

**Healthy & Ready to Work Initiative**  
**What's Health Got To Do With Transition? Everything!**  
**June 9, 2005**

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Healthy & Ready to Work 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.

MCHB has been mandated to facilitate the development of community-based systems of care. To catalyze further the growth of these systems, MCHB has articulated the following 6 core outcomes for measuring their progression. These outcomes are:

1. Children will be screened early and continuously for special health care needs.
2. Families of CSHCN will partner in decision making and will be satisfied with the services that they receive.
3. CSHCN will receive coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home.
4. Families of CSHCN will have adequate private and/or public insurance to pay for the services that they need.
5. Community-based service systems will be organized so that families can use them easily.
6. Youths with special health care needs will receive the services necessary to make transitions to adult life, including adult health care, work, and independence.

Our HRTW Initiative is therefore not just concerned with transition. For the projects to provide community-based systems of care, they must integrate their activities to address each of these core measures.

Today's presentation will illustrate how the HRTW Phase II projects attempt this in their own words.