

Massachusetts Department of Children & Families  
600 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111

January 16, 2019

To Linda Spears and Linda Sagor:

As pediatric and adolescent medicine providers, and members of the New England Gender C.A.R.E. Consortium, we are reaching out to DCF to express our concern that gender diverse youth in DCF custody may currently lack timely and consistent access to gender affirmative care.

Although we work in a variety of practice settings across the state, we all agree that:

1. There is a need for increased access to gender affirmative care, in particular medically necessary puberty suppression and gender-affirming hormone therapy, for youth in DCF custody
2. While our program models differ, all are informed by the WPATH<sup>1</sup> *Standards of Care* and Endocrine Society guidelines for treatment of gender dysphoria.
3. We support each other's programs of care as competent medical practices well established in providing comprehensive gender affirmative care to gender diverse youth.

We are committed to addressing the unmet need for gender affirmative care among youth in DCF custody and would like to improve youths' ability to access such care. As such, we encourage DCF to facilitate referrals across all of our institutions equally.

Our goal is to increase the ability of gender diverse youth to access quality, affirming care— no matter where they choose to receive it. In addition, the consortium is happy to facilitate access to education and resources on gender affirming care for any DCF staff or guardians who would be interested.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup>World Professional Association of Transgender Health *Standards of Care*. <https://www.wpath.org/publications/soc>

The New England Gender C.A.R.E. Consortium's mission is to improve and support the health and well-being of gender diverse individuals across New England and beyond by promoting provider collaboration, strengthening advocacy and policy, increasing training opportunities across the spectrum of care, standardizing care, and building and supporting sustainable and ethical research.