

Cross-Agency Service Team



What is the Cross-Agency Service Team (CAST)?

The Cross Agency Service Team (CAST) is a collaborative network of leaders created in 2009 by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. CAST has a broad membership of leaders in many of the County human service departments, the Superior Court Judiciary, First 5 Santa Clara, Santa Clara County Office of Education, and numerous community organizations dedicated to improving the service delivery system for families and children.

The purpose of CAST is to create and leverage opportunities for cross-systems coordination to improve beneficial outcomes for children, youth and families throughout Santa Clara County. CAST is committed to racial and social equity with the goal of dismantling systemic barriers and implicit biases.

CAST Vision

Children, youth and families are on a path to achieving sustainable, positive life outcomes based on their hopes and aspirations for the future.

GOALS OF CAST

The primary goals and objectives of CAST include:



Facilitating cross-system linkages to streamline and improve service delivery across child- and family-serving departments, agencies and the community.



Transforming the County's systems of care to promote trauma-informed, healing-centered policies, practices and resourcing decisions.



Supporting community-driven and relationship-based upstream prevention/promotion efforts to keep children, youth and families on a path to achieving sustainable, positive life outcomes.

CAST'S ONGOING WORK

Current projects led by CAST include:

- » Implementing systems-level strategies that promote **upstream prevention**, health and well-being for children, youth and families.
- » Developing an **online, interactive inventory that maps prevention resources**, efforts and initiatives throughout the county that will help identify linkages, redundancies and gaps to enhance collaboration and effectiveness.
- » Assisting with implementation of the **Joint Foster Youth Task Force's recommendations** to help ensure the well-being of foster youth.
- » Analyzing existing initiatives for children and families to better **align, integrate and support enhanced collaboration** for greater collective impact.
- » **Streamlining the process** of providing socio-emotional, developmental, behavioral, educational, and medical assessments for children.





CAST History and Accomplishments

2006

Creation of Family Wellness Court model, a program to help address the needs of parents and children involved in Dependency Court by working collaboratively across systems with a trauma-informed approach.

2009

Board of Supervisors Resolution to adopt and train staff on a Trauma and Healing-Informed framework; cross-system collaborative formalized by Supervisor Dave Cortese to expand and leverage opportunities for systems coordination; development of CAST charter, Systems Framework and logic model.

2011

Cross-systems trauma-informed approach and services piloted in Juvenile Justice system for dually involved youth; pioneered system-wide trainings on trauma-informed approach.

2012

Foundation for shared Trauma-Informed Systems of Care (TISOC) Framework created; beginning of San Jose State University Studies to inform this work.

2017-18

Creation of System-Wide Framework for Trauma-Informed, Healing-Centered Care.

2018-Present

CAST continues with expanded focus on systems change and integration to support upstream prevention and promotion of well-being for all.

CAST MEMBERSHIP

CAST continues to expand its membership to respond to and address emerging cross-system needs and priorities. Partners and members in CAST currently include representatives of the following organizations:

Academy on Violence and Abuse

Behavioral Health Contractor's Association

Casey Foundation

Center for Child Protection

County Board of Supervisors

County Executive's Office

Department of Alcohol and Drug Services

Dependency Advocacy Center

Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS)

Destination: Home

DFCS Behavioral Health Services

District Attorney's Office

Exite Credit Union

First 5 Santa Clara County

Health and Human Services

Juvenile Court

Kids in Common / Opportunity Youth Partnership

Law Foundation of Silicon Valley National Center for Youth Law

National Compadres Network

Office of Cultural Competency for Children Services

Office of Education

Office of Immigrant Relations

Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Affairs

Office of Women's Policy

Office of Supportive Housing

Probation Department

Public Health, Nursing Services

Razing the Bar

Silicon Valley Council of Non Profits

San Jose State University

Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System

Santa Clara Valley Ambulatory and Community Health

Social Services Agency

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

CAST remains open to other agencies and stakeholders dedicated to using a whole child, whole family approach to improve well-being, health, and service delivery for families and children.

For more information, please contact Patty Irwin, Senior Management Analyst with the Social Services Agency via email at Patty.Irwin@ssa.sccgov.org or by phone at (408) 755-7947.

