elizabeth has lots of great experience and we welcome her to our team.

We have 2 new nurses who joined our team within the last 8 months:

Mary Anne Coulson, RN, CNIII, who joined us in April 2002. Mary Anne has 9 years' experience with chronic care and 11 years in the emergency room.

Marilynn Foxx, RN, joined us in November 2002. She has 24 years' nursing experience on the rehabilitation/trach floor. Marilyn has great experience working with families and children with special needs.

Review of Clinic Staff

Julie Doyle, RN, BSN, has been with the clinic for 4 years and the clinical coordinator for the last 2 years. Julie worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for 6 years before adventuring to Maternal Child Health Services for 1½ years prior to joining the clinic.

Della Sokol, Medical Assistant/Scheduler, has been with Dr. Levin for 17 years (wow!). Prior to working with Dr. Levin she worked at Brookside Extended Care for 6 years.

Holly Sprague, Scheduler, has been with Dr. Levin for 5 years. Holly was working with High Risk Clinic for 5 years prior to joining Dr. Levin.

Gina Krakovsky, MSN, CPNP, is our nurse practitioner who joined us July 2000. Gina has been at Cincinnati Children's for 15 years. Her time has been spent working in the pediatric intensive care unit and the pediatric/neonatal transport team. Gina sees patients along with Dr. Levin. If your child would prefer to have a physical done by a female, just let Della know and she can schedule on a day Gina is seeing patients.

Barb Munafo, Medical Assistant/Radiology Technician, has been with Dr. Levin for 17 years (wow). Prior to joining Dr. Levin, Barb worked at Mercy Hospital and The Ohio State University.

School Issues

1. School Forms – This is a good time to get the appropriate school forms that will need to be completed for next school year. It may be easier to get the forms when your child is still in school rather than trying to get them over the summer.
2. Excuses – We cannot validate absences unless we have seen your child, or you have been in direct communication with our office staff during the current illness.
3. IEP – We recommend parents submit a medical letter as a part of the Individualized Education Plan development or review. Please notify the office of your child's IEP date several weeks in advance.

General Forms

Please allow at 1-2 weeks to have any forms completed. We receive an abundance of paperwork to complete and need an adequate amount of time to complete it. Thanks for your patience!

Receive Newsletter Via Email

In order to help defray cost in distributing the newsletter, we would like to encourage receiving it quarterly via email. If email works for you, please send a message to Della at Della.Smith-Sokol@chmcc.org. to provide your email address. If you do not have email we will provide the newsletter the old conventional way!

Resources/FYI

Summer is just around the corner! It's not too early to start thinking about camp options. We will have the latest information available the end of March. Call the office and we can help determine the best option.

Free Life Planning Seminar – The Board of MRDD in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties are offering free seminars entitled "Putting the Pieces Together." This seminar will address issues related to life planning, including legal and financial issues.

Dates and Times: April 29 9-11:30am & 6:30-9pm

April 30 9-11:30am & 6:30-9pm

Meetings at the Butler County Mental Health Board

Call Butler County MRDD at 867-5962 for information

Resource Manual

Our resource manual is available to all families of our clinic at no cost. It is available to others for \$10.00. The manual is a valuable resource with information regarding advocacy, assistive technology, community services, dental resources, education, financial, government, guardianship, home health care, mental health, nutrition resources, summer programs, support groups, therapy, transportation, wish organizations, and reference sites. If you would like to receive a manual please let us know when you are making an appointment.

Our goal is to create an online version of the manual in order to keep it current. We are in need of parent volunteers to help us ensure the most helpful resources are accurately included. We are also requesting parent volunteers to assist with the content of future newsletters. If you would like to help in either of these ways, please call Della.

Directions to Outpatient West Chester

From Children's Hospital Clifton, take 75 North to Tylersville Road exit # 22. Turn right on Tylersville, go approximately ½ mile to Cox Road. Turn left on Cox Road go approximately ¼ mile turn left into 7700 University Court. Children's Hospital is in Suite 1000 the door is located prior to entering the main building.

From OPN, continue going North on Mason-Montgomery Road to Tylersville. Turn left on Tylersville, go approximately 2-3 miles to Cox Road. Turn Right onto Cox Road, go approximately ¼ mile turn left into 7700 University Court.

Billing Issues

We often help families with all types of billing and insurance issues from other medical sources, and it has come to our attention that there have been problems with bills from our office. If you have any billing issues, please bring it to our attention so we may further investigate. The hospital does our billing; therefore, we may not know there is an issue.

All About Me!

Attached to this newsletter is a form called All About Me. This form was designed to identify your child's favorite things and comfort measures to provide better care during hospitalizations. The form will be posted at your child's bedside and utilized by all staff caring for your child.

Anytime your child is admitted, you will be asked to complete this form. Let us know if there is an area that is not included that may be helpful.