



Family Reflections:

*A Thought-Provoking Guide to
Getting Help for Children and
Youth with Special Needs*
Central Massachusetts Partnership, 2005

- Written by and for parents and professionals
- Unique format based on family stories offers a model for all families
- Designed to supplement traditional resource guides and directories
- Identifies community resources based on parents' specific concerns

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Central Massachusetts
Partnership for Children
and Youth with Special
Health Care Needs
C M P

c/o UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
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and Youth with Special
Health Care Needs



**Facilitating family-centered and
coordinated care through education,
awareness and partnership.**



Central Massachusetts Partnership for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CMP)

The Central Massachusetts Partnership brings parents and professionals together to improve systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs in our region.

Our mission is to facilitate family-centered and coordinated care for children through *education*, *awareness* and *community partnerships*.

Education

Through innovative programming and publications, CMP educates families, the medical community and community-based organizations about care systems for children with special health care needs.

Awareness

CMP activities increase public awareness about the benefits of adopting family-centered approaches to care.

Community Partnership

CMP builds partnerships among service providers, physicians and families in Central Massachusetts.

Membership

Our members are parents, advocates, researchers, physicians and other health care providers, representatives from community and state agencies, and education and social service providers.

Diversity of membership, flexibility of participation, respect and collaboration are among CMP's core values.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Children with special health care needs live with a broad range of chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions expected to last 12 months or more.

All require an accurate diagnosis and routine treatment and monitoring. Some also require life-sustaining technology, treatment and medicines throughout their lives. Most require coordination with community resources.

Nearly a quarter of a million of these children live in Massachusetts. Virtually all live at home with their families, no matter the severity of their condition.

Family-Centered Care

Family-centered care assures the health and well-being of children and their families through a respectful family-professional partnership. It honors the strengths, cultures, traditions and expertise that everyone brings to this relationship.

For Further Information

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Established within UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in Worcester, MA and supported by UMass Medical School, CMP is a regional affiliate of the Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

National 2010 goals for children with special health care needs

- 1** All children with special health care needs will receive coordinated, ongoing comprehensive care within a medical home.
- 2** All families of children with special health care needs will have adequate private and/or public insurance to pay for the services they need.
- 3** All children will be screened early and continuously for special health care needs.
- 4** Services for children with special health care needs and their families will be organized in ways that families can use them easily.
- 5** Families of children with special health care needs will partner in decision making at all levels, and will be satisfied with the services they receive.
- 6** All youth with special health care needs will receive the services necessary to make appropriate transitions to adult health care, work and independence.

Adapted from HealthyPeople2010.gov