

**27th Annual Chronic Illness and Disability:
Transition from Pediatric to Adult-based Care
October 22-23, 2026
Draft 8/27/2026**

Thursday, October 22, 2026

7:15a.m. Registration, Coffee, and Bagels in the Lobby

**8:00 Welcome and Announcements
Albert C. Hergenroeder, MD**

8:15 Inspirational video “The Paper Bag”

8:25 Healthcare transition today: Evidence, implementation, and future directions. Philip Moons, PhD, RN, Professor of Healthcare and Nursing Science, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, KU Leuven, Belgium; Researcher/Scientific leader of the Health Care Transition Research Group, Institute of Health and Care Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Goal: The audience will understand the importance of evidence based HCT programs across disease conditions

Objectives: The audience will be able to discuss:

- 1) Content and composition of HCT programs
- 2) The evidence supporting structured clinical HCT programs
- 3) Models and best practices in HCT
- 4) Future directions and research priorities in healthcare transition

9:10 Innovative state programs and health care transition with relationship-driven outcomes. Elizabeth Lange, MD, Co-director, PCMH-Kids, Care Transformation Collaborative Rhode Island, Private Pediatrician, General Pediatrics.

Goal: The audience will understand the importance of a statewide HCT program

Objectives: The audience will be able to discuss, in the context of Rhode Island’s experience, how to:

1. launch a HCT program built from local, state and national relationships and partnerships
2. build dyadic relationships between pediatric and adult clinicians
3. involve AYA in their HCT planning
4. bill for HCT work using CPT codes and contracted payments
5. collect and analyze the qualitative and quantitative outcome data

9:55 Questions and Answers

10:05 Break

- 10:25** **Cancer and HCT – Omar Shakeel, MD, Assistant Professor, Long-Term Survivor Program, Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital**
Goal: The audience will understand the importance of healthcare transition planning in survivors of childhood cancers as they transition to adult care.
Objectives: The audience will be able to describe:
- 1) The current state of HCT for survivors of childhood cancer
 - 2) Evidence based structure, processes and outcomes for HCT in survivors of childhood cancers
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- 11:10** **Empowering independence and self-management through improved communication strategies during HCT. Nathalie Lebrun, MA, CCC-SLP, University of Houston**
- Goal:* Participants will understand how communication supports, viewed through the lens of Speech Language Pathology, can strengthen self-management, autonomy, and participation in the health care transition (HCT) process for youth and young adults with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
- Objectives:* Participants will be able to:
1. Describe the role of Speech Language Pathology in supporting communication, self-advocacy, and participation during health care transition.
 2. Examine the role of communication partners in healthcare interactions through the lenses of communicative humility, access, and implicit bias.
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- 11:55** **Legal Issues in the Transition from Pediatric to Adult-Based Care**
Beth Sufian, JD | Partner, Sufian & Passamano
Goal: The audience will understand the importance of legal issues during the transition period
Objectives: The audience will be able to describe:
- 1) Recent changes in federal laws that will impact the delivery of care during the transition from pediatric to adult based care.
 - 2) The Social Security 18-year-old review process
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- 12:40** **Questions and Answers**
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- 12:45** **Meet the Faculty Luncheon (meal provided)**
- 1) Phillip Moons. PhD
 - 2) Dennis Kuo, MD – Medicaid, Marketplace/ACA
 - 3) Kristin Cooper, MD and Rachel Menssen, MSW – ASD, IDD and psychotherapy
 - 4) Nathalie Lebrun - communication
 - 5) Got Transition
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- 1:45** **End lunch sessions**

2:00

Breakout Sessions with Faculty (attendees select one at 2:00 pm and a different one at 3:00 pm)

- 1) Phillip Moons. PhD - The promise of artificial intelligence for HCT research and clinical practice
- 2) Dennis Kuo – Effects of federal legislation at a clinical level
- 3) Kristin Cooper, MD and Rachael Menssen, MSW - Counseling patients with ASD and/or IDD and other comorbidities
- 4) Nathalie Lebrun, MA, CCC-SLP – Did you bring your supportive communication systems that you use at home and school into the medical clinic visit? (**Main auditorium**)

Goal: Participants will understand current evidence-based practices supporting the intentional use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems across everyday environments, including healthcare settings, to promote participation and successful healthcare transition outcomes.

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Identify common misconceptions related to AAC use across adolescence and adulthood.
2. Discuss how healthcare appointments can serve as meaningful opportunities to support communication access, self-advocacy, and participation for both patients and healthcare professionals.

3:00

Breakout Sessions II with Faculty (need to choose main auditorium speaker)

Repeat of 2:00 sessions

Main auditorium – Phillip Moons, PhD

4:10

Medicaid/Marketplace/ACA 2026 Update: Impacts on Health Care Transition, Dennis Kuo, MD, Purcell Family Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, Division Chief of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, Golisano Children's Hospital. Immediate Past Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children With Disabilities.

Goal: The audience will understand the current status of federal legislation on health care access

Objectives: The audience will be able to describe:

- 1) The changes in Medicaid/Marketplace/ACA funding and how they will likely affect AYASHCN and their families with an emphasis on transition to adult based care

4:50

Questions and Answers

5:00

Evaluation and Adjourn

Friday, October 23, 2026

- 7:15a.m. Registration, Coffee, and Bagels**
- 8:00 Announcements**
Albert C. Hergenroeder, MD
- 8:15 Inspirational AYA. Fabiola Amaya, MSW**
Goal: The audience will understand the transition to adulthood and adult care from one person's perspective
Objectives: The audience will be able to discuss:
1) Challenges with youth and young adults with disabilities during transition to adulthood and adult based care.
- 9:00 Questions and Answers**
- 9:10 Parent Panel: defining successful HCT from the parents'/caregivers' perspective.**
Amy Passmore, CEO, Owner, Enstep Technology Company **and Desiree Collins Bradley**, Coordinator, Project DOCC, Patient Network Lead for ATW Health Solutions
Goal: The audience will understand parents' perspectives on what constitutes successful transition
Objectives: The audience will be able to discuss parents'/caregivers' perspectives on HCT with respect to:
1) Clinical status
2) Continuity of care
3) Transition readiness: Self-management, health literacy and self-efficacy
4) Independent living
5) School and/or employment
6) Quality of life, mental health
- 9:40 Questions and Answers**
- 9:55 Break**
- 10:15 Innovative practices in schools and the workplace to promote improved communication for youth and young adults with communication barriers.**
Nathalie Lebrun, MA, CCC-SLP, University of Houston
Goal: Using a post-secondary transition framework, participants will understand how communication supports across school, workplace, and community settings can contribute to improved lifelong health, participation, and quality of life outcomes.
Objectives: Participants will be able to:
1. Describe the communication demands and growth opportunities for young people during the transition into adulthood through independent living, employment, and continuing education.
2. Explain how communication opportunities within recreation and leisure activities contribute to social connection, well-being, and long-term health outcomes.
- 11:00 Self-determination theory as an important basis for improving self-management and self-efficacy. Laura Buckner, MSED, Texas Center for Disability Studies, University of Texas, Austin.**

Goal: the audience will understand the applicability of self-determination theory in developing HCT programs

Objectives: the audience will be able to describe:

- 1) the three key elements of self-determination theory
- 2) examples of the operationalization of these elements in HCT programs

11:45 Questions and Answers

11:55 Lunch (provided)

1:00p.m. Psychotherapy in patients with ASD and/or IDD and preparing for transition.

Kristin Cooper, M.D., Associate Director, **Rachael Menssen, MSW**, Center for Autism Services and Transition (CAST), Ohio State University

Goal: The audience will be able to describe the importance of psychotherapy for AYA with ASD and/or IDD with other comorbid conditions

Objectives: The audience will be able to discuss:

- 1) How the need for this service was determined and the how the service was developed
- 2) The structure and processes for this service
- 3) Description of conditions seen and outcomes

1:45 Questions and Answers

1:55 Break

2:15 Occupational therapy during transition to adult-based care Roberta Olivares, MS, OT, ATP, BCP, Assistive Technology Coordinator, Texas Children's Hospital.

Goal: The audience will understand the importance of Occupational therapy in selection of assistive equipment or modification of the environment to increase functional independence for patients who are transitioning into an adult role.

Objectives: The audience will be able to discuss:

- 1) Physical impairments or conditions most appropriate for OT
- 2) Assistive technology in transitioning to work and/or further education
- 3) Environmental adaptations to facilitate independent living
- 4) Assisted gaming devices and social support
- 5) Qualitative and quantitative outcomes
- 6) Billing for therapy services
- 7) Community Resources

2:55 Implementation Science and Health Care Transition

Sharon Hudson, PhD, Director of Implementation Science and Evaluation, The Alta Med Institute for Health Equity, Commerce, CA

Goal: The audience will be understand the principles of implementation science

Objectives: The audience will be able to describe:

- 1) How to apply IS principles to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of HCT programs.

- 3:40 Questions and Answers**
- 3:50 Closing Comments/Evaluation**