



For Immediate Release

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**Eliot Community Human Services and
the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Merge to Expand and Enhance Services and Advocacy**

May 18, 2016 -- The Boards of Directors of Eliot Community Human Services and of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) announced today plans to merge. These two leading nonprofit agencies are joining forces to create a comprehensive system of care to better address the needs of children and families struggling with mental health issues, domestic and community violence, abuse and neglect, and poverty. Combining these two agencies capitalizes on their individual strengths and provides economies of scale to create a solid platform for growth.

“Merging these two strong agencies will ultimately further their collective mission and benefit clients. Together, Eliot and MSPCC broaden their mission impact in ways they could never accomplish alone,” said Steve Pagliuca, Chair of MSPCC Board of Directors. “Children and families served by the combined agencies will have access to an array of quality services. Our employees will benefit from Eliot’s well-established training, technology, and management systems. State and philanthropic leaders can have confidence that precious funding is being maximized to enhance services and cost efficiency.”

“As leaders in the delivery of services to at-risk children and families, Eliot Community Human Services and MSPCC share a deep commitment to making a real difference in the lives of children and families across Massachusetts,” said Barry Collamore, Chair of Eliot Community Human Services Board of Directors. “Together, Eliot and MSPCC form a strong, leading agency positioned to navigate the new competitive landscape in health care and to advance the causes of child well-being.”

With 175 years of service to the community, the combined agencies will have a workforce of more than 2,000 and revenues exceeding \$115M. Eliot Community Human Services has an established strong track record of working with state and community leaders to address the needs of the state’s most vulnerable citizens. Since 1878, MSPCC has not only provided services for children and families, but has been at the forefront of social change, playing a major role in defining and shaping child welfare policy in both the Commonwealth and the nation.

Kate Markarian, CEO for Eliot Community Human Services, will lead the combined agencies. Recognizing its legacy as a voice for children, MSPCC will retain its name and expand its advocacy for policies, services and funding to meet the needs of children and families. Mary McGeown, will spearhead these efforts as MSPCC’s Executive Director, reporting to the President/CEO of Eliot.

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The combined agencies offer children and families a comprehensive array of services including young parent home visiting programs, behavioral health services, residential services and foster and adoption support services. MSPCC's prevention and clinical services will join the Children, Youth and Families Division of Eliot Community Human Services and these programs will keep the MSPCC brand name.

There will be no disruption to services for children and families and no reduction in workforce associated with the merger. The two agencies are conducting due diligence and will engage key stakeholders and funders to inform them of this important step forward for both organizations. It is anticipated that the merger will be complete on June 30, 2016.

About Eliot Community Human Services: Eliot Community Human Services is a not for profit human services and behavioral health organization, guided by a mission of enhancing the quality of lives of the most vulnerable, at risk populations. For the past 50 years, Eliot has been delivering residential, outpatient and community supports to children and their families across Massachusetts. In addition to programming for children and youth, Eliot provides emergency services and evaluations, community and residential supports for persons with chronic mental illness, residential and day services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and outreach supports to persons who are homeless. For more information, visit www.eliotchs.org

About MSPCC: MSPCC's comprehensive array of programs and services includes child abuse and intervention programs, mental health treatment, and adoption services. Services are provided both in the home and through community-based locations across the state of Massachusetts. In addition, MSPCC is dedicated to promoting and advocating for the well-being of children and families, advocating for laws on their behalf. - See more at www.mspcc.org

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