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Media Contacts:

Katrina Cardillo
Senior Director of Marketing & PR
BFAIR
771 South Church Street
North Adams, MA 01247
413.664.9382
kcardillo@bfair.org
www.bfair.org

Elizabeth Filkins
Director of Development & Communications
UCP of Western Massachusetts
75 South Church Street
Suite 201
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413.442.1562 x.103
efilkins@ucpwma.org
www.ucpwma.org

BFAIR and UCP Board of Directors Share Plans to Pursue an Intent to Merge



Apr., 7, 2026 (Pittsfield, MA & North Adams, MA) – BFAIR and UCP of Western Massachusetts announced today that they are exploring the possibility of a future merger. The organizations emphasize that no final decisions have been made and that this process is in an exploratory phase.

Discussions formally began in June 2025, with a shared goal of determining whether a combined organization could strengthen services, improve long-term sustainability, and enhance impact across the region. Over the past eight months, board members from both organizations have participated in a structured and collaborative process, supported by an external consultant, to guide planning and evaluation.

“Both organizations are deeply committed to the individuals and families we serve,” said Peter Mirante, Board Chairperson of BFAIR. “This exploration is about ensuring we continue to meet community needs in the strongest, most sustainable way possible.”

As part of the process, both organizations conducted a comprehensive due diligence review of operations, governance, compliance, and risk. Financial records and assets were also closely examined to better understand opportunities and challenges. No significant concerns were identified.

Following this work, both Boards of Directors approved and signed a non-binding Resolution of Intent to Merge, reflecting a shared commitment to continue evaluating the opportunity. This document does not represent a final agreement.

Additional steps completed to date include:

- Engagement of local legal counsel to guide regulatory and legal considerations
- A detailed financial analysis to assess long-term sustainability
- Exploring funding opportunities to support and assist with consulting and legal costs
- Initial high-level integration planning to explore how a combined organization could operate while ensuring continuity of care

In the coming months, both organizations will begin more active engagement with key stakeholders, including staff, families, and community partners. This outreach will provide opportunities to share information, answer questions, and gather feedback.

Preliminary transition planning is also underway to explore potential organizational structures, leadership alignment, and program integration should a merger move forward. Leaders stress that this planning is preparatory and does not indicate a final decision has been made.

Both organizations also underscored their commitment to workforce stability throughout the process.

“We recognize that news like this can raise questions,” Dan Proskin, UCP’s Board President added. “We are committed to transparent communication and to keeping our focus where it belongs—on delivering high-quality services and support to the people who rely on us every day.”

Further updates will be shared as the exploration continues.

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About BFAIR

For over thirty years, BFAIR has been providing Adult Family Care (AFC), Residential, Employment and Day Services for adults and children with developmental disabilities and Acquired Brain Injury. BFAIR is a proud member agency of the Northern Berkshire United Way and the Williamstown Community Chest.

About UCP of Western MA

UCP of Western Massachusetts — an affiliate of United Cerebral Palsy Association — was established in 1961. UCP offers early intervention and ABA services for children, service navigation, direct programming, assistive technology, remote supports and advocacy for any individual, regardless of disability, to pursue a fulfilling, self-determined, high-quality community life — a life without limits.