

Health Care Transition for Youth Digest

TRANSITION Digest for Thursday, February 19, 2004.

1. Help Field Test a New Distance Learning Course on: Family Centered Care

Subject: Help Field Test a New Distance Learning Course on: Family Centered Care

Free Training Opportunity!!

On-line Learning

Help Field Test a New Distance Learning Course on: Family Centered Care

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical School has developed an on-line course entitled "Family Centered Care." This course is one of several courses being developed as part of a Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant, "Developmental Disabilities On Line."

Family-centered care is an approach to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of health care that is grounded in mutually beneficial partnerships among health care providers, patients and families. It redefines the relationships between and among consumers and health care providers. Family-centered care is an approach to health care that shapes systems of care, policies, programs, facility design and staff day-to-day interactions. It leads to better health outcomes, wiser allocation of resources and greater patient, family and provider satisfaction.

Family-centered care has become the standard of care, not only for children with special health care needs, but for all children's health services, and increasingly for maternal health care and care for other adults as well. At the same time, while its virtues and importance are espoused as a philosophy, the implementation of family-centered care is = often lacking. This course will help maternal and child health = professionals working in Title V and Medicaid agencies, parents and = others, better understand family-centered care and how to implement it within and across agencies at clinical, administrative and policy levels. This course and/or its sub-components, will be useful in the following ways:

- * Orientation for new professional-level staff of State Title V and Medicaid programs serving children with special health care needs and their families.
- * In-service education for professional staff in state programs.
- * Outreach and education for state Title V colleagues and partners about family-centered care (including medical schools and schools preparing other professionals serving individuals with disabilities, insurance regulators, vocational rehabilitation leaders, special education policy makers, legislative staff).
- * Education on family-centered care for parents and other family members, family-advocates, special educators, developmental

specialists, social workers, nurses, doctors and administrators of clinical programs.

The five-week course will make use of varied methodologies, including texts, videos, exercises, activities, Internet sites and expert family and professional "testimony," to help course participants achieve the following educational outcomes/learning objectives:

- * Identify and describe clinical applications of family-centered care.
- * Articulate core concepts and guiding principles of family-centered care.
- * Distinguish family-centered care from other models of care.
- * Discuss strategies for enhancing patient and family access to useful information.
- * Identify approaches to building partnerships with families caring for children with special needs and with family-led organizations to build and enhance systems of care.
- * Develop family-centered systems of care.
- * Apply family-centered principles to quality improvement.

Family Centered Care will be field tested in March 2004 before it is finalized. Field test participants will take the course just as regular students would, but will be asked to comment briefly from time to time on course content and format. Upon full completion of the course, students will receive an attractive certificate of completion. No college or CEU credit will be offered for this field test.

If you are interested in participating in the field test please contact Anncy Graziano at anncy.graziano@umassmed.edu for more information with Family Centered Care in the subject line, and please keep in mind enrollment is limited.