Transitions for Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Adolescence is a challenging time for all youth, but for youth with special health care needs there are additional issues. The Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s Initiative Healthy and Ready to Work (HRTW) focuses on and involves youth with special health care needs and their transition to adulthood—going from pediatric to adult health care, shifting to a more independent lifestyle and learning to manage and participate in their health care decisions. HRTW also aims to improve access to health care services and insurance.

Some young people with disabilities may qualify for public health programs, such as Medicaid or Medicare; however, others who are leaving school to begin work may have job related health insurance options. For more information on the Healthy and Ready to Work Initiative, state programs, a web site, chat rooms and information from teens to teens go to: http://www.hrtw.org.

**5 Basics of Parenting Adolescents:**
1. Love and Connect, 2. Monitor and Observe,
3. Guide and Limit, 4. Model and Consult, and
5. Provide and Advocate


Family Voices is a national grassroots network of families and friends speaking on behalf of children with special health needs. Our children are also part of the wider world of children. With a Partners in Information and Communication (PIC) Cooperative Agreement from the MCH Bureau - DHHS, Family Voices works to encourage partnerships between families and professionals for children’s good health.

*Bright Futures: Family Matters* is a digest of articles and news clips to share with families, family organizations, and our professional partners to offer a flavor of activities going on in the maternal and child health community. We hope to encourage flourishing partnerships!
What's new in research?
The largest numbers of uninsured in the U.S. are those ages 19-29. The time of transition from high school to employment or further education typically means significant - and often negative - insurance coverage changes. A Commonwealth Fund report, May 2003, addresses this important issue and proposes solutions. Research shows that 12% of the population birth to 18 years is uninsured. The percentage drastically increases to 28% for the 19 to 29 age group. Three policy suggestions are:
1) extend private health insurance coverage to age 23
2) extend Medicaid and CHIP coverage to 23 and

Tidbits for the Month
September is National Baby Safety Month! Make sure you know how to protect your baby and ensure safe practices! For information and resources: http://www.jpma.org/industry/BabySafetyMonth/BabySafetyMonth.htm

Next issue
Bright Futures: Family Matters
Bullying

Share your news with others!
We’re always looking for news and activities about family organization and programs to post. Share exciting events and activities about your organization that will be interesting to others. Email Lindsey Pope at l pope@fcsn.org or fax at (617) 572-2094 with your tidbits. To subscribe to the newsletter, email or call Lindsey at (617) 236-7210 •

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