



UPSTREAM MASSACHUSETTS

Cross-Systems Mapping to Support Healthy Families



UPSTREAM brings together local stakeholders to collectively:

Create a map of the child welfare landscape

Identify local resources and gaps in services

Determine priorities for change

Develop an action plan

Enhance collaboration among community partners and across systems

Reduce risk of child welfare system involvement for children and families

Support safe, nurturing and permanent homes for children

Upstream Massachusetts is a child welfare mapping initiative led by the Juvenile Court Department and developed in collaboration with the National Center for State Courts. The project is designed to help communities work across systems to strengthen families and support safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children.

Upstream brings local stakeholders together for a series of action-oriented working meetings using a tool informed by the *Sequential Intercept Model*.^{*} Stakeholders engage in a facilitated process to collectively map the local child welfare landscape, identify resources and gaps in services, agree on priorities, and create an action plan to enhance collaboration within and across systems.

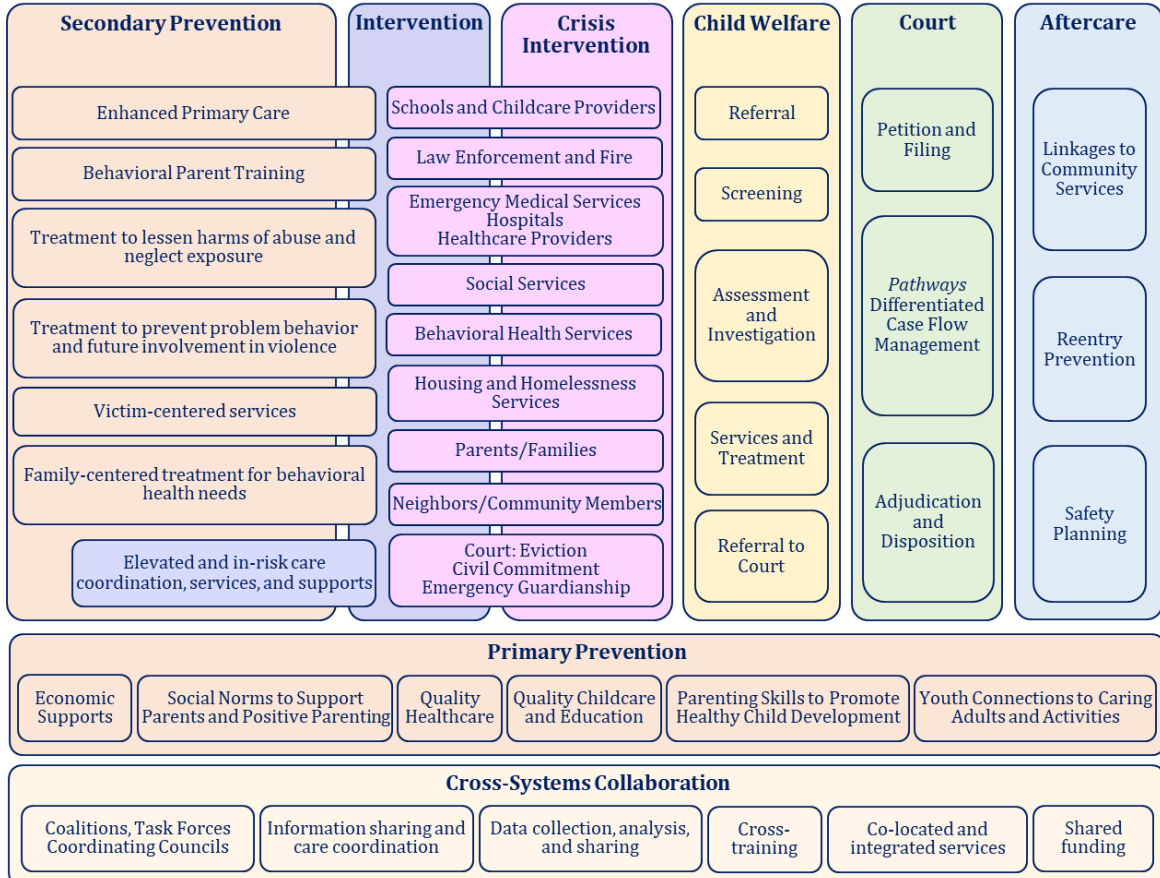
Vision

- Strong families
- Safe, stable, and nurturing homes
- Community-based, coordinated, and comprehensive prevention and intervention networks

Mission

- Support data-driven, evidence-based, and culturally appropriate practices
- Facilitate and enhance collaboration and coordination among partners and across systems
- Reduce the risk of child maltreatment, family disruption, and trauma

CHILD WELFARE LANDSCAPE



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^{*}Please see the Trial Court's Community Justice Project [website](#) for more information about Sequential Intercept Mapping.

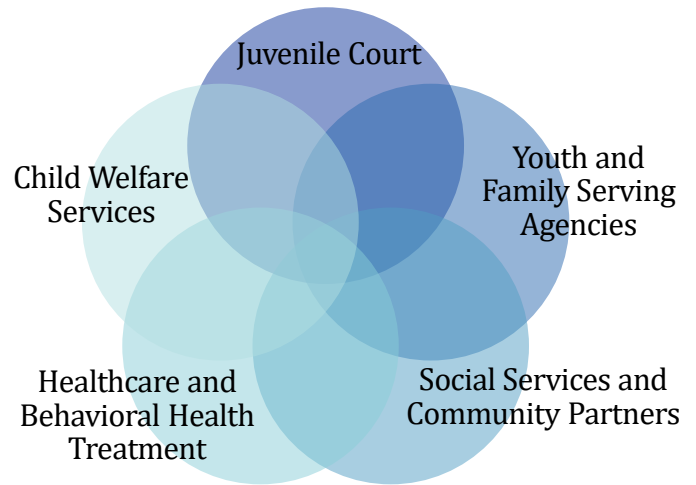
UPSTREAM AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Key Components



PLANNING

- Assemble cross-systems county-level planning group
- Inventory local resources and key stakeholders
- Facilitate focus groups and key informant interviews across systems
 - Child welfare, courts, schools, law enforcement, attorneys and advocates, healthcare, youth and family services, social services, behavioral health treatment and recovery support providers
- Begin data collection and disseminate community self-assessment
- Identify gaps and organize along child welfare landscape



SUMMIT

- Convene key stakeholders
- Review data and risk and protective factors
- Review and refine gap analysis according to child welfare landscape
- Collectively agree on priorities for change
- Develop action plan



POST SUMMIT

- Compile comprehensive report of findings
- Develop map of regional resources organized by child welfare landscape
- Convene quarterly meetings of all partners to implement Summit action plans and address priorities for change
 - Working group/subcommittee to integrate family treatment court best practices and/or session based on needs assessment

Conduct resource and key stakeholder inventory

Convene county-level planning group

Facilitate focus groups and key informant interviews

*Convene stakeholders at the **Upstream** Summit*

Schedule quarterly meetings

Begin data collection and disseminate the Community Self-Assessment

Compile findings and prepare report

Implement action plans

TIMELINE