“My Health Care” Focus Group on May 5, 4-6 PM

Please plan to attend a special meeting on Wednesday, May 5, from 4 – 6 PM at Shriner’s Hospitals for Children at USF. Providers and family members who care for people with developmental disabilities (DD) will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about how adults (ages 18+) with DD can become more empowered and responsible for their own health care. The project, entitled “My Health Care,” is sponsored by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. Your feedback will help FDDC develop an education and training program in which self-advocates play a key role in helping other adults with DD increase health care self-management skills.

HillsboroughHATS members are encouraged to attend, and to invite other providers and families with an interest in DD to join us.

Please RSVP to Marybeth Palmigiano, (978) 376-9985 or marybeth@psrtampabay.org.

Display Poster Available

Tabling at an event?

We have a new display poster that can be used at events and presentations throughout the community. The full color poster describes FloridaHATS and its activities, and lists a variety of products and resources that are available. It is 40” wide by 30” tall and is available for both consumer and provider outreach activities by contacting Janet Hess, jhess@health.usf.edu or (813) 259-8604.

Upcoming Event – April 14

Join us for a Grand Rounds Presentation entitled “Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care: Research, Practice and Policy.” Diane Straub, MD, MPH, Adolescent Division Chief, USF Peds, and Janet Hess, MPH, FloridaHATS Project Director, will speak on Thursday, April 14, 2011, from 7:30 - 8:30 AM at St. Joseph’s Hospital, Medical Arts Building (Rooms 3 & 4).

The presentation is open to the public.

Health Services Directory for Young Adults

Are you listed?

The Health Services Directory for Young Adults is an extensive resource that lists health care programs and providers throughout the state who serve young adults, including those with disabilities or chronic health conditions. This user-friendly database is searchable by county, city, and type of service. If you’re a provider, please take a few minutes to review the directory and make sure you’re listed correctly, with as much detail as possible regarding the services you provide. You can add your program or update your listing right on the website. We encourage everyone to review the directory and recommend providers you know who serve young adults with special health care needs. Recommendations can be sent to Dawn Smith at dsmith2@health.usf.edu, (813) 259-8713.

Access the directory at www.FloridaHATS.org.
**Assistance with Health Care Transition Now Offered!**

Joane White, Family Support Worker at Children’s Medical Services, is available to help direct families and providers to resources in Hillsborough County that support transition from pediatric to adult health care. Printed postcards with Ms. White’s contact information and a link to *the Health Services Directory for Young Adults* are available by contacting Janet Hess, jhess@health.usf.edu, (813) 259-8604, or Julie Perez, julie_perez@doh.state.fl.us, (813) 396-9799.

We encourage you to distribute them widely along with other FloridaHATS materials!

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**HillsboroughHATS listed in [www.211AtYourFingertips.org](http://www.211AtYourFingertips.org)**

For those who aren’t familiar with 2-1-1, it’s a clearinghouse of information for local health and human service programs. By simply dialing the three digit 2-1-1 number, consumers can access community information and referral services 24/7.

Calling 2-1-1 connects people with trained and supportive professionals who help identify needs, problem-solve with callers to identify solutions, and guide families to the appropriate service using their comprehensive, up-to-date database of local human service resources. In addition to assisting callers, Hillsborough County’s 2-1-1 program – administered by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay - provides comprehensive human service directories in both print and electronic formats.

Hillsborough County’s free searchable online directory is located at [www.211AtYourFingertips.org](http://www.211AtYourFingertips.org). Links to this website and other community 2-1-1 directories throughout the state can be found at [http://211florida.org](http://211florida.org).