



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All youth and young adult serving providers and agencies  
**From:** Bureau of Substance Abuse Services  
**Date:** August 2, 2017  
**Re:** New streamlined youth and young adult treatment referral process

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS), wishes to announce a new streamlined process to access the developmentally appropriate residential level of care for adolescents and young adults, in order to better meet the needs of young people experiencing problems as a result of their use of alcohol and other drugs.

Effective August 15, 2017 Massachusetts residents and youth and young adult serving agencies can directly refer to any youth and young adult program in the BSAS continuum of care without necessitating prior authorization from Youth Central Intake Care Coordination.

More information and assistance with referral is provided by the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline at 800-327-5050 or <http://helplinema.org>

The Massachusetts Helpline will continue to work with families and other key stakeholders to devise the most appropriate course of action for adolescents and young adults ages 13-24 in need of treatment for their use of substances. Options include:

- a. Placement in a stabilization program
- b. Placement directly at residential programs without a prior stay at stabilization level of care
- c. Referrals to statewide outpatient, community-based Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) services

The Massachusetts Helpline can also assist callers with information about access to BSAS adult treatment services.

Please refer to the attached list of BSAS youth and young adult service providers for direct referral placements.

For questions regarding this transition please contact Jessica Hudon from BSAS at 617-624-5330 or [Jessica.Hudon@state.ma.us](mailto:Jessica.Hudon@state.ma.us)