



October 12, 2011

Dear Colleague:

I'm writing to introduce you to HillsboroughHATS (**H**ealth **A**nd **T**ransition **S**ervices). We're a regional affiliate of FloridaHATS, a collaborative program of the Florida Department of Health/Children's Medical Services, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, and other partners throughout the state.

Our mission is to ensure successful transition from pediatric to adult health care for all youth and young adults in Hillsborough County, including those with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Enclosed are a program brochure and handout for youth and families entitled "10 Steps to Successful Health Care Transition." **Please share this important information with your nursing staff.**

You'll find a rich repository of transition-related resources, for both patients and health care providers, at www.FloridaHATS.org, such as:

- *Health Services Directory for Young Adults*, a web-based directory that is searchable by location or service. Hillsborough County residents also have the option of talking to a community representative about local services and resources. Youth with special health care needs, families, and providers are welcome to contact Joane White, Family Support Worker at (813) 396-9772 or joane_white@doh.state.fl.us.
- *Just the Facts: The 411 on Health Insurance for Young Adults Ages 18-30 in Florida* helps young adults with and without disabilities decide which health care coverage options might work best for their particular needs. The guide is updated regularly to reflect state and federal guidelines, and is available online in Spanish and Creole.
- *Health Care Transition Training Program for Professionals*, an online training curriculum that provides up to 4 free CME/CE credits to health care providers. The training module is offered through the Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at www.aheceducation.com.
- Downloadable tools, including clinical guidelines, developmental check lists and care plans, medical summary forms, information on guardianship, guidance on integrating health care transition activities into school Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and many other educational materials.

If you'd like additional copies for your practice, or want to learn more about HillsboroughHATS and FloridaHATS, please contact Janet Hess, Project Director, at jhess@health.usf.edu or (813) 259-8604.

Thank you so much for the great care you provide to patients in Tampa Bay!

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn", with a large loop at the end.

Lynn Ringenberg, MD
Co-Chair HillsboroughHATS Services Workgroup