WELCOME TO PART 4 OF OUR PATHWAYS TO ADULTHOOD ZOOM SERIES

- Please mute your phones
- **We will email the PowerPoint to everyone on the call**
- Type all questions in the chat box
- I will try to answer all questions at the end
- If I don’t get to your question, please email me at Cynda.green@txp2p.org.
Thank you to the Transition Medicine Clinic and Dept. of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine for partnering with us to bring you the 4 part Pathways to Adulthood series.
Pathways to Adulthood

Texas Parent to Parent Transition Team
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Goal for the Pathways Zoom series:
To give participants the tools needed to plan for a good life for our youth after graduation
June 2, 2020 1:30-2:30pm
Part 4- Getting a handle on legal issues
   Guardianship and Alternatives
   Medical Transition
Decision making at age 18

At age 18, society assumes a person can give informed consent and make legal, financial and medical decisions. Before your child reaches age 18:

- Evaluate your child’s ability to make decisions
- Evaluate your ability to “wait and see”
- Think about least restrictive but supportive approach
- Research options
Update on guardianship/alternatives

In 2015 Texas Legislature updated guardianship law so that alternatives must be considered first. Some alternatives

Supported Decision Making agreement, power of attorney, representative payee, joint bank accounts, long term supports and services, HIPPA form, special needs trust

navigatelifetexas.org, search for legal-options-for-age-18-and-beyond
Option: Supported Decision Making

Under a supported decision-making agreement, the supporter can help the person with a disability to:

- Understand the options, responsibilities, and consequences of their decisions.
- Obtain and understand information relevant to their decision.
- Communicate their decisions to appropriate people.

But CANNOT make a decision for the person with a disability.
Option: Power of attorney

Document that your adult child can sign to give you the legal power to make decisions for them about finances, education, medical care, and more.

Your child must be able to understand what it means to sign a contract in order to use a power of attorney.

Simple form, no lawyer needed, can be downloaded
Option: Guardianship

Parent or appropriate person can petition court to become legal guardian at age 18 or after. Empowers you to make major decisions for an “incapacitated person.” Investigate finding the right lawyer and what the costs will be in your county, including court costs and bond; may differ from county to county.
Option: Guardianship with Limited Authority

Can get guardianship with limited authority, which spells out in what areas the guardian does/does not have legal decision making power.

An agreement made at the court appearance

Still have to go through the guardianship process
Websites for decision making after 18

navigatelifetexas.org, search for legal-options-for-age-18-and-beyond
Texasguardianship.org
thearcoftexas.org/alternatives-to-guardianship/ for alternatives and the Supported Decision Making Agreement document
Moving to adult medical services

Issue: Health care professionals may not share information with you after age 18

Start by age 14 to prepare your youth to assume health care responsibilities

Arrange for documentation to allow you to participate (forms provided by providers, guardianship, medical power of attorney, Supported Decision Making, HIPPA form youth can ask you to be present
Moving to adult medical services

Issue: Pediatric providers may stop seeing child over age 18

Talk to current pediatric health providers before age 18 about how long they will continue to serve your youth; ask for recommendations for adult providers and help to make the transition go smoothly

Talk to other parents about finding new adult providers (txp2p listserv and other parent groups)
Moving to adult medical services

Issue: Health insurance changes after 18

Learn about your work-based medical insurance policy: adult may stay on til age 26 then may petition to stay on after 26 (must be submitted to the insurance company no later than 31 days after the adult’s 26th bday)

tcdd.texas.gov/extending-health-insurance-adults-with-disabilities
Other adult medical services

Medicaid acquired through SSI (STAR+ PLUS)

Medicare acquired through SSDI

Medicaid Buy-In, health care for people with disabilities who work (monthly premium based on income)

Texas HIPP: Health Insurance Premium Payment program, for a family with 1 person on Medicaid and access to private work-based health insurance; pays premium (gethipptexas.com)
Collect information, get informed

Start a care notebook; see Txp2p.org home page for txp2p care notebook

Go to gottransition.org, click on youth and families; checklists and guides regarding medical transition for both parents and youth
Websites for health care transition

tcdd.texas.gov/extending-health-insurance-adults-with-disabilities
gethipptexas.com
gottransition.org (federal website, checklists, etc.)
navigatelifetexas.org, search for health care benefits
June 9, 2020 1:30-2:30pm
Part 1- Creative Housing Solutions
Parents will report on the steps they have taken to create independent residences for their young adults
June 16, 2020 1:30-2:30pm
Part 2- Personal Networks: Creating Community For People with Personal networks build a circle of caring volunteers around a person at risk of isolation
June 21, 2020 1:30-2:30pm
Part 3- Key Steps for Creating a Job for Your Teen/Adult
Are you hoping your teen or young adult will have a job sooner than later? It takes knowledge, effort and planning ahead, so now’s the time to get started
Pathways to Adulthood Team

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