



**Contra Costa  
Interagency  
Collaborative  
(CCIC)**



# HELLO!

Our Collaborative is made up of various community partners from around the County, serving children ages 0-5 with special health care needs, or at risk for a physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition, and their families.



## **SYSTEM IMPLICATIONS**

What's going on in Early Intervention is a preview of the school system and later, the adult population. Research shows that Early Intervention services reduce the burden on the overall service system.

# Contra Costa County

- **14.8%** of children have special health care needs.
- **9,799** children have a major disability.
- **58.6%** of children with special health care needs had one or more ACES.
- **23,000** students receive special education services.
- **4,385** children are enrolled in CCS.

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**Children with special health care needs:**

children who are at increased risk for a chronic physical, **developmental**, behavioral, or emotional condition and required health and related services of a type or amount **beyond** that required by children generally.

# SYSTEM IMPLICATIONS

Children with special health care needs are more likely to experience social-emotional problems, academic challenges, and other types of adversity which can complicate their access to medical care.

- Children rely on a **range of services** from **multiple sectors**
- Their parents and family members face **higher** caregiving burdens and experience **more** stress and difficulties with employment and finances, compared to other families.



## COLLABORATIVE BACKGROUND

- Interagency collaboratives are a **best practice**.
- Started as a “roundtable” meeting with agencies talking about referrals.
- Received grant funding in 2013 and has kept meeting ever since.
- Moved to Zoom during the pandemic, and have not gone back to in-person.



## **PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Care Parent Network  
Life Steps Foundation  
CocoKids  
Through the Looking Glass  
First 5 Contra Costa  
Help Me Grow

Kaiser Permanente  
CCHP  
Pediatric Behavioral  
Management Clinic (PBMC)  
CCS  
Early Childhood Mental Health  
We Care Services  
Kyo (ABA provider)

RCEB  
Lynn Center  
George Miller Center

CCCOE  
WCCUSD  
MDUSD  
YMCA of the East Bay  
Head Start

Bay Area Crisis Nursery  
Family Justice Center  
C.O.P.E.  
Contra Costa County Library





## WHAT WE DO

- Learn more specifically about who does what in the County.
- Share information & updates.
- Easily identify barriers & patterns.
- **Ultimate goal** is to increase access for families navigating service system.



# COMMON BARRIERS

## **Staffing Shortages**

The Early Intervention system as well as Early Childhood Education & Child Care are affected by the same staffing shortages.

## **Multiple points of entry**

Many access points and getting connected depends on where a family entered.

## **Reimbursement Rates**

Providers feel telehealth therapy appointments are more efficient and effective. More families want in-person therapy sessions.

## **System Constraints**

System complexity, narrow eligibility criteria, and availability of services constrain timely access to developmental supports.



## CONTRA COSTA

- Lack of early intervention providers in certain regions of the county (Martinez/Crockett/Rodeo area, East & Far East County)
- The need to drive to access CCS or other medically-based services (Medical Therapy Units, Children's Hospital)
- Some resistance of childcare providers to accept children with disabilities/allow EI providers in.
- Limited choice in services for families of young children with autism (i.e. ABA and few other options).
- Overarching an incredibly complex service delivery system.

# WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Child's Age	Family Experience	System
9 months	Parents notice their son hasn't started babbling the way many of his peers do. Concerned, they bring it up at his 9-month well-child visit, where the provider tells them not to worry and that their son is likely "on his own schedule."	Primary care
15 months	The child only says a couple of words, and hasn't started walking yet. His child care provider expresses concern, and encourages the parents to ask for a developmental screening at his next well-child visit.	Community-based developmental support
18 months	The provider completes the ASQ:3 and notes delays in communication and gross motor skills, then makes a referral to the Regional Center.	Primary care
20 months	The family applies for Regional Center services and it takes two months to receive an assessment. The child is found to be eligible for Early Start. An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed and the Regional Center refers the family to the Medi-Cal managed care plan. Although the child is eligible for Early Start, Regional Centers cannot pay for services if they can be covered through health insurance.	Regional Center
21 months	It takes a while for the managed care plan to make a determination.	Managed care plan
21 months	Frustrated, the family calls their local Help Me Grow for advice, and is informed that Regional Centers must provide early intervention services while they wait to hear back from Medi-Cal.	Community-based developmental support
22 months	The family presses the Regional Center to provide services, and the child starts receiving speech and physical therapy through Early Start.	Regional Center
23 months	The managed care plan eventually determines that the speech therapy is "medically necessary" but the physical therapy is not.	Managed care plan
24 months	The child continues to receive physical therapy through Early Start, however the speech therapist is not in-network with the child's managed care plan. Therefore, the family must seek another speech therapist in the community that takes the child's insurance. The family calls around and is able to get an appointment in six weeks with a provider who is a 40-minute drive away.	Regional Center & Managed care plan

# Where to Refer a Child for Assessment



## Where to Refer a Child for Assessment in Contra Costa County:

Do you have concerns about a child's development? Would you like to refer them for a formal assessment, but you do not know where or how? Please see below for information on where to refer a child based on age (1<sup>st</sup> page) or area of concern (2<sup>nd</sup> page).

### Child is under 3 years

All of Contra Costa County:

Select districts in the County:

West Contra Costa Unified:

#### **Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) (0 – 3 years old)**

P: (510) 618-6195

E: [earlystartreferrals@rceb.org](mailto:earlystartreferrals@rceb.org)

W: <https://www.rceb.org/about-us/contact-us/>

- RCEB is a non-profit who provides evaluation & support to children under age 3 who have developmental delays or are at-risk for a developmental disability (serves Contra Costa & Alameda counties)

#### **Contra Costa County Office of Education STRIDE Program**

P: (925) 754-0934 ext 13

E: [STRIDE@cccocoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:STRIDE@cccocoe.k12.ca.us)

W: [Early Start STRIDE website](#)

- They provide developmental evaluation and services to children under 3 years old who live in the following districts: Antioch, Brentwood, Byron, Canyon, John Swett, Knightsen, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pittsburg, and Walnut Creek

#### **Cameron School – L.I.F.T. Program**

P: (510) 231-1445

- WCCUSD provides quality early intervention services through the L.I.F.T. Program (Learning with Infants and Families Together). They offer services to infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental concerns, and their families

### Child is over 3 years

#### **Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) (3+ years)**

P: (510) 618-6122

E: [intakeoverthree@rceb.org](mailto:intakeoverthree@rceb.org)

W: <https://www.rceb.org/about-us/contact-us/>

- To qualify, child must have a developmental disability (e.g., autism, cerebral palsy, intellectually disability, epilepsy, etc.)

#### **School District: (Individual Education Program – IEP)**

- Contact the Special Education Department at your resident school district office (NOT your elementary school). Request an evaluation in the area(s) of concern or a full comprehensive evaluation, as needed.
- Click on the link for a list of all school districts in the County: <http://contracosta.ss16.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalid=1077397&pageid=2981259>

### Any age:

#### **Medical**

- You can ask your Pediatrician for a referral for any of the following evaluations: Speech & Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Hearing & Vision, and Behavior/Social & Emotional concerns
  - With language concerns, it is recommended to ask for a referral for an Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) doctor to rule out fluid in the ears or issues with the adenoids or tonsils. You can request to have an Audiologist perform a formal hearing test
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Ask your pediatrician for a referral for an autism evaluation. ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) (one-on-one) services through medical for home and/or school may be available for children with and without an autism diagnosis
- Pediatric Behavioral Management Clinic (PBMC): If covered by Medi-Cal, you can ask your pediatrician for a referral if you have concerns about a child's mental, social, or academic development (0-18 years). For more information, call (925)370-5635
- California Children's Services (CCS): a statewide program that arranges and pays for medical care, equipment, and rehabilitation for eligible children and youth (0 – 21 years of age) who have eligible medical conditions. Call (925) 313-6400 or visit <https://cchealth.org/fmch/ccs.php> for more information

8/30/2022\_MM

## Where to Refer Spanish



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# THANKS!

Any questions?

**Interested in joining the CCIC?**

Email Hannah Michaelsen

[hmichaelsen@careparentnetwork.org](mailto:hmichaelsen@careparentnetwork.org)