

In Case You Missed It...

Tampa Bay Times: "Help for parents of the medically fragile"

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By Tampa Bay Times

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... Rather than leave it to parents of medically complex children to find their way through the state's bureaucracy, **the Agency for Health Care Administration will assign each child an intermediary who will guide the parents through available options. The hope is that by giving parents a point person for help accessing services, more will be able to keep their child at home or in community settings.** It's a positive step toward opening up communication

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Already, parents of about 200 Medicaid-eligible children in nursing homes should have received letters regarding the nurse care coordinator program, according to AHCA spokeswoman Michelle Dahnke. Follow-up phone calls by the coordinators are to begin next week. And soon the agency hopes to expand the program to all the state's families with medically complex children. **If the coordinator acts as an advocate helping parents obtain appropriate levels of at-home and community-based services for their children, it should lead to real change benefitting families in need.**

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