

## California Advocacy Network

for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

### Children with Medical Complexity

#### National Conference Invites Applications to Showcase Work on Complex Care

An opportunity to share innovative care models, tools, partnerships, research findings, or other information related to complex care is now available at the *Putting Care at the Center 2020* virtual conference, scheduled for October 27-28. Applications to present at the Virtual Beehive, the conference's semi-structured networking space, must be submitted by **September 4**. Among the topics for which entries are sought are pediatric complex care, family caregivers, and family engagement and preservation. [Find all the details and apply.](#)

#### Supporting New Research on Medical Complexity

Three "emerging investigators" have joined the Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs National Research Network (CYSHCN). Each investigator will receive a \$15,000 grant to fund a one-year study, and will be paired with an expert mentor from the Network and with one or more family leaders. [Read about their interests.](#)

### Telehealth

#### Seven Strategies for Conducting Services Virtually

As virtual visits ramp up during the pandemic, the National Institute for Children's Health Quality offers tips to help health and social service providers create successful sessions. [Read more.](#)

### CSHCN and Equity

#### Webinar: Increasing Inclusion of People with Lived Experiences

**Date** Wednesday, August 26  
**Time** 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time  
**Sponsor** National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs  
**Details** An opportunity to discuss how health and social service organizations can build and maintain authentic, mutually beneficial partnerships with individuals with lived experiences. [Read more and register.](#)

#### Two Archived Webinars Are Now Available:



#### Addressing Social Determinants of Health for CSHCN

Recordings from a recent two-part webinar series, [Making Connections: The Critical Role of Family-Centered Care in Addressing Social Determinants of Health for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(CYSHCN\)](#), are now available, along with slide decks, a resource list, and a question-and-answer document. The series was produced by the National Resource Center for Patient/Family-Centered Medical Home, in partnership with Bright Futures National Center and the Screening Technical Assistance and Resource Center. The goal was to provide information about the impact of social determinants of health on CSHCN and their families.

#### Measuring Health Equity

Children's Hospital of Minnesota developed a dashboard to track and display inequities in patient care. [Speakers](#) discussed using these types of data to develop quality improvement initiatives to address structural racism.

### COVID-19 Information

Our [COVID-19 web page](#) offers more information and resources.

#### Webinar: Engaging Patients with Complex Needs Amid COVID-19: Lessons from Provider Organizations

**Date** Monday, August 31  
**Time** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time  
**Sponsor** Center for Health Care Strategies  
**Details** During the pandemic, some health providers are actively trying to identify and connect with individuals at higher risk of severe illness from contracting COVID-19 or people with chronic conditions who are unable to access care. In this webinar, three organizations will detail how they are using population health management approaches to care for people with complex needs. One of the speakers directs a pediatric behavioral health services program. [Learn more and register.](#)

- [Back-to-School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers](#) – Resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [What the Coronavirus Means for IEPs This Year](#) – from *Disability Scoop*, August 17, 2020
- [As Schools Reopen, Addressing COVID-19-Related Trauma and Mental Health Issues Will Take More Than Mental Health Services](#) – Guidance from *Child Trends*, July 8, 2020
- [California Approves Onsite Instruction for Children with Disabilities](#) – A discussion among a physician, a parent of two children with special needs, and a special education teacher on *KQED's Forum*, August 18, 2020
- [Pandemic Pushes Parents of Kids with Special Needs to Breaking Point](#) – from the *California Health Report*, August 19, 2020
- [Amid Pandemic, Young Kids with Special Needs Missing Out on Needed Services](#) – from the *California Health Report*, August 11, 2020
- [Provider Relief Fund: A Lifeline to Medicaid and CHIP Providers](#) – A "Medicaid Policy Cheat Sheet," one in a series from the *Center for Health Care Strategies*, discusses whether recent infusions of financial support from the federal government are enough to shore up Medicaid and CHIP providers.

### California Children's Services

#### Study Assesses Medi-Cal Managed Care for California Children

Over the past several years, many California children have been moved from California Children's Services coverage into Medi-Cal Managed Care plans. A new study from Children Now sheds light on how managed care is working in general for the state's children. The study analyzes individual plans in each county on several key indicators. Though the selected indicators are not CSHCN specific, the report may be of interest for both California and other states using managed care organizations. Read a Georgetown Center [analysis of the study](#) and see the [study results](#) by county and plans.

### Special Education

- [Ed Department Accused of Diverting Funds from Students with Disabilities](#)  
*Disability Scoop*, 8/13/20
- [Children with Disabilities Are Regressing, How Much Is Distance Learning to Blame?](#)  
*LA Times*, 8/7/20
- [Special Education Students Are Not Just Falling Behind in the Pandemic – They're Losing Key Skills, Parents Say](#)  
*Washington Post*, 8/7/20

### Advocacy

#### Mother Promotes Bill to Include Family Caregivers Under Unemployment Benefits

Current law does not permit parents and certain other family caregivers employed by California's In-Home Supportive Services program to pay unemployment taxes and receive benefits when the need for caretaking ends. Non-family caregivers, however, are eligible for these benefits. A mother of a child with complex needs who cared for her son until his death is seeking support for [Assembly Bill 1993](#), which would extend coverage to all family caregivers. The bill currently is being heard in committee. Her hope is to extend this to federal legislation. [Read about the bill and how to support it.](#)

#### In Brief

- [Opinion: We're 20 Percent of America, and We're Still Invisible](#) – Judy Heumann and John Wodatch, who were instrumental in developing the Americans with Disabilities Act that was signed into law in 1990, offer their views on the current state of affairs.  
*NY Times*, 7/26/20

### National Policy

#### Time Running Out to Complete the Census – Important for CSHCN Services

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced that it will end all counting efforts for the 2020 census on September 30, a month sooner than previously planned. Advocates are concerned that the change will mean underrepresentation for designated hard-to-count populations, including individuals with disabilities. A lower count means less federal funding for the next decade for programs such as Medicaid, which is so important for CSHCN and their families. Read [Why the Census Matters for People with Disabilities](#).

#### Also See:

- [Trump Administration Rolls Back Important Health Care Protections for People with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions](#) – National Health Law Program, 8/6/20
- [Celebrating 55 Years of Medicaid at a Time When It's Needed Most](#) – Center for Health Care Strategies, 8/4/20

### Resource

- *Exceptional Parent Magazine* August Issue – [The Annual Healthcare Issue](#)

### In the News

- [Feds Fail to Track COVID-19 at Institutions](#)  
*Disability Scoop*, 8/10/20
- [Opinion: Kids with Special Needs Are Not OK Right Now. Neither Are Parents.](#)  
*Today*, 8/10/20
- [Coronavirus Forcing Occupational Therapy to Go Virtual](#)  
*Disability Scoop*, 7/21/20

#### We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at [Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org](mailto:Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org) with your news or updates.

The California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs is a collaborative organized by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Through grantmaking, advocacy, and communications, the Foundation promotes a system of care that improves the lives of children with special health care needs and their families.

