

## Hillsborough HATS Workgroup Update

### *Services and Cross-System Relationship-Building*

This workgroup is charged with 2 main objectives:

1. Identify all potential health care and support service resources related to transition and assets that serve young adults with disabilities or health care needs as a first priority.
2. Develop a method to enhance communication between pediatric and adult care providers.

The workgroup has held 3 teleconference calls to work on the objectives:

- Members are coordinating efforts to get the word out to Hillsborough County providers about youth with special health care needs (YSHCN) and to inform them of the resources available through HillsboroughHATS. The primary target is adult providers who can care for transitioned kids. The workgroup plans to educate the providers by mail, electronic communication, and personally delivering HATS materials. A detailed material dissemination plan is currently in development.
- Three physician members of the group attended the first Florida Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) for Health Care Transition Meeting in January. A second meeting is scheduled for May 21. MAC is comprised of approximately 30 health care providers from throughout the state. The MAC provides guidance in identifying best practices, establishing quality of care guidelines, implementing medical education and training, developing service networks that span pediatric and adult systems, and advocating for public policy that supports effective health care transition.
- On February 8, members of the workgroup tabled at the Hillsborough County Medical Association dinner and handed out FloridaHATS materials to the physician attendees. They also had an article published in the HCMA Bulletin titled *Transitioning Youth from Pediatric to Adult Health Care... Tools for Success*.
- On April 14, Dr. Diane Straub, Adolescent Division Chief, USF Peds, and Janet Hess, FloridaHATS Project Director, presented "Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care: Research, Practice and Policy" at St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatric Grand Rounds. The event was open to the public and approximately 35 people were in attendance.
- On April 12, Janet Hess and Dr. Lynn Ringenberg presented to approximately 50 nursing students at the University of Tampa.
- Upcoming meetings/presentations include All Children's Hospital, Pediatric Healthcare Alliance, Springfield College, University Community Hospital, and Baycare Health System. Dr. Judy Rosenberg is exploring venues to reach more ARNPs and other nurses.
- USF has applied for a \$20,000 grant from the American Board of Internal Medicine to provide transition support for selected adult PCPs in Hillsborough County. Award winners will be notified in June.
- Several members have met with the Tampa Family Health Centers to discuss better utilizing the FQHCs as a medical home for less complex transitioning young adults.

### ***Community-Based Education and Advocacy***

This workgroup has 3 main objectives.

1. Identify gaps in health transition education tools for providers and patient families prior to providing a comprehensive education plan.
2. Determine appropriate mentor/advocate model for transition services in Hillsborough County.
3. Engage representatives from stakeholders in the transition process.

Activities include:

- As an addition to the tools already developed by FloridaHATS, the workgroup suggested a checklist be developed that would remind the provider to address specific issues during each visit. They are working on adapting a timeline document that highlights points in time when youth/families may need additional transition support and guidance.
- To make it easier for providers and families to obtain information on local transition services, the workgroup printed and is disseminating postcards with contact information for Joane White, Family Support Worker at Children's Medical Services. Ms White will be available to help direct families and providers to resources in Hillsborough County that support transition from pediatric to adult health care. The postcards also have a link to the *Health Services Directory for Young Adults*.
- Transition information will be included in the Shriner's handout entitled *Preparing for Your IEP Meeting*. Shriner's also presented at the Hillsborough Pediatric Association; while HillsboroughHATS wasn't the focus of the presentation, they distributed HATS brochures.
- On February 10, workgroup members represented HillsboroughHATS at the KIDS Evening Transition Community Fair hosted by Hillsborough Public Schools.
- CMS is mailing the FloridaHATS brochure and HillsboroughHATS postcard to CMS providers through the CMS provider liaison.
- HillsboroughHATS and FloridaHATS were added to the local 2-1-1 directory, [www.211atyourfingertips.org](http://www.211atyourfingertips.org). **2-1-1 staff also will help direct callers to the *Health Services Directory for Young Adults*.**
- The workgroup plans to attend more events in the coming year, so if you know of any events or outreach opportunities, please let Marybeth Palmigiano know. An outreach plan is in development, which includes putting together a Speakers Bureau. The group is requesting that agencies and providers identify staff who would be willing attend events and speak on behalf of HillsboroughHATS. The Community workgroup will conduct an educational session to help the representatives learn more about HATS and feel comfortable talking about the available resources.

### ***Financing and Public Policy***

- Hillsborough County Children's Board adopted health care transition as a legislative priority for 2011.
- An op-ed article entitled "Helping Miracle Babies Step into Adulthood" (submitted by Janet Hess) ran in the April 4 issue of the *Tampa Tribune*.

### ***School-Based Education & Training***

- Workgroup members presented about HillsboroughHATS to Project Connect.
- The statewide web-based educator training module is almost complete, and will be available to all Hillsborough County secondary teachers, administrators and transition support staff for up to 6 hours of in-service credit. The training was piloted in Sarasota in April, and was very well received.
- The health care transition classroom curriculum has been submitted to the C-Palms database – the Florida Department of Education's web-based directory of courses- and is expected to be available to Hillsborough County educators (and all other districts) in May. See [www.floridastandards.org/homepage/index.aspx](http://www.floridastandards.org/homepage/index.aspx)