Crossing the Bridge to Adulthood; Addressing Transition for Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Differences

Presented by: Rita Nathawad, MD
Hosted by: UF Health/Jacksonville CARD

About the Presenter

Dr. Rita Nathawad is the medical director of the Jacksonville Health and Transition Services (Jax HATS) program, a medical home for young adults moving from pediatric to adult-based care. She completed both pediatric residency and pediatric infectious disease fellowship training at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Nathawad was first introduced to the field of health care transition while caring for HIV-infected young adults struggling to establish care with adult providers. She further intensified her knowledge in this field of interest during her fellowship in Community and Societal Pediatrics at the University of Florida. Additionally, Dr. Nathawad is one of the Associate Program Directors for the Pediatric Residency Program and oversees resident education in the areas of Advocacy and Community and Societal Pediatrics. She holds a master’s degree in Global Health Policy and her research interests include health care transition, child rights, social determinants, and health equity in pediatrics.

Training Description

Target Audience: Professionals and caregivers of persons with autism who are approaching or experiencing transition from school to the workplace.

Transition from pediatric to adult based health systems is a challenge for all youth, however it can be an even more complex process for individuals and families with developmental differences. This presentation will explore ways to approach health care transition to ensure optimal well-being in the adult world.

The morning session will provide the basics of health care transition using a social determinants of health lens and walk participants through the steps necessary for successful transition. Participants will learn about resources and supports available for the transition process.

The afternoon sessions will focus on specific resources and legal supports. We will hear from invited experts; Ann Siegel, JD, Legal Director, Disability Rights Florida, Katy DeBriere, JD, Legal Director, Florida Health Justice Project and Stephen Pitel, JD, Director, Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.

Training Objectives

Participants will be able to learn and explore:

- Explore the perspectives of families and individuals with intellectual and developmental differences with regards to goals and expectations for transition to adulthood.
- List the steps necessary for successful transition to adult life for youth with intellectual and developmental differences.
- Review available resources to support transition to adulthood for youth with intellectual and developmental differences.