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Unified Planning Team

Report to the Child Advocate

February 27, 2017



Unified Planning Team (UPT) Report to the Child Advocate

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws ch. 6A s. 16R, this report contains a summary of the cases reviewed by a UPT this year, the length of time spent at each stage and the final resolution of the case.

UPT requests

In calendar year 2016, EOHHS received eleven requests for UPT meetings. Four youth were referred by (or on behalf of) a parent, six youth were referred by a judge, and one youth was referred by a state agency. Seven of these requests were able to be resolved without convening a formal UPT meeting, two requests remain open but postponed and deferred to other processes, and one request did not meet the eligibility criteria for a UPT meeting and will be resolved with the assistance of EOHHS informally.

Case Summaries Calendar Year 2016

A brief chronological summary of each case, including the length of time at each stage of the UPT process, and the final resolution is included below.

UPT Request Child ID	Referral Source	Key dates	Resolution	Days to Resolve
<p>Youth 1 : Age 14; male</p> <p>UPT eligible; agencies Involved:</p> <p>DMH DCF MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by judge</p>	<p>4/15/16 UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>4/27, 5/2, 5/5, 5/6, 5/9, 5/20, 5/25, 5/26, 5/27, 6/1, 6/3 multiple calls & emails to gather and share relevant information among the parties.</p> <p>5/31 – UPT scheduled for 6/16; subsequently rescheduled per guardian request.</p> <p>7/26 – DCF reunification goal changed</p> <p>9/30/16 – DCF extended voluntary services</p> <p>10/3/16 – UPT request formally withdrawn</p>	<p>Youth received ongoing voluntary services and permanency planning from DCF</p>	<p>45 business days to prepare and schedule initial meeting; 30 days to resolve placement issue after summer postponement. Request ultimately withdrawn.</p>
<p>Youth 2 : Age 11; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DPH DDS MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by Dept. of Public Health</p>	<p>5/5/16 UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>5/5/16 call with DPH; request for follow up information and documents (rec'd 6/1)</p> <p>6/1/17 – interagency call; follow up actions determined</p> <p>8/2/16 – UPT request formally withdrawn</p>	<p>Youth received additional intensive DDS, DPH, and CBHI support services</p>	<p>62 business days to resolve Request withdrawn.</p>

UPT Request Child ID	Referral Source	Key dates	Resolution	Days to Resolve
<p>Youth 3: Age 16; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DCF DMH MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by Parent</p>	<p>7/8/16 UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>8/18/16 – UPT meeting held</p>	<p>Youth received added ongoing supports from DCF and CBHI. Youth also given opportunity to expand some of his in-school programs.</p>	<p>29 business days to resolve</p>
<p>Youth 4: Age 17; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DCF DYS MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by Judge</p>	<p>8/16/16 UPT Request received at EOHHS</p> <p>9/19, 9/20, 9/22, 9/23 – calls with agencies; UPT to be set pending forensic evaluation</p> <p>11/8/16 – Youth committed to DYS till 18</p> <p>2/16/17 – withdrawal pending with Court</p>	<p>Youth no longer in need of DCF placement</p>	<p>69 business days to resolve</p>

UPT Request Child ID	Referral Source	Key dates	Resolution	Days to Resolve
<p>Youth 5: Age 14; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DCF MassHealth DMH (application pending) DDS (application pending)</p>	<p>Referral by Judge</p>	<p>7/11/16 - Case originally came to EHS Ombudsman via Senator Donoghue's office; multiple calls with family and DCF</p> <p>8/1/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>8/23, 8/26, interagency calls to gather additional information</p> <p>9/23 – private insurance extended interim placement while DCF negotiates with the LEA Parent agreed to postpone UPT meeting pending DCF placement.</p>	<p>DCF agreed to facilitate an out of home placement for the youth.</p>	<p>40 business days to resolve initial placement decision</p>
<p>Youth 6: Age 17; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DDS DCF MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by Judge</p>	<p>10/3/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>10/14, 10/20, 10/21 – interagency calls; follow up action determined</p> <p>1/9/17 – Youth received out of home placement</p> <p>2/23/17 – Court agreed to withdraw formal UPT request pending letter from EOHHS; letter faxed to Judge</p>	<p>Youth received placement with DDS, funded by DCF</p>	<p>70 business days to resolve placement issue</p>
<p>Youth 7: Age 16; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DYS DCF MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by Judge</p>	<p>9/23/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>10/6, 10/24, 11/14, 11/28 multiple agency calls; UPT deferred pending forensic evaluation and trial results</p> <p>Trial scheduled for end of March 2017</p>	<p>Resolution Pending</p>	<p>110 business days as of annual UPT report</p>

UPT Request Child ID	Referral Source	Key dates	Resolution	Days to Resolve
<p>Youth 8: Age; 16 male</p> <p>UPT eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DCF DYS MassHealth</p>	<p>Referral by Judge</p>	<p>10/6/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>10/18 – calls with probation and agencies</p> <p>10/27 – Youth received placement by DCF</p> <p>11/18 – confirmed Court intension to withdraw UPT request</p> <p>2/21 – Request withdrawn9/23/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p>	<p>Youth received placement by DCF</p>	<p>15 business days to resolve placement issue</p>
<p>Youth 9: Age 17; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DCF DDS MassHealth</p>	<p>Referred by Parent</p>	<p>10/20/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>10/24, 11/4, 12/6, 12/15, 12/16, 12/27 – calls with CPCS and agencies</p> <p>1/25 – Youth obtained placement; CPCS attorney requested postponement of UPT pending initial success of placement</p>	<p>Youth received placement by DCF</p>	<p>69 business days to resolve placement issue</p>
<p>Youth 10: Age 16; male</p> <p>UPT Eligible; agencies involved:</p> <p>DCF DDS MassHealth</p>	<p>Referred by Parent</p>	<p>10/9/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>11/10 – call with Children’s Hospital</p> <p>12/9 – call with parent; requested postponement of UPT pending further resolution with LEA</p>	<p>Resolution Pending</p>	<p>100 business days as of annual UPT report</p>

UPT Request Child ID	Referral Source	Key dates	Resolution	Days to Resolve
<p>Youth 11: Age 17; male</p> <p>UPT Ineligible: matter is before the BSEA and “the subject of such appeal, mediation, or hearing is substantially related to the reason that the child’s case is being referred for review by a UPT” 101 CMR 17.05(B)</p> <p>Involved agencies: DYS, DDS, DMH eligibility appeal pending</p>	<p>Referred by Parent</p>	<p>12/7/16 UPT request received at EOHHS</p> <p>12/12, 12/21, 1/10/17, 1/12, 1/13, 1/19, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25, 2/1, 2/3 - multiple interagency and CPCS calls to assist informally with youth’s case 10/9/16 – UPT request received at EOHHS</p>	<p>EOHHS will continue to informally facilitate resolution to service needs.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Definitions and Notes

Definitions used in this report:

- Complex Case- a circumstance in which a child is involved with at least three state agencies. Involvement with a state agency consists of:
 - (1) being determined eligible to receive services by a state agency;
 - (2) having an application for services pending with a state agency;
 - (3) being placed in DYS custody or supervision by a juvenile court in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on bail or commitment orders; or
 - (4) being involved with DCF pursuant to M.G.L. Chapters 18B and 119, or their corresponding regulations.
- DCF – MA Department of Children and Families
- DDS – MA Department of Developmental Services
- DMH – MA Department of Mental Health
- DYS – MA Department of Youth Services
- EOHHS–MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- “UPT” – Unified Planning Team, an interagency team required to review complex cases under Chapter 321
- “UPT case” or “youth referred for a UPT” refers to a youth referred for a Unified Planning Team meeting
- “UPT referral” – a letter or form requesting a UPT meeting for a youth
- “Youth” – a child, teenager or young adult, age 0-22.

Enabling Statute: (*M.G.L. ch. 6A, § 16R*)

Section 16R. There shall be geographically-based interagency review teams to collaborate on complex cases when a child, which shall include a person under the age of 22 who is disabled or has special needs, may qualify for services from multiple state agencies consisting, as determined by the needs of the individual child, of representatives selected from agencies within the executive office of health and human services, the department of early education and care, and the department of elementary and secondary education. If appropriate and if proper consent has been provided, representatives of local education agencies and juvenile probation shall be invited to participate. Such a child may be referred to the team by a state agency, the juvenile court or the child’s parent or guardian. The teams, after hearing from the parents or guardian of the child, relevant agencies and service providers, and reviewing relevant materials, shall determine which services, including case management services, are appropriate for the child and who shall provide those services. If the team is unable to reach a consensus decision, the matter shall be referred to the regional directors of the respective agencies for resolution. The regional directors shall meet within 10 business days of the referral and shall issue their decision within 3 business days thereafter. If the regional directors are unable to resolve the case and the disagreement involves matters solely within the purview of the executive office of health and human services, the team shall notify the secretary of health and human services who shall render a decision within 30 days of the notice.

If the parent or guardian of the child disputes the decision of the team or the secretary, the parent or guardian may file an appeal with the division of administrative law appeals, established under section 4H of chapter 7, which shall conduct an adjudicatory proceeding and order any necessary relief consistent with state or federal law.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to entitle a child to services to which the child would be otherwise ineligible under applicable agency statutes or regulations.

Notwithstanding chapters 66A, 112 and 119 or any other law related to the confidentiality of personal data, the teams, the secretary and the division of administrative law appeals shall have access to and may discuss materials related to the case while the case is under review once the parent or guardian has consented in writing and those having access agree in writing to keep the materials confidential. Once the review is complete, all materials shall be returned to the originating source.

The secretary of health and human services, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and the commissioner of early education and care shall jointly promulgate regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section.

The secretary of health and human services shall publish an annual report by February 15 summarizing the cases reviewed by the teams in the previous year, the length of time spent at each stage and their final resolution. The report shall be provided to the child advocate.