

MCHCOM.COM Webcast for State MCH and CSHCN Directors
June 9, 2005
2-3 PM EDT

Topic

Transition to Adulthood: The OUTCOME of ALL Outcomes

Presentation Summary

This MCHCOM.COM Webcast for State MCH and CSHCN Directors will feature the six **Healthy & Ready to Work Phase II Projects**, funded in 2001 as models because of their being located in or having a strong working relationship with their State Title V Programs. Representatives of these programs—in Arizona, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, and Wisconsin—and the National Healthy & Ready to Work Center will discuss their experiences and critical transition issues.

Background

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Healthy & Ready to Work (HRTW) Initiative works with youth with special health needs and their families to provide the services necessary to make successful transitions to all aspects of adult life, including adult health care, work, and independence. The optimal goal of health care transition is to provide health care that is family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally competent in a health care system that is as developmentally appropriate as it is technically sophisticated.

Due to improved health care, technology, and coordination of care, children and youth with special health care needs are living longer. As they enter adulthood, youth with special health care needs and their families worry about finding knowledgeable adult health care, paying for it, their ability to obtain and keep a job and to live independently. In these times of dwindling resources and increasing demands, how are systems providing services to prepare youth to maintain wellness, advocate for their needs, transition to adult health care with funding, and be independent and productive citizens, healthy and ready to work? To meet these challenges, systems must change at national, state and local levels, and youth must become self-directed consumers/advocates.

The HRTW Initiative emerged in 1996. HRTW Phase 1 demonstration grant projects were funded, from 1996 – 2001, under HRSA's Special Programs of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS). One HRTW national center, in Florida, and nine state projects were funded in California, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Ohio, and Oregon. The current HRTW Phase II projects began receiving funding in 2001. Six state projects were chosen in Arizona, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, and Wisconsin as model state demonstration programs based upon their located in or having a strong working relationship with their State Title V Programs. In 2002, funding was provided for one HRTW national center in Washington, DC.