
**TRANSITIONS AND NEW DIRECTIONS:
What's Next in Massachusetts for Children and Youth
with Special Health Care Needs**

1:00 – 1:05 pm Welcome & Introductions

*Meg Comeau, MHA, Chair, MA Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs
(Many thanks to Barry Zallen, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, for filling in as facilitator.)*

1:05 – 1:15 pm [Transition to Adulthood: Making Things Happen for Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#)

- An update on Consortium activity in response to the [2004 recommendations of the Transition Task Force](#).
- Lessons learned from "[Make Things Happen](#)," a transition training program for care coordinators and others who work with youth with special health care needs and their families.
- New data on youth and young adults with disabilities and chronic illness.

Chris Fluet, MPH, Program Coordinator, MA Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs

1:15 – 1:40 pm [Transition to Adulthood: Health and Healthy Living](#)

- What are the challenges of promoting healthy habits to young people with special health care needs?
- What are key strategies to overcome those challenges?

*Pixie Plummer, MD, Children's Hospital Boston and Boston Community Medical Group
Manu Thakral, RN, Massachusetts General Hospital Institute for Health Professions*

1:40 – 2:00 pm Discussion: What's Next for Transition in Massachusetts?

- Drawing on the Consortium's experience with "[Make Things Happen](#)," we'll revisit the [original recommendations of the 2004 Transition Task Force](#).
- What are the priorities now? What are the key challenges?
- What transition-related research, programming, or services are Consortium members working on?
- What role could the Consortium play next in ensuring that young people with special health care needs "receive the services necessary to make transitions to all aspects of adult life, including adult health care, work and independence"?

2:00 – 2:25 pm [Challenges for Massachusetts / Challenges for Families: Transitions & New Directions](#)

- In brief, where does Massachusetts stand on each of six key national indicators of building a more responsive and family-centered system of care for children with special health care needs?
- What does it all really mean for families?

Deborah Allen, Executive Director, MA Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs

2:25 – 3:00 pm New Directions: A Conversation with the Commissioner of the MA Department of Public Health

- Recently-appointed DPH Commissioner [John Auerbach](#) will outline his goals and priorities for the health of Massachusetts children.
- A facilitated discussion between Consortium members and the Commissioner.

John Auerbach, MBA, Commissioner, MA Department of Public Health

3:00 – 3:05 pm Announcements

3:05 – 3:30 pm Networking

Please stay and use this opportunity to connect with your colleagues.
