

# HillsboroughHATS

Happenings

Fall 2011

## Outreach to Adult Primary Care Providers

***Increasing the cadre of adult providers for youth with special health care needs***



Over 250 adult care providers were sent a letter of introduction to HillsboroughHATS along with the 411

Insurance Guide, 10 Steps to Successful Health Care Transition, HillsboroughHATS post card, and FloridaHATS program brochure.

The letter, signed by Dr. Lynn Ringenberg, HillsboroughHATS Services Workgroup Co-Chair, describes the mission of HillsboroughHATS and the many resources available to ensure a successful transition from pediatric to adult health care. The [letter](#) is posted on the [Coalition](#) web page.

We hope this effort will increase the number of adult providers who are qualified and willing to provide care to youth with special health care needs. Studies show that young people who don't receive age-appropriate and preventive care are more likely to experience disease complications, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, as well as development of secondary disabling conditions.

## New Health Services Resource for Young Adults

***Comprehensive list of adult primary care physicians in Hillsborough County***

The *Health Services Directory for Young Adults* is a web-based directory that is searchable by community, county, key word, and/or service category. The providers listed have self selected to be included in the directory and are committed to serving young adults, including those with disabilities or chronic health conditions.

We've recently added a comprehensive list of primary care physicians in Hillsborough County. The providers were culled from a variety of sources including the internet, local insurers, and the Hillsborough County Medical Association.

It is important to note that not all of the providers may be willing to open their practice to care for young adults with complex health conditions or disabilities, or are knowledgeable about particular medical conditions. The list is provided as an additional resource for patients who are having difficulty finding a primary care provider. Prospective providers may take patients on a case by case basis. The supplemental list can be found under "Related Service Directories" on the [Health Services Directory](#) web page.

## Community Awareness and Education

HillsboroughHATS Coalition members have been busy over the last few months helping to spread the word about HATS and the many resources we have available.

Members represented the coalition and FloridaHATS at a number of back to school events, and we've submitted articles to the newsletters of local hospitals. Dr. Bob Buzzeo and Janet Hess recently presented to a group of pediatricians at Florida Hospital Tampa (formerly University Community Hospital). Ms. Hess and Susan Redmon, from Children's Medical Services state office, also held a webinar for staff of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) throughout the state. FQHCs are primary care facilities that serve all residents, including those covered by Medicaid or with no insurance. Locally, the Tampa Family Health Centers and Suncoast Community Health Centers are designated FQHCs.

To make it easier to represent HillsboroughHATS in the community, we developed a [Presenter Tip Sheet](#). It's posted on the [Coalition](#) web page, and includes the basic information to relay to your audience: background on FloridaHATS, available resources, and a list of materials to bring to the event.

Please contact [Marybeth Palmigiano](#), if you hear of any upcoming Transition or Youth Resource Fairs, or any other event you feel would be appropriate for HillsboroughHATS to attend. We'll add it to our [Events Calendar](#).

### Upcoming Webinar: FloridaHATS 2011 Report

***Review FloridaHATS activities in 2011 and look forward to 2012***

You'll see the latest FloridaHATS materials and learn about developments in health care transition at the national, state and local levels - including proposed state legislation for the 2012 session.

**Thursday, December 8, 2011  
12:00 – 1:00 PM EST**

**Space is limited.**

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/467742120>

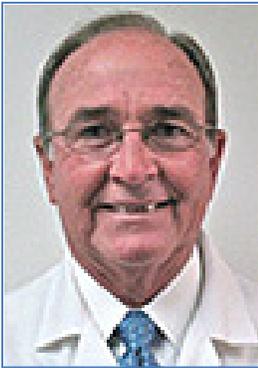
### Other New Resources

Thanks to Martha Kronk (Shriners Hospitals) and Freddy Valadez (Project 10) for their help in developing two school-related tip sheets for students with disabilities and their families:

- [Advocating for Yourself in School](#) (tips for middle and high school students)
- [Preparing for IEP Meetings](#) (10 steps for parents to prepare for IEP meetings)
- Both documents are posted on the [Coalition](#) web page.

Also, check out the website for the National Center for Health Care Transition - Got Transition? – at [www.GotTransition.org](http://www.GotTransition.org). It provides the most recent information about what's going on nationally concerning health care transition.

## Daniel J. Plasencia, MD, Recipient of the 2011 American Academy of Pediatrics Local Heroes Award



***Each year the American Academy of Pediatrics awards the Local Heroes Award to a community pediatrician who:***

- promotes the health of all children within the context of the family, school, and community;
- works to address the social determinants that impact the health of children;
- uses community resources to achieve optimal accessibility, appropriateness, and quality of services for all children;

This year our own Dr. Daniel Plasencia was honored for his work in opening the Chronic Complex Clinic at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa. The clinic provides family-centered, culturally-competent and coordinated care for children with special needs and chronic medical illnesses. Dr. Plasencia is an expert advocate for reimbursement and payment for high quality coordinated care at the state and federal level. He was nominated for the award by the mother of one of his patients.

We're proud and fortunate to have Dr. Plasencia as a leader in HillsboroughHATS. Please join us in congratulating him for his hard work and dedication to his patients.

***Congratulations Dr. Plasencia!***