

# “Systems In Sync” – Transitioning Youth with Special Health Care Needs

By Heather Moore, MPH “Systems In Sync” Project Coordinator

A child’s health affects every aspect of their life; especially education. The topic of transition is clearly an interest among educators and academics, and it is becoming a major focus for health professionals as well. A new transition project at KDHE, launched earlier this year, will provide opportunities to enhance health services and promote education and work force development possibilities for youth and young adults with disabilities.

A partnership between KDHE Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) and the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD) created “Systems in Sync.”

This project will provide opportunities for collaboration between agencies, community partners and consumers to establish a coordinated system of care in Kansas that enhances access to services and places a spotlight on transition to adulthood in all areas of the young adult’s life.

As 90 percent of children and youth with special health care needs are now surviving into their adult years, a focus is needed on helping these children transition to become independent, self-reliant and contributing members of their communities.

Goals of this project include:

- Strengthening youth, family and professional partnerships at all levels of decision making
- Enhancing access to and services received within the medical home
- Transition from pediatric to adult care
- Building system capacity and sustainability

Please share your school/community best practices with us to enhance access to a medical home and transition planning practices. As “Systems in Sync” progresses, the support and participation from education professionals will be vital to ensuring these services are available for youth with special health care needs.

To become involved or obtain more information on the project, please contact Heather Moore at [hmoore@kdheks.gov](mailto:hmoore@kdheks.gov).

