



WESTCOAST PROVIDES 24/7/365 SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT AT THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ASSESSMENT CENTER

As of July, 2008, WestCoast Children's Clinic will be operating their Alameda County Screening, Stabilization and Transition (STAT) Program round-the-clock, 365 days a year to provide mental health screenings at the point of removal to all children who are taken into protective custody due to abuse or neglect. A public health nurse conducts a medical screening and STAT clinicians provide children with much needed mental health screening and intervention. Following the screening and assessment, clinicians determine if children need additional help in transitioning to their next home and family.

Located at the Alameda County Assessment Center, the STAT Program also offers a safe and nurturing environment at a time when children are the most vulnerable, helping them cope with the trauma of being removed from their homes as well as the abuse or neglect that prompted the removal. Children may eat, shower, sleep, watch television, play a game, do arts and crafts, or simply relax. "Prior to creation of the Assessment Center, children were either driven around in police cars or sat in someone's office while social service personnel made calls to find the child a place to go," said Stacey Katz, Psy.D., Executive Director of WestCoast Children's Clinic.

"Now there is a place they are brought to that is child friendly, staffed with people who care, both in assessing their needs and soothing them in the first hours they are taken from their home."

Children already in placement may come to the Assessment Center as well when they are changing placement or picked up after going AWOL from a previous placement.

Since 2005, WestCoast Children's Clinic has screened over 3000 children and transitioned 75% of those into their new homes via the STAT Program.