

HillsboroughHATS

www.floridahats.org

Happenings

Fall 2012

Family and Youth-Centered Education

Encouraging families and youth to begin transition planning early

HillsboroughHATS currently is focusing its educational efforts on **families** of youth with special health care needs. Parents need to be educated about the importance of starting transition planning early, with the goal of empowering youth and young adults to become better advocates for their own health care.

Research has demonstrated that improved communication between patients and health care providers leads to improved health outcomes. One strategy for improved communication is for parents and youth to ask their pediatrician specifically about **transfer of care** to adult providers. The idea stems from The National Patient Safety Foundation “Ask Me 3” campaign (see www.npsf.org/for-healthcare-professionals/programs/ask-me-3).

Parents and teens are encouraged to ask their pediatric provider 3 questions pertaining to transition:

- 1) At what age should my child (or I) transfer to adult primary and specialty care providers?**
- 2) Can you help us identify appropriate providers?**
- 3) Can you talk to the new providers and provide a transfer summary?**

We think this approach will prompt pediatricians to take concrete steps in making the linkage to adult providers, providing a more coordinated transition to the adult care system.

Please share the strategy with your families!

Partnering with Community Agencies to Better Serve Young People

Welcome to Our New Partners!

Representatives from several community organizations were invited to our June coalition meeting to discuss ideas on how we can work together to assist kids and families begin the transition process earlier, and to prepare youth for the responsibility of managing their care.

New partners that attended the meeting include: Agency for Persons with Disabilities, All People’s Life Center, Bakas “Horses for Handicapped” Program, FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic Learning and Resources System), FL Kid Care, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Hillsborough County School Health Services, Self Reliance and Special Olympics.

At the meeting, there was strong consensus among participants about the need for parent and youth education on how to be an advocate for you or your child’s health care needs.

HillsboroughHATS looks forward to working with these new community partners in developing a parent and youth-focused education campaign. Their perspectives and experiences with families and teens will help us better understand the specific obstacles parents face when trying to advocate for their children. Working together we can create more effective outreach strategies and messaging to ensure we are providing the best tools for parents and youth.

Upcoming Community Events and Educational Opportunities

***Please include HATS materials along with your agency materials
at the next event you attend!***

We encourage all HillsboroughHATS Coalition partners to help spread the word about HHATS and the many health care transition resources that are available. You can do that by making HATS materials available to your clients, bringing materials with you to community events, and directing folks to the FloridaHATS web site.

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

Please contact [Marybeth Palmigiano](mailto:Marybeth@psrflorida.org) (727-272-5251, Marybeth@psrflorida.org) and let her know your materials needs. Also let her know about 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](#). By working together, we can help families and youth become better prepared for adulthood!

Upcoming and Recent Events

On Thursday December 6, Joane White will attend the Hillsborough County Resource Exchange on behalf of HHATS. For more information about the Exchange, visit www.healthystartcoalition.org.

Dr. Plasencia and staff from the Chronic Complex Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital represented HHATS at the November 15th FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic Learning and Resources System) Transition Parent Information Session. For information about future FDLRS sessions, visit www.FDLRS.org.



There will be a presentation about HillsboroughHATS to the Hillsborough County School District ESE Parent Liaisons (FDLRS Parent Services Project) on January 10, 2013.

Diane Straub, John McCormack and Janet Hess presented about FloridaHATS at Grand Rounds for USF Internal Medicine on September 27. Roughly 40 adult physicians and residents attended the presentation.

Janet Hess, David Wood (Jacksonville), and John Reiss (Gainesville) presented at a national conference in Houston on October 17. Their presentation at the 13th Chronic Illness and Disability Conference was entitled "Building a State Health Care Transition Plan: The Florida Experience."

FloridaHATS is featured in "Transitions of Care for Individuals with ID/DD," part of a webinar series entitled *Physician Education in Developmental Disabilities*. The free, 12 credit-hour series for physicians can be accessed at <http://aadmd.org/page/pedd-webinar-series>.

PARTNER Survey

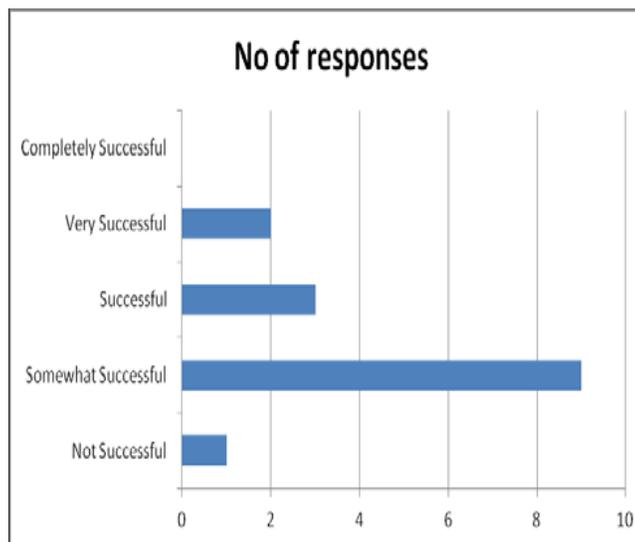
(Program to Analyze, Record and Track Networks to Enhance Relationships)

Earlier this year, a PARTNER Survey was conducted to examine FloridaHATS' experience with engaging multi-system partners in community-based health care transition collaboratives. The survey assessed the perceived value, quality of relationships, and outcomes in the three pilot coalitions in Hillsborough County, Northeast Florida, and the Panhandle area.

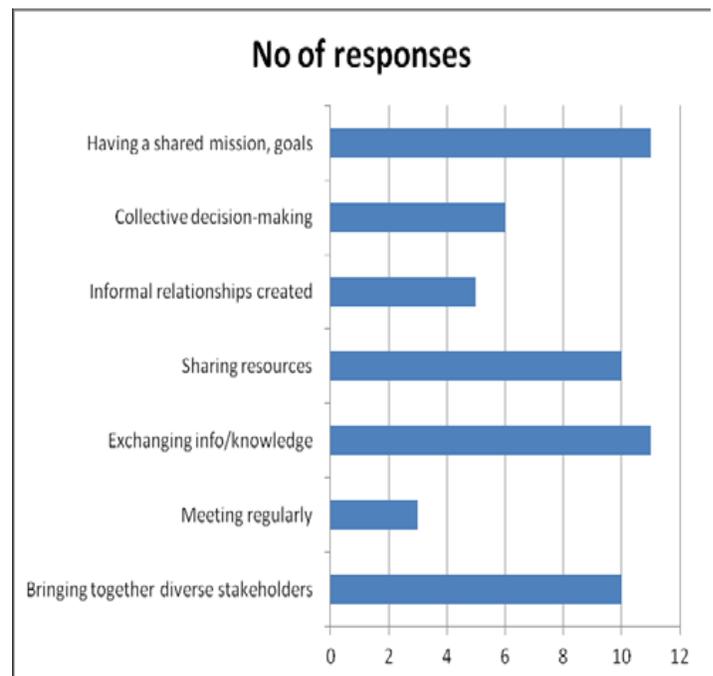
HillsboroughHATS had a high response rate and performed fairly well in most categories. In the degree to which members trust one another, the coalition scored **82.4%**. As you can see from the graphs below, most respondents felt that we have been at least somewhat successful in achieving our goals and that there have been a number of aspects of collaboration which contributed to this success. The complete [Coalition Evaluation](#) is available at floridahats.org.

The survey was completed prior to the June meeting, so doesn't reflect additional community linkages that were generated at that meeting. It does emphasize, however, that trust and collaboration are key to achieving goals. With this in mind, we will continue our efforts to work jointly with community agencies to better serve young people with special health care needs and their families.

How successful has HillsboroughHATS been in achieving its goals?



What aspects of collaboration contribute to this success?



Be sure to visit [What's New?](#) on FloridaHATS.org to find out about new resources, materials, presentations and other happenings statewide!