



Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse (the Alliance)

Fostering multisector collaboration to effect systems change that reduces interpersonal violence.

www.contracostaalliance.org

LEAD AGENCY

The Alliance to End Abuse, which is a department within the Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department

DV PREVENTION APPROACH

The Alliance has pivoted from an intervention focus to prevention as reflected in their 2020 Contra Costa County Call to Action: Preventing Interpersonal Violence. This document directs and outlines the goals and strategies of the Family Violence Task Force to address root causes of interpersonal violence and calls for more responsive, inclusive, and equitable strategies of prevention work.

Goal 1: Build an effective and sustainable infrastructure to prevent interpersonal violence in the county that will include multi-sector partnership and coalition-building, resource development, data gathering and sharing, policy and best practices development, aligned and coordinated communication efforts, and capacity building through culturally rooted approaches.

Goal 2: Foster early childhood development and whole family supports that will advocate for policies and system changes to foster holistic family and childhood development and resilience, engage and educate to change social norms to support positive parenting.

Goal 3: Encourage community trust and connectedness to build a strong and connected social environment and to have healthy social networks through community led efforts and narrative projects.

Goal 4: Improve economic opportunity and stability for families and community by advocating for policies and systems change to strengthen household financial needs particularly among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) families and communities.

COLLABORATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Development of the collaborative

- The Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse (formerly Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence) is a county Board of Supervisors initiative created in

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

[Family Justice Center](#)

[Bay Area Legal Aid](#)

[Community Violence Solutions](#)

[STAND! for Families Free of Violence](#)

[Child Abuse Prevention Council of CCC](#)

[First 5 of CCC](#)

[Rainbow Community Center](#)

[The Latina Center](#)

[The Black Neighborhood](#)

[Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa & Solano](#)

[John Muir Health](#)

[CCC Office of Education](#)

[CCC Community College District](#)

[Office of the District Attorney](#)

[Office of the Public Defender](#)

[Contra Costa Health Services](#)

[Probation Department](#)

[Superior Court of California, CCC](#)

Law enforcement jurisdictions including [Richmond Police Department](#)

2000 to effect systems change through the alignment of policies, practices, and protocols. The Alliance convenes county agencies and community-based organizations in Contra Costa County to facilitate governmental oversight and coordination of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, elder abuse prevention, intervention, and prosecution. A significant milestone of the Alliance was the establishment of the **Family Justice Center** which began as a pilot in 2011 and now operates four centers across the county. The creation of the Center fundamentally changed the county's ability to deliver integrated intervention services.

- In May 2020 the Alliance created the **Family Violence Task Force** to establish and track violence prevention efforts within the county. The Task Force now includes 30 members and was renamed the Family Violence Prevention Coalition in 2023.
- The Alliance's partnership with First 5 has deepened as a result of this collaborative work. In 2022 the Alliance and First 5 formed the Contra Costa **Network of Care** with funding from California Surgeon General and California Department of Health ACEs Aware Initiative. The Network of Care is a community of trauma-informed practitioners dedicated to preventing and healing childhood adversity. One of their initiatives is to reach out to the community to increase service providers' trauma informed practices. One suggested action is for organizations to create self-care spaces in their office lobbies (e.g., massage chairs). Between October 2021 and September 2022 the collaborative conducted 8 trainings on becoming trauma informed or ACEs aware.

Over the years, **organizational relationships have expanded, and trust with partners has strengthened**. The Alliance has been intentional about inviting people who are not usually at the table and then creating a safe space so that they feel like they can contribute and their voices are equal to other members. And in return partners show up. As one partner commented when asked why they attended an event that focused on an issue that is not part of their core mission they responded, "I'm here because you invited me."

Community engagement and power building

- The Family Justice Center's **Community Fellowship Program** (which includes adult and youth cohorts) promotes leadership in the community for survivors of interpersonal violence. The Community Fellowship provides

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Contra Costa County

COMMUNITY OF FOCUS

Government agencies and community-based organizations that can design and implement prevention strategies to reduce interpersonal violence in Contra Costa County.

interpersonal violence survivors with skills mentorship, training, access to a learning community, a small monetary stipend, and ongoing support as they each develop and execute an independent, self-directed community project. Examples of community projects created by fellows include a backpack drive, yoga, and Project Connect which is an affinity group of LatinX community members and survivors who gather monthly. The Family Justice Center invites the Community Fellows to participate as partners and equal stakeholders who guide their work. The Fellows' work and ideas have changed the Center's—and the Alliance's—policies, protocols, and practices to make them more relevant and effective.

- In 2021 the Family Justice Center launched a **Generations Connect Program**, which included youth and seniors, that focused on multi-generational community connectedness as a form of prevention. Participants came together online to learn about and discuss family violence and DV prevention, do activities together, and create media together. Youth had the opportunity to connect with seniors in person when they delivered food during COVID support efforts.

“I think that there’s a lot of issues between different generations and we should learn how to bridge the gap between them. Now, I am more aware of the issues, and I am striving to change those.”

– youth participant

- In November 2022, the Family Violence Task Force held a one-day conference entitled **Mission Possible: Prevent Violence in Our Community** which had 90 in-person and 65 virtual attendees. Mission Possible focused on understanding violence prevention from a public health lens. Speakers included community experts in anti-violence, racial equity and interpersonal violence work. Conference objectives included:
 - a) Building a shared understanding of violence prevention,
 - b) Connecting interpersonal violence to community violence, and
 - c) Promote understanding of racial equity in violence prevention work.

Attendees left the conference enthused about the potential to prevent violence. Eighty percent of post-convening survey respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they learned ways in which their organization can work towards violence prevention.

- The Alliance partnered with another EHSD department and other agencies to create a **social service rapid response team during the COVID pandemic**. The team responded to calls from community members seeking support in applying to social services, Cal Fresh, housing COVID testing, grocery delivery, etc.

Policy and funding shifts

- **The collaborative has focused on helping partners and other county agencies and community partners understand how racial equity, poverty, and community safety plays a role in preventing interpersonal violence.** They discuss these issues during regular meetings with partners as well as conduct trainings in the community. Between October 2021 and September 2022 the Coalition conducted 11 trainings attended by 122 individuals. The training provide an opportunity to learn about work being done within the community as well as provide support to organizations to implement prevention programs. During collaborative meetings members discuss how their organizations are supporting survivors with economic hardships and are building their self-sufficiency and are asked to examine other ways their organization can help survivors who are economically disadvantaged. For example, the collaborative partnered with one organization to get survivors of DV, SA and HT access to grocery and gas gift cards, pay for transportation, an hotel stays. With another they partnered to get COVID relief to survivors of IPV who were adversely affected by the pandemic. Collaborative members have also been at the table for discussions about policies that support basic income and flexible spending for IPV victims 2021.
- The Alliance re-examined their existing **learning module on interpersonal violence prevention** to make it more accessible to the wider community. They worked on adjusting the language so that it is user friendly (less jargon and academic language), incorporating different learning styles (e.g., using audio, video, etc.), and translating into Spanish. The learning modules were integrated into the Network of Care Hub. Between October 2021 and September 2022, 140 individuals registered on the Hub.
- In November 2020 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of the **Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice** to address equity concerns in areas where the county might have influence. The Family Justice Center was a partner in the successful advocacy and planning efforts to create the ORESJ, including planning community listening sessions

FUTURE & SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COLLABORATIVE

In the next year the Family Violence Prevention Task Force seeks to increase its membership, refine its structure, and continue to move forward with the policies and priorities outlined in the Call to Action.

As the Task Force enters into a new phase, it will work closely with Contra Costa Health Services as it was recently awarded a grant focused on both violence intervention and prevention. The goal of the grant work will be to create a strategic plan. The Family Violence Coalition will continue to work with Contra costa Health Services to see how their work can be more collaborative.