



Upper Cumberland CPS Redesign

The first multi-county region in the Child Protective Services redesign is the Upper Cumberland region. The reorganization merges investigations and assessments under one division, the Office of Child Safety, and incorporates several changes which are incredibly important to ensuring child safety and developing a more robust protection and prevention program. It realigns staff to respond to CPS reports with a sense of urgency, specialization, and allows the department to allocate resources efficiently and manage child protection in a more comprehensive manner. This model also builds on the strong relationship with CPIT members and leverages this partnership to engage them more intently in joint decision making for physical abuse cases identified as Physical Abuse Immediate Response (PAIR) that are reported to the Department by professionals from schools, day cares, and the mental health and medical field. It also assists in creating the foundation for the reform efforts underway with the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

Specialized Teams:

CPIT: receives severe abuse, child death and Physical Abuse Immediate Response (PAIR)* investigations that meet the criteria for assignment to Child Protective Services. They will be investigated as outlined in statute and policy within the 60-day timeframe.

Triage: receives PAIR* and severe abuse referrals (that do not initially meet the criteria for CPS assignment) and responds with an initial face to face with the child and family to determine, in conjunction with CPIT representatives, if further intervention is needed or if screen out is appropriate.

**PAIR referrals are reports made by school personnel, daycare providers, mental health providers, and medical providers alleging that a child 8 years old or younger, is at risk of further physical abuse. For PAIR reports, immediate response will be made within 4 hours from the call to the Child Abuse Hotline.*

The **PAIR** referrals are in two (2) categories:

1. Reports that meet the definition of PAIR and meet the criteria for CPS assignment will be assigned to the CPIT or Rapid Response teams as determined by severity and will have a 4-hour response time.
2. Reports that do not meet the criteria for CPS assignment (formerly would have been screened out) but meet the definition of PAIR will be assigned to the Triage team members to meet the 4-hour response time. Following the initial response, the referrals will be discussed with CPIT representatives to determine if the case needs further intervention or if screen out is appropriate.

Specialized Teams Continued:

Rapid Response Team: receives non-severe abuse referrals and makes the initial response and performs assessment to determine level of risk and if further intervention is needed for child safety or services. The referrals from this team can be closed within 10 days or they can be transferred to other teams for further intervention and service delivery to the family.

Family Protection and Preservation (FPP) Team: receives cases from the Rapid Response Teams and is responsible for on-going case management and providing services for up to 90 days. Cases may be transferred from this team to the regional Family Support Services (FSS) team.

Drug Unit: composed of two (2) specialized teams that focus on addiction and recovery with intensive interventions to address the risk and safety involved with the drug exposed children.

1. Drug Investigation Team conducts the investigation for the drug exposed child (DEC) allegations on children 0-3 months.
2. Family Support Services (FSS) team provides specialized long-term case management on the cases transferred from the drug team.

Regional FSS: receives cases from CPIT, Rapid Response, or the FPP teams. They will not receive cases from the drug team that involve children 0-3 months.

Resource Linkage: receives referrals from all the teams as appropriate for families in need of tangible items or services.

Have Questions?

Please contact one of the following individuals:

Jaime Greene-Lamb | Statewide Child Protective Services Director | 615-761-7209

James Payne | Team Coordinator | 615-289-5156

Stephanie Elliott | Team Coordinator | 615-489-5983

