



The Alameda County Children's SART Initiative is a major systems change effort with a mission to establish and implement a family-centered, coordinated, accessible system of community support, prevention, early intervention and treatment that meets the developmental and behavioral needs of all Alameda County children 0-5. During the first three years of implementation, however, priority will be given to identified priority populations, including:

- Children born of mothers identified through substance abuse screening while pregnant
- Children receiving well child care from CHDP providers and clinics
- Children in Head Start, Early Head Start and subsidized child care programs
- Children in the child welfare system (children with active Child Protective Services cases)

What is SART? It is a comprehensive early intervention system initiative for children 0-5 that includes: **S**creening, **A**ssessment, **R**eferral and **T**reatment. To that end, the SART will include four primary components:

1. Early Identification of Children Through Enhanced Screening Efforts
2. Appropriate and Timely Assessment Services for all Children
3. A Coordinated System of Triage and Referral
4. Increased Capacity for Community Supports and Treatment Services

The Alameda County Children's SART Initiative is a countywide coordinated, interagency system of systems and services for children birth to five presenting developmental or social emotional delays or those children whose health, environmental, or psycho-social risk factors place them at highest risk for such delays. The Children's SART Initiative enhances coordination with existing entitlement or publicly-funded service delivery systems and offers additional services to children for whom the provision of non-entitled community-based interventions are most likely to result in improved child health and developmental outcomes.

First 5 Alameda County has served as the lead agency in the administration and coordination of the Children's SART Initiative. The Children's SART Initiative operates as a countywide interagency collaborative with broad participation of, and representation from county agencies, city governmental entities, community based organizations, health care providers, early care and education programs, and family and children's advocacy organizations. Successful implementation of all Children's SART service components relies upon the cooperation, collaboration, and communication among agencies providing both entitled and community-based services or supports to children birth to five and their families. Child and family participation in Children's SART direct services is voluntary.

The Children's SART Initiative provides a coordinated response to inquiries and referrals made to the Linkage Line, coordinates community service and assessment options for children who do not meet the eligibility thresholds for mandated services, and offers intensive, short-term family navigation services to those families determined to have the greatest need. The capacity of the Children's SART System to identify and track children of concern and coordinate community-based interventions is expected to reduce the number of children entering school at age five in need of special education or other more costly interventions.

Supporting the healthy development and social-emotional wellbeing of children birth to five years is a shared goal of Alameda County Children's SART partners. *When health, developmental, educational and social programs are coordinated, they are proven to be cost-effective for both systems and individual families (California Early Intervention Services Act).*

Alameda County Children's SART (Screening, Assessment, Referral & Treatment) Pilot Model Flow Chart

