Health Care Transition Preparation for Youth and Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs in Florida

**Step 1**
Provide age-appropriate counseling and transition materials to youth and family. Identify APD eligibility and education needs. See local 2-1-1 Helpline for other social services.

**Step 2**
Ensure Step 1. Assess transition readiness (TRAQ or other tool). Explore post-high school options; identify decision-making needs. Establish timeline for transfer to adult primary and subspecialty care.

**Step 3**
Ensure Steps 1 and 2. Identify insurance coverage, adult service and employment needs. Transfer to adult primary and subspecialty care.

- **Is patient 12-14 years?**
  - Yes: See handout on Medicaid Waiver programs. For patients with I/DD, APD does intake; send all patient documents to APD. Patient is put on waiting list for APD's iBudget (home and community-based waiver). Patient may come off waiting list if urgent or emergent.
  - No: Does patient have IEP? (Yes) Help identify health-related activities to support patient’s education plan. Contact Project 10 regional rep for assistance with transition IEP, starting at 14 years. Refer to Project 10 Resource Directory for local services/programs.

- **Is patient 15-17 years?**
  - Yes: Is patient eligible for VR? (Yes) Starting at age 15, send referral with patient information. VR sends information to correct geographic area for placement with VR counselor. Patient must be looking for work to receive services. Patient may be put on waiting list (handout).
  - No: Needs help with decision-making? (Yes) Assist with age of majority issues before patient’s 18th birthday (advance directive, levels of guardianship, voting, other legal needs). Refer youth/family to Florida Legal Services for legal aid. Refer patient to local Center for Independent Living for additional guidance. (handout)

- **Is patient 18-21 years?**
  - Yes: Discuss SSI/private and public insurance options with youth/family. Provide 411 Insurance Guide (or handout) and local contact information. Help find providers for patients; see Young Adult Health Services Directory. Call physician offices to see whether they will accept patient.

**Glossary:**
- **APD:** Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- **CMS:** Children's Medical Services, Department of Health
- **I/DD:** Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- **IEP:** Individual Educational Plan
- **TRAQ-5.0:** Transition Readiness Questionnaire 5.0 (or use other checklists)
- **VR:** Vocational Rehabilitation Program

*Handouts are available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole at www.FloridaHATS.org