

Cross-Systems Integration
There's a Better Way

Breaking Barriers California partnered with Applied Survey Research to conduct focus groups with four county planning teams engaged in cross-system collaboration to improve supports for children, youth, and families. **The goal of the conversations was to better understand what has helped counties make progress as an integrated ecosystem of care, as well as the ongoing challenges or opportunities for improvement.** This synthesis of qualitative lessons learned will help broader advocacy communications and storytelling efforts focused on ecosystem of care approaches across California to inform policy and decision-making.

ROADMAP TO AN INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM OF CARE

Counties viewed the ecosystem of care as essential, critical work. Without integration, families would experience disjointed services and likely fall through the cracks before getting all their needs met.

> "Children would be less safe, families would not be as strong, well, or together. We would be more siloed, families would be more siloed. People would be more isolated.

Counties described a roadmap to an integrated ecosystem of care in which formal partnerships, engagement of the right partners, a shared vision, and aligned structures and practices work together to create a more seamless experience for families seeking support.

1. Formal Partnership

Formalizing relationships through policy and official documentation, such as MOUs, solidifies the commitment to community engagement and partnership.

2. Invite the "Right" People

Having the "right" people at the table is critical to making progress: decision makers, organizations who are embedded in the community, program leaders.

3. Shared Vision

Establishing a shared vision and framework clarifies the reasoning behind decision making, which promotes trust among the partners and trickles down to support frontline staff.

4. Shared Practices

Integrated, trauma-informed practices strengthen coordination, and reduce barriers for children and families. As agencies build stronger relationships and clearer protocols, staff are better equipped to connect families with needed supports.

ASR breaking barriers THE POWER OF ONE