2024 Complex Medical Help Program

The Meigs County Health Dept.'s (MCHD) Complex Medical Help (CMH) Program offers additional medical insurance and local service coordination by a public health nurse for those with eligible medical conditions and is funded, in part, by the Ohio Department of Health.

2024 was the first full year of fulltime coverage for the MCHD CMH Program. The MCHD CMH Program served 135 families with an average monthly caseload of 84 children in Meigs County in 2024. These families were eligible to receive personalized service coordination in addition to secondary health care coverage that may have included medications, copays, diagnostic procedures, physician visits, and even equipment that they may not have been able to afford otherwise.

The MCHD CMH Program also served 32 families in 2024 in collaboration with other agencies including Early Intervention, Integrated Services, Hopewell Health Centers, Meigs County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Rise, and FCFC (Family and Children's First Council), as well as area schools. Meigs County families benefit greatly from the collaboration of agencies within the FCFC Intersystem Committee. Within this grant funded program, each qualifying family receives monthly meetings with a collaborative service approach that includes all participating agencies. The service teams provide individualized and effective interventions resulting in successes such as introducing a sign language interpreter to a classroom, a first for Meigs County. Whatever the need, the monthly meetings help to highlight each family and open the door to resources to improve their daily life.

The CMH program underwent some progressive and noteworthy changes initiated at the State level in July 2024. Previously known as 'Children with Medical Handicaps' the Program has now transitioned to the 'Complex Medical Help' program to reflect the increase in age up to age 25 years. The reimbursement rate of public health nursing services was also increased from $10 to $12 per 15-minute increment of service. These changes reflect a thoughtful response to the needs of families and health departments.

The CMH Program is multifaceted with 3 main components. The Diagnostic program is a 6–9-month coverage that covers diagnostic testing, with medical eligibility being the only determinate (no income limit). These medically eligible families still benefit from the coverage of testing and studies that can sometimes be astronomical in cost in finding the appropriate diagnosis. The Treatment program is a more comprehensive coverage that is renewed annually and requires yearly financial and medical eligibility. Many local families benefit from this program for their medications, procedures, and equipment/supplies. Unlike Medicaid and other similar programs, CMH considers multiple factors in income including medical costs the family may have accrued. The Service Coordination program provides ongoing assistance with a service provider and local public health nurse; this program is not financially restrictive but is selective in diagnosis that qualify. Although

each program stands alone, many children join the program participating in all 3 simultaneously. All programs provide reimbursable public health nurse services, meaning personalized local service coordination.

The MCHD CMH Program strives to reach all eligible families in Meigs County to ensure proper medical care and service coordination needs for each child by developing community partners, and attending community meetings. As the CMH Nurse, I participated in events in 2024 such as the 'No Wrong Door' training, local health fairs, Southern's Community Connections Game Night, Prevention Day at the Meigs County Fair, and the Library Summer Program Kick-Off to bring awareness to the program to reach eligible families.

If you would like more information about the CMH program, please visit www.meigs-health.com or contact Angie Rosler BSN, RN by calling 740-992-6626 or via email at Angella.rosler@meigs-health.com.

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