

Hillsborough HATS
Financing and Public Policy Workgroup Conference Call
Wednesday Jan 26th 4:00 – 5:00

On the call: Janet Hess, Peter Gorski, Danny Plasencia, Cheryl Reed, Marybeth Palmigiano

Janet Hess opened the call at 4:05pm.

Legislation:

Senate Bill 566 has been introduced in the Florida Legislature by Senator Stephen Wise from Jacksonville. It would allow CMS to provide care coordination and follow-up to kids up to 26 years old, and will formalize FloridaHATS as a CMS program.

We still need a sponsor from the House, and have until Friday, Jan 28th to secure one. Dr. Plasencia will contact some local people he knows to try to get a sponsor. Ms. Hess is working on it as well; she will contact Reps. Reed and Schenk. It was suggested that Ed Homan be contacted, however he seems to be distancing himself from the legislative process. He's offered some advice but has not committed to help. John Curran was also mentioned, but workgroup members were uncertain about his potential level of involvement. Dr. Gorski suggested Ms. Hess to contact Dana Birchfield, a legislative executive at Nemours in Jacksonville, to ask for guidance.

There has been concurrent discussion about folding transition services into the Department of Health reorganization bill. Dr. David Wood is looking into how that might work.

Medical Advisory Committee:

Ms. Hess updated the group on the Medical Advisory Committee.

Ms. Hess, Drs. Plasencia, Schnapf and Ringenberg (from the Services work group) attended the first Florida Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) for Health Care Transition Meeting. MAC is comprised of approximately 25 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.

The meeting was very energetic, there was very good discussion and enthusiasm and sharing of ideas. There is a lot of potential for collaboration between Florida Pediatric Society and Florida Medical Association. Subcommittees were created, including one on legislation and advocacy and one on education and training. Janet posted the meeting minutes on the HATS website www.floridahats.org under Medical Advisory Committee. Please review when you can.

Operating Budget

The operating budget runs through June, 2011. Half the money comes from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) and half from CMS. At that time, we will no longer receive funds from FDDC because it is the end of their 3 year grant cycle. While we expect continued funding from CMS, we will have to wait to see what happens in this legislative session with regard to the CMS budget.

Dr. Plasencia may be making a presentation to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid about the St. Joseph's Clinic for Chronic Complex Patients, which would provide some visibility about transition issues. He has developed a presentation showing the cost savings by managing care in a medical home. Ms. Hess will share an earlier presentation of his with the group.

Dr. Gorski pointed out an article that was in *The New Yorker* which gives examples of cost saving models by providing better care to the neediest people. The neediest people were determined using mapping technology (see www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/01/24/110124fa_fact_gawande). Perhaps we could look into doing something similar with the local health department.

Communication

Dr. Reed suggested that we need to provide education to make patients and clinicians aware of available transition services. This is an important issue which we are trying to address in other workgroups. Ms. Hess mentioned the new role that Joane White will play in triaging/directing both consumers and providers to appropriate health care transition resources (e.g., web site service directory, insurance guide, educational materials, etc.)

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next meeting TBA