

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to transitional services for young adults  
 3           with disabilities; creating the Health and Transition  
 4           Services Program; assigning the program for administrative  
 5           purposes to Children's Medical Services in the Department  
 6           of Health; authorizing the department to enter into  
 7           certain contracts, contingent upon an appropriation;  
 8           providing purposes of the program; delineating the target  
 9           population; describing participating service providers and  
 10          the services that they are to provide; creating an  
 11          operational site in a designated locality in the state;  
 12          providing for expansion of program sites; providing for an  
 13          evaluation of the program; providing an effective date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17           Section 1. Health and Transition Services Program;  
 18 creation; purposes; participating agencies and services  
 19 provided; evaluation.--

20           (1) A Health and Transition Services Program is created  
 21 for the purpose of assisting adolescents and young adults who  
 22 have chronic special health care needs in making a smooth  
 23 transition from the child health care and educational systems to  
 24 the adult health care system and to employment.

25           (2) For administrative purposes, the program is located in  
 26 Children's Medical Services in the Department of Health. The  
 27 department may enter into contracts, contingent upon a specific  
 28 appropriation provided in the General Appropriations Act for

29 this purpose, with local health and transition services programs  
30 that meet the requirements of this act.

31 (3) The target population for the program consists of  
32 persons who are 14 through 26 years of age and who have chronic  
33 special health care needs.

34 (4) The program structure and design must be adapted to  
35 the needs of the local community and health services delivery  
36 system; however, the following elements should be in place in  
37 order to ensure the success of a local health and transition  
38 services program:

39 (a) A consultative partnership between adult and pediatric  
40 health care providers in a major medical health care  
41 organization or academic medical setting for the purpose of  
42 training and transferring adolescents and young adults to adult  
43 health care services.

44 (b) A primary care clinic established in a major medical  
45 health care organization for the purpose of fostering a  
46 partnership between adult and pediatric health care providers.

47 (c) Community-based health care services that are provided  
48 under agreements with major health care organizations or  
49 academic medical centers for the purpose of providing  
50 consultation concerning the management of special health care  
51 needs.

52 (d) Community-based support organizations that can provide  
53 assistance with services such as supported living and  
54 employment, health insurance, and support services to maintain  
55 the young adult in the community.

56 (5) The following services may be offered by the local

57 health and transition services program to individuals who are  
58 served in the local health and transition services program:

59 (a) An assessment of health needs, educational and  
60 vocational status and needs, and health insurance status.

61 (b) In coordination with the educational system,  
62 community-based organizations, and the vocational system, a plan  
63 for transition which includes adult health care services,  
64 education, habilitative services, independent living, adult  
65 employment, and health insurance.

66 (c) A medical home that provides for coordinated and  
67 multidisciplinary care and focuses on engaging adult health care  
68 providers in the care and treatment of adolescents or young  
69 adults.

70 (d) Disease self-management programs.

71 (6) The local health and transition services program must  
72 be directed by a medical director having experience in  
73 adolescent health. A project coordinator shall assist the  
74 medical director in developing and implementing the program.  
75 Other staff may be included in order to provide a full range of  
76 health and transition services.

77 (7) There may be up to 11 sites statewide, with the  
78 Jacksonville program (JaxHATS) being the first site. Each  
79 additional site must be organized in a substantially similar  
80 manner as the JaxHATS program and have flexibility with regard  
81 to staffing and costs in rural areas of the state.

82 (8) The local health and transition services program must  
83 be evaluated by an organization or university that has expertise  
84 and experience in evaluating health care programs. The

CS/HB 51

2007

85 evaluation must be formative and cumulative and must include  
86 program process and outcome measures as well as client outcomes.  
87 The results of the evaluation may be used to improve and develop  
88 other local health and transition services programs.

89 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.