

## HillsboroughHATS Presenter Tip Sheet

Thank you for helping to spread the word about HATS and the resources we offer! You can use this document to help you identify the most important points to discuss. It includes the basic information to communication to your audience; you may need to tailor your presentation to your specific audience. Please visit [www.floridahats.org](http://www.floridahats.org) to access the most up to date information on FloridaHATS and HillsboroughHATS and familiarize yourself with the wealth of resources available.

### Talking Points:

#### Why Transition?

The large number of youth with special health care needs moving from pediatric to adult health care is a relatively new phenomenon. Due to advances in medical care, we've seen dramatic increases in survival rates among these children, yet we do not have a system that adequately supports this population as they become adults. Some of the problems they face are finding adult physicians who are qualified and willing to provide care, difficulty accessing affordable health insurance, and inadequate preparation for health care self-management. Young people who don't receive age-appropriate and preventive care are more likely to experience disease complications, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, as well as development of secondary disabling conditions.

#### Mission

To ensure successful transition from pediatric to adult health care for all youth and young adults in Florida, including those with disabilities, chronic health conditions or other special health care needs.

#### History

HillsboroughHATS is one of 4 regional coalitions that together make up FloridaHATS. In 2008, the state of Florida passed a law requiring the development of a statewide Task Force to assess the need for health care transition services, develop strategies to ensure successful transition from pediatric to adult health care systems, and identify existing and potential funding sources. Under the leadership of the Florida Department of Health, and with support from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc., (FDDC), a diverse group of experts, agency representatives, advocates, families, and young adults with disabilities worked together on the Task Force which delivered its final Task Force Legislative Report to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives on December 30, 2008.

In 2009 the Task Force dissolved but workgroup members continued with strategic plan development based on findings and recommendations in the legislative report. The program was officially named Florida Health and Transition Services, or FloridaHATS and is charged with carrying out the strategic plan. The other regional coalitions are NE FloridaHATS and PanhandleHATS, and a 4th coalition is launching in Miami in 2014.

## Resources

In carrying out our Strategic Plan, we've developed a number of resources for clinicians, families and young adults to help smoothly transition from pediatric to adult healthcare. All materials may be found on the website [www.floridahats.org](http://www.floridahats.org).

Important resources to mention:

- **Florida Health Services Directory for Young Adults**, a web-based directory that is searchable by community, county, key word, and/or service category.
  - If you provide health related services for adults with disabilities or chronic health conditions anywhere in Florida, or know of providers that do, please contact a FloridaHATS representative [here](#) or submit the online [submission form](#) to add, update, or recommend a listing.
  - Hillsborough County residents also have the option of talking to a community representative about local services and resources. Youth adults with special health care needs, families, and providers are welcome to contact Joane White, Family Support Worker at (813) 396-9772 or [Joane.white@flhealth.gov](mailto:Joane.white@flhealth.gov). Note: Ms. White's contact information is provided on the Services Directory Postcards, which you should bring with you and hand out.
- **Health Care Transition Training Program for Professionals**, an online training curriculum that provides up to 4 free CME/CE credits to physicians, nurses, and allied professionals; appropriate for all practitioners and support staff.
- Interactive **Transition Tool Kit**, plus many other downloadable tools, including developmental check lists and care plans; medical summary forms; information on guardianship SSI, employment and independent living; and guidance on integrating health care transition activities into school Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Basic Materials to bring with you:

- **FloridaHATS Brochure** available in Spanish, and Creole
- **10 Steps to Successful Health Care Transition**, a short guide available in Spanish/English and Creole/English
- **HillsboroughHATS Post Cards**
- **Just The Facts: The 411 on Health Insurance for Young Adults Ages 18-30 in Florida** is designed to help all young adults - including those with chronic health conditions or disabilities - identify, access, and maintain health insurance coverage that meets their needs. The most recent version (July 2011) contains early provisions from the federal Affordable Care Act of 2010; the guide will be updated in 2014.
- **HillsboroughHATS Coalition Fact Sheet**

**Banner** - A retractable FloridaHATS promotional banner can sit on the floor or table top, and we encourage you to use when exhibiting at events or conferences. The banner is 31.5 " wide and expands from 27" to 79" tall.

All materials and the banner are available by contacting Janet Hess at (813) 259-8604 or [jhess@health.usf.edu](mailto:jhess@health.usf.edu). If you would like more information about representing HillsboroughHATS, please contact Marybeth Dunn at 727-272-5251 or [marybeth@psrflorida.org](mailto:marybeth@psrflorida.org).