



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

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Health Care Transition

Successful health care transition is an important part of including young people in the community. Children with developmental disabilities can benefit from a health transition that addresses all the interconnecting tasks that are required to successfully navigate to adulthood. Medical needs have to be considered as part of finishing school and moving into the workforce or into higher education. Medical services are also required as part of moving into independent living settings and participating in the community as an adult.

The life expectancy for children with serious childhood illnesses has more than tripled with the advances in medicine. Individuals with developmental disabilities may require the knowledge and equipment accessed by children well into their adult years.

The Problem:

- 134,614 adolescents and young adults living in Florida have chronic medical or developmental problems as well as special needs in education.
- Many of these young people lose some or all of their insurance and their pediatrician when they turn 18-22 (age-out).
- Few adult providers take patients that are uninsured or on Medicaid.
- Many adult medical providers are not trained to take care of chronic diseases originating in childhood such as cerebral palsy (CP), spina bifida or rare genetic diseases.
- Little or no coordination of services exists in the adult system of care for this population.
- The lack of services causes their health to deteriorate, prevents them from reaching their educational and vocational goals and may prevent them from being independent and self-sufficient adults.

Transition Services:

- Comprehensive assessment of health needs, educational/vocational status and needs, and health insurance status.
- Coordination with other community organizations to develop a transition plan that includes adult health services, education, habilitative services, independent living, employment and health insurance.
- Primary care in a Medical Home setting with coordinated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary services, focused on engaging adult health care providers in the treatment of the youth.
- Provides a multidisciplinary research program that will improve and replicate the health and transition services program statewide and will establish Standards of Excellence in the field of transition.

