



◇ *Healthcare Transition for Youth with Special Needs - Beyond the Front Lines*

Since 2006, Northeast Florida physicians have referred youth and young adults with special health care needs to the Jacksonville Health and Transition Services (JaxHATS) Program <http://jaxhats.ufl.edu> - a national model of how to ensure that youth with special health care needs are able to transition from pediatric to adult health care. The JaxHATS clinic (a Children's Medical Services program in collaboration with the University of Florida) is a medical home for youth, ages 16-26 with chronic medical or developmental problems in the counties of Duval, Nassau, Baker, Clay, and St. Johns. JaxHATS has a multi-disciplinary staff that includes a pediatrician, adult internal medicine specialist, nurse care coordinators and a transition specialist who provide primary medical care to address the young person's immediate medical needs. The JaxHATS team also works with youth over time, to help them gain the knowledge and skills they need to achieve their long term life goals.

Work at the legislative advocacy level has also been ongoing for the last few years to make this vision a reality across the State. Florida Health and Transition Services, or "FloridaHATS" <http://www.floridahats.org> and the local group - "JacksonvilleHATS" are working to put into operation recommendations outlined in *Ensuring Successful Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care*. This 2009 report (the implementation of Senate Bill 988) was the work of a legislatively mandated Task Force from which evolved the current "HATS" working groups.

The Coalition invites anyone interested in health care transition to join **JacksonvilleHATS**.

For more information, contact:

- Carol Shutters (904) 360-7070, ext 296
Carol_Shutters@doh.state.fl.us
- David Wood, MD, MPH (904) 244-9233
David.Wood@jax.ufl.edu.

JacksonvilleHATS 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 Duval and surrounding counties. The coalition is working to mobilize caseworkers, Pediatricians, and adult physicians and to raise awareness about the JaxHATS clinic and the need for transitional assistance beginning at age twelve.

~ To see the community action plan and workgroups, go to ~
http://www.floridahats.org/?page_id=602

Partnership for Child Health is working to support a focused, effective approach to addressing important child health issues in Northeast Florida by providing a venue where child health leadership and stakeholders can come together to coordinate resources to meet the community's needs. Partnership for Child Health is the "dba" name for Managed Access to Child Health, Inc., a non-profit 501C3) organization.
