



## PanhandleHATS (*Health and Transition Services*) Coalition Fact Sheet

### **Vision:**

To assure continuity of health care in order to provide a seamless transition from pediatric to adult life in the Florida Panhandle, with a primary focus on those with disabilities or special health care needs.

### **Mission:**

Creating successful partnerships at the family, community, state, and federal levels to remove current barriers for a seamless transition from pediatric to adult-based health care in Florida's Panhandle region, with a primary focus on those with disabilities or special health care needs.

### **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 the Panhandle area, set priorities, and develop an action plan that compliments the "Florida Strategic Plan for Health Care Transition." The Coalition invites anyone in health care transition to join PanhandleHATS. 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 PanhandleHATS.

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