

Implementation Toolkit Resource Guidance

Wisconsin's Youth Health Transition Initiative

Section I: Resource Overview

Summary
<p>The Youth Health Transition Initiative provides Wisconsin's youth, family members, providers, and other community collaborators with information on the movement from the pediatric world to adult health care. Tools, materials, and resources are available on the website to help teens, families, and health care systems in the health care transition process.</p>

Resource Description

The goal of the Youth Health Transition Initiative (YHTI) in Wisconsin (WI) is to promote successful transitions from pediatric to adult health care by engaging with youth, family members, providers and other stakeholders. The YHTI designed and maintains a website to disseminate information and provide resources utilizing common messages, tools, and links to evidence-based strategies for stakeholders.

Purpose

Wisconsin's MCH Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program supports the Youth Health Transition Initiative (YHTI) with a contract at the Waisman Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). The YHTI is part of a network of CYSHCN programs in WI that contribute to statewide improvements in national performance measures for CYSHCN – medical home and youth health transitions. Survey data have consistently shown that very few youth receive the services necessary to successfully transition from youth to adult health care systems either in Wisconsin or nationally. The YHTI and the website it maintains addresses the need by providing tools, training, and technical assistance for youth, families, and the health and community systems that support them.

Intended User

The intended users for the website are primarily health care providers, community and public health agencies, other stakeholders, and to some extent parents/family members of transition-aged youth.

Intended Beneficiaries/Target Population

The intended benefit will be for youth with special health care needs and their families.

Materials Required

This resource is a website being maintained by the YHTI. Computer and internet access are necessary to access this resource.

Section II: Using the Resource

How to Use this Resource

The website URL is: <https://healthtransitionwi.org/>

Internal Capacity (Staff Needed to Develop and Implement this Resource)

The YHTI contract supports a part-time coordinator who is responsible for maintaining the content and updating the Health Transition WI website. Upgrades and revisions to the website platform and maintaining internal consistency of Waisman Center UCEDD websites is the responsibility of the UCEDD media specialist.

- The skills for these two individuals include website design and use of a content management system. Total time allocated to keeping the website current is less than 4 hours per week.

The YHTI team includes a director, outreach specialist and evaluator who work with the coordinator and media specialist to provide content and evaluate impact of materials and events that are managed through the website. Every year the YHTI contract with the state CYSHCN program has a work plan with specific goals and activities related to dissemination of common messages and tools, training events, learning community and other activities to support achievement of progress towards the national Youth Health Transition Performance Measure. These activities are determined by the state action plan for the Title V block grant.

Collaboration/Partners (External Partners who Helped Develop the Resource)

An essential and valuable collaborator has been the “Got Transition” national initiative. Many of the Wisconsin YHTI’s messages, tools and resources are linked directly to the work of Got Transition – <https://www.gottransition.org/>. Leaders of the Got Transition initiative have provided consultation and training for WI events and have co-presented with Wisconsin MCH leaders at national events.

The other essential collaboration is with the state CYSHCN network in WI. All five Regional Centers for CYSHCN and the WI Medical Home Initiative have links to the YHTI website on their webpages, collaborate in providing training to families and community agencies, and support quality improvement projects on youth health transition. This network provides the direct supports to families for transition improvement while the YHTI provides the training and technical assistance to health care systems and practices.

Lessons Learned

Successes are similar to other web-based efforts. When the site has new information or upcoming events that are advertised and registration is accessible through the website, the

website experiences more activity. The website has been a successful way to promote common messages and materials for youth health transition statewide. The website also provides a repository of materials from recorded learning community webinars.

Challenges are similar to other web-based efforts. While websites are good at providing resources for current/known stakeholders, they are not very successful at engaging new partners in this work, so it is challenging to engage new users and to measure who is new and accessing information from the website. Until there is a significant expectation that people with different language and learning needs are going to be using the website it is difficult to devote resources to translating materials and therefore the website is not accessible to those who don't read English. The current level of funding does not include enough to translate all materials into one or more other languages. Also, a website is not the best way to reach youth so the YHTI is not expecting that youth will engage with this resource. An app for providing transition tools to youth and other audiences is being considered but may not be developed by the YHTI.

A website is essential for every initiative that has the goal of disseminating information. Having a good URL that works for most search engines is useful. Hosting the website through the University of Wisconsin, Waisman Center provides a high level of credibility.

Next Steps

The website will continue to be maintained as an essential strategy in providing information to stakeholders.