



ALERT

MASSHEALTH REDETERMINATIONS

Beginning April 1, 2023, MassHealth will reinstitute their annual eligibility renewal process which was on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. The renewal process will last from mid-March 2023 to June 2024. Learn everything you need to know by accessing the MassHealth Eligibility Redetermination Outreach Toolkit at www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-eligibility-redetermination-outreach-toolkit.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

MassHealth will automatically process renewals by matching information with state and federal data. *If* a member's renewal cannot be automatically processed, they will receive a **blue envelope** in the mail with a renewal form to complete and return to MassHealth. Renew with your MA Login account, by phone, or by mail and fax.

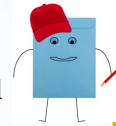
To complete online: Login to your MA Login account at www.mahix.org/individual

To complete by phone: Call (800) 841-2900

To submit by mail or fax: (Review the renewal form included in the packet. Make any updates as needed, date and sign, and then return to the MassHealth Insurance Processing Center by mail or fax.)

Do not ignore or discard the blue envelope. Respond to MassHealth before the deadline.

To speak directly with a MassHealth Customer Service Representative, call 800-841-2900 – Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



1000 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01109
(413) 782-2500
260 Westfield Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 534-3299
505 East Columbus Avenue
Springfield, MA 015
(413) 301-7390

Meet the Team...

Doritza Hernandez

My name is Doritza Hernandez and I have worked at MCS for 4 years as a Transition/ Adult Navigator. I aim to be the voice for individuals who cannot express their needs. What I love about my job is the people I work with and how everyone has the same passion and dedication to helping families and individuals. In my spare time, I love spending time with my family playing games, watching movies at the theater, and cooking new recipes.



I am married to my wonderful husband, Hector. We have been together for 18 years and married for one year. We have a big blended family with three girls, Marisabelle, Xayana, and Elianys, and three boys, Jordan, Anthony, and Hector Jr. We have a total of 4 super cute grandkids Amina, Ariyah, Elias, and Alejandro. We have one pet bird that has been named many names by my youngest.

CONGRATS!

We are thrilled to announce that Lillian Rodzen has been promoted to the Director of Holyoke Family Support. Lilly has worked at MCS for four years as a Family Support Navigator and the Family Support Center Coordinator. She is dedicated to the success of MCS programs, activities, the families and individuals we support and our great staff. Congratulations, Lilly!

SUCCESS

Medically Complex Respite Program

We are incredibly excited to announce that the Medically Complex Program (Family Bridges) offers a day respite service for individuals served through the program. Our goal is to be planful and well-prepared to provide a safe, secure, and enjoyable environment for participants. The program allows five participants to attend at a time with preference given to those who haven't attended yet. A Registered Nurse and two additional direct service professionals will be staffing the program. If you are part of the Family Bridges Program and are interested or need additional information, please contact your service navigator or Isabel Castro at 413-301-7390. Sessions are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on:



March 25th April 8th, 18th, 20th, 22nd
May 6th and 20th June 3rd and 17th

HIGHLIGHT

Joseph Grasty has spent his lifetime educating himself about auto racing. At age 2, Joseph accompanied his church family on an outing to Riverside Park Speedway, and by age 9 was fully engrossed in the history, culture, and progression of auto racing. Joseph has been to tracks all over the country, has driven a Race Car at 165 m.p.h., and rubbed elbows with the likes of Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and Bubba Wallace, to name a few. He uses his knowledge and keen communication skills to promote inclusion and diversity in the racing industry as a social media influencer. Joseph is going places....FAST!!!



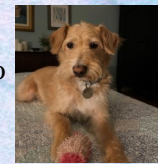
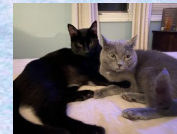
Visit our website at mcsnet.org

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MCSofthePioneerValley

Follow us on Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/multiculturalcommunityservices?igshid=18r72kajxju05>

Meet the Pets: *The DesRoberts Menagerie* Leslie DesRoberts is our Adult Program Manager and animal lover. She lives with **Rubi**, a mini golden-doodle who was her son Jim's support dog when he was dealing with major medical issues. **Gracie** is a domestic short hair cat who weighs only 5 pounds. She was rescued from a snowbank in the dead of winter by Leslie's son, Mike. She is the sweetest and most gentle tiny cat you've ever met. And then there's **Tuukka** (named after a former Bruins goalie). He is a 1 year old kitten who was the runt of the litter, but is now King of the DesRoberts household. Also known as the house wrecking panther, Tuukka keeps everyone on their toes.



Upcoming Trainings



SPRINGFIELD/WESTFIELD TRANSITION FORUM - Tuesday, April 11th, 5:30-7:30pm at the Basketball Hall of fame. Meet local providers, DDS staff, and state agencies.

To RSVP or for questions, contact Ashley Leven at ashley.leven@mass.gov



HOLYOKE/CHICOPEE TRANSITION RESOURCE FAIR: Unveiling The Future - Wednesday, May 3rd, 4:00—7:00 pm at Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road in Chicopee. A peek at what comes after High School.



DDS 101—DDS Presents a virtual training on topics including Eligibility, Transition, Self-Direction, Autism Supports, and Deaf Services (ASL Interpreters provided). Wednesday, May 3rd 6:30-8pm

Registration link: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejnda8cc82645209&llr=hjcuxexab&showPage=true>



Central West Assistive Technology Fair - Monday, April 24th, 2:00-6:00 at Mass Mutual Center

Registration link: [Central West AT Fair Participant Registration \(constantcontact.com\)](#)

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Luis Lopez, Shawn Marshall, Melanie DuFour and Luis Rodriguez.

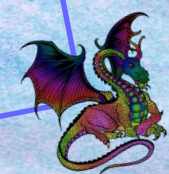
We wish their families and friends peace and comfort .

We Need YOU



Dungeons & Dragons

MCS is starting a new monthly Dungeons & Dragons Club and we are looking for members. For more information, please reach out to Aaron Smith at aaronsmith@mcsnet.org or call 534-3299, ext. 115.



Overnight Camp

MCS is offering overnight camp for individuals 18 years or older who enjoy being in groups and participating in activities. Please call your navigator for more information.



UCC Dances

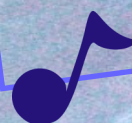
Holyoke MCS offers free dances at the United Congregational Church on Appleton Street in Holyoke for 16 year olds or older.

Upcoming dates:

March 31st—March to the Beat

May 19th—Glow Dance

6:30—8:30



Holyoke Theater Group

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR ALL ABILITIES

MCS Theater Group

Presents PETER PAN

The MCS Theater Group will be holding auditions for this year's performance of Peter Pan. Auditions will be held on April 4th & April 11th from 6pm-7:30pm at the MCS Holyoke office, 260 Westfield Road, Holyoke. We will also be looking to fill all backstage positions. If interested, please contact

Nikki at nicolene-to@mcsnet.org or 534-3299 ext. 112.

