

# HillsboroughHATS (Health and Transition Services) Coalition Fact Sheet

## Vision:

The HillsboroughHATS Coalition works toward improving the transition process for youth and young adults with chronic-complex health care needs in the 21st century. Through enhanced patient and family-centered goals, the Coalition will work to support a continuum of care, while improving accessibility throughout the patients' life span. With the use of education and training, adequate funding, and advanced technology, it is our goal to enhance the patients' and families' quality of life for many years to come.

## Who:

HillsboroughHATS members represent youth and young adults with disabilities or chronic health conditions, families, pediatric and adult-oriented providers across multiple systems, funders, and other stakeholders in Hillsborough County.

## Why:

Young people with special health care needs experience many difficulties as they age out of pediatric health care. Problems may include finding adult physicians who are qualified and willing to provide care, difficulty accessing affordable health insurance, and not adequately preparing youth to manage their own health care. Without age-appropriate and preventive care, young people are more likely to experience disease complications, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and development of secondary disabling conditions – all factors that impact quality of life and ability to work.

## What:

In 2010, the Coalition participated in a strategic planning process to identify issues and barriers in Hillsborough County, set priorities, and develop an action plan that compliments the "Florida Strategic Plan for Health Care Transition." Several workgroups were identified, with members addressing specific action plan objectives and activities. The Coalition invites anyone interested in health care transition to join HillsboroughHATS. Your help is appreciated!

To see the community action plan and workgroups, go to [www.FloridaHATS.org](http://www.FloridaHATS.org), then Regional Coalitions, then HillsboroughHATS.

## Contact:

For information about the Coalition, contact Marybeth Palmigiano, 727-272-5251 [marybeth@psrflorida.org](mailto:marybeth@psrflorida.org). For assistance in finding resources for transitioning youth and young adults, visit our web-based *Health Services Directory for Young Adults* or contact Joane White, HillsboroughHATS Family Support Worker, (813) 396-9772, [joane\\_white@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:joane_white@doh.state.fl.us).

