

## STAR Health Is Here!

### The Health Care Plan for Young People Transitioning from Foster Care

**If you are 16 to 21 years of age and in Texas foster care or you aged out of foster care and still receive Medicaid services—STAR Health is here for you!**

#### **It's the Law!**

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) was required by law to develop a new health care delivery system. The new system covers children in foster care and young adults who choose to stay in foster care or have left foster care but continue to receive Medicaid services.

#### **How Does It Work?**

HHSC chose *Superior HealthPlan Network* to operate the STAR Health program to provide and coordinate healthcare services for current and former foster youth in Texas. STAR Health tracks your healthcare services and records to be sure you are getting what you need when you need it.

#### **When Did It Start?**

HHSC automatically enrolls eligible youth in STAR Health, which began offering services April 1, 2008. If you are 18 to 21 years old you can decide not to participate in the new health care plan. If you opt out of STAR Health you will not receive improved benefits such as 24 hour access to a nurse to talk about your health care issues, help with locating a doctor, dentist, or other covered medical services you may need. However, your healthcare will revert to traditional Medicaid without interruption of service and no new application is required.

#### **What Should I Do?**

- If you or your caregiver received a packet in the mail, it explains how to use STAR Health services and how to select or change primary care providers. If you have not received your packet, contact your caseworker or local PAL staff.
- Did you or your caregiver choose a Primary Care Provider (PCP) for you?
  - If you have not yet chosen your PCP, you can ask your care provider, caseworker, or local PAL staff for help.
- Do you know your PID number? Do you have your STAR ID number and Medicaid card?
  - If you are no longer in care and have lost or do not know your PID #, your STAR ID, or have lost your Medicaid card, you can contact PAL staff or your case manager for assistance. *Youth in care should contact their caseworker.*
- Is your address and other important information up to date? Call *Jordan Young, Centralized Benefit Services, at (800) 248-1078, ext. 8126 or (512)908-8126 (Region 7)* if
  - You are a young adult who left foster care and wants help.
  - You need to update your contact information to be sure you receive your identification card and benefits.

#### **What's Improved?**

- Children and young adults begin receiving services as soon as they enter state care.
- A Primary Care Provider (PCP) coordinates your health services to assist you, your caregivers, and caseworkers to get the services and information you need in a timely manner.
- Providers that previously provided Medicaid services to children in foster care or young adults currently or formerly in foster care will be recruited.
- A Health Passport is available online to put your health care history at your fingertips.
- A 7-day, 24-hour Nurse Hotline is available for caregivers and caseworkers.

#### **Where Can I Go for More Information?**

You can find more information about the STAR Health program on the following websites:

<http://www.texasyouthconnection.org> or [www.hhsc.state.tx.us](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us).

#### **Coming Soon!**

Web-based access to your Health passport. information to come in 2008.