



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

Thompson Policy Institute
on Disability



FAMILIES, AGENCIES, AND SCHOOLS
— TOGETHER —

It Takes a Village:

Creating Collaborative Relationships with Families, Agencies and Schools

Elissa Green Kaustinen

— MA School Psychology

Learning Objectives

- Learn how to create and sustain collaborative partnerships (families, agencies, and schools)
- Identify ways to leverage partnerships to support individuals with disabilities and family outcomes

About me....



Elissa Green Kaustinen,

— MA School Psychology

— FAST Director, Thompson Center for Autism

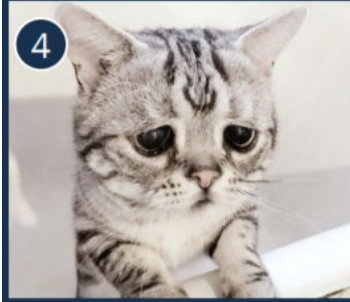
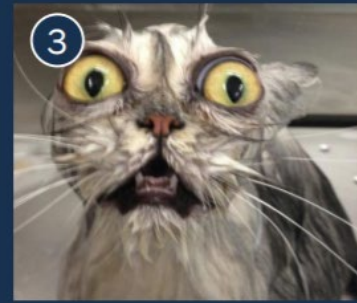
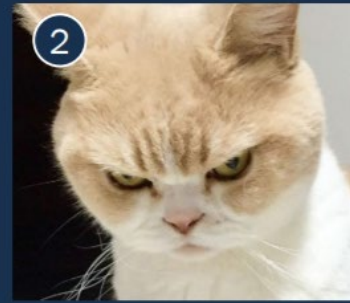
@ CHOC (TAC)



Today's Agenda

- Why build an innovative model
- The Future: Designing a program through a community approach
- FAST
 - Integrating the medical and educational models
 - Removing barriers
 - Supported and Shared Responsibilities
- Questions & Answers

The various
feelings of
walking into an
IEP meeting
medical
appointment



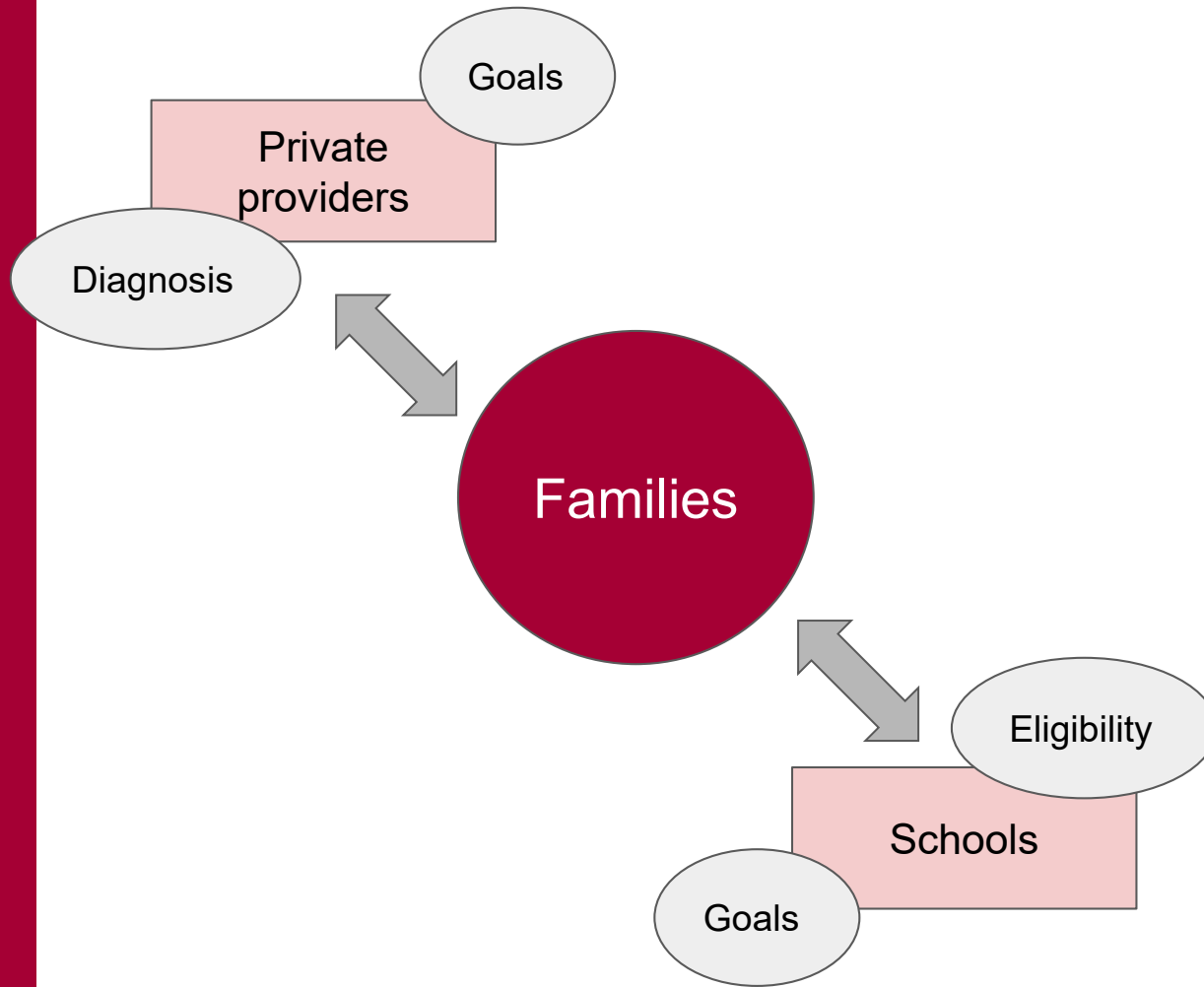
Why?

“I get anxious before every IEP meeting; my stomach starts churning, I have difficulties concentrating and my heart flutters. It has been nearly a decade. While some meetings have gotten a little easier, I still get nervous. It feels like my child’s future is hanging in the balance every year. Whether it is true or not, that is how it feels.

Everyone else in the room will be a professional educator, and I am the only one there who must live with the outcome of the decisions made during the meeting. Even when I know his team cares about my child, it can be a heavy, lonely burden.”

— Parent regarding the IEP Process

Traditional Models



Traditional Models

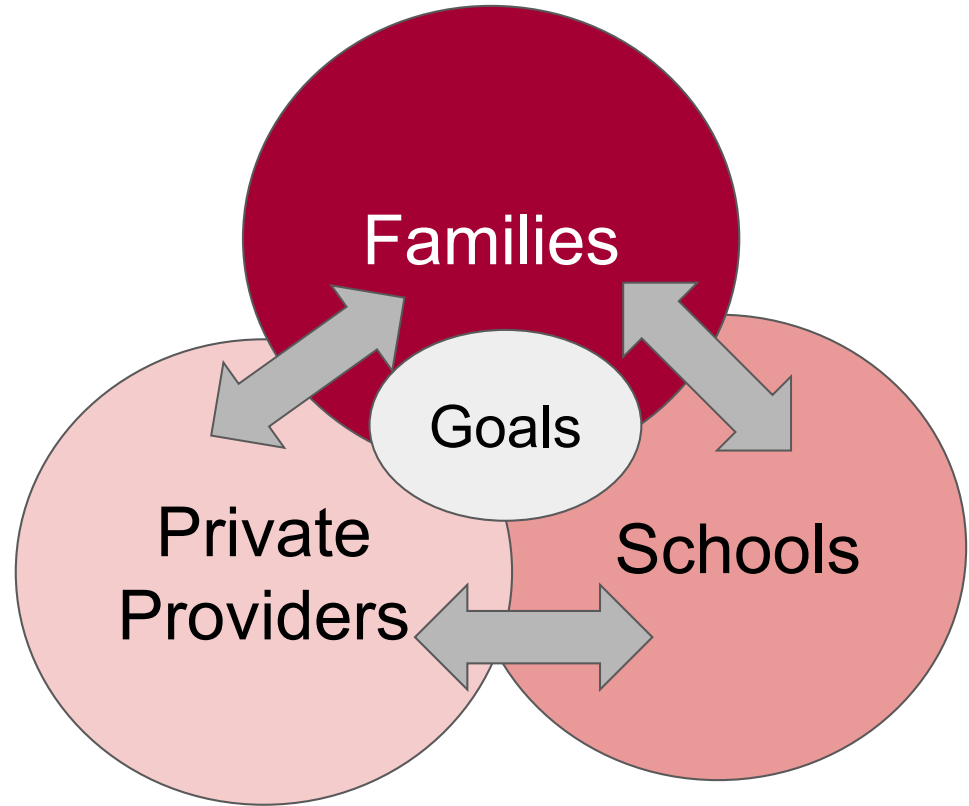
- Schools and private providers are working in isolation.
- Parents are responsible for communicating between the groups.
- Confusion between diagnosis and special education eligibility.
- Student targets are not shared.

Traditional Model

Deficits:

- Lack of understanding the role of each provider (school, medical)
- Lack of collaboration on individuals' goals.
- Differing short-term and long-term goals for individuals.
- Services are not complementary to one another
- Services in conflict
- Experts working in isolation
- Experts working outside their field of knowledge
- Confused families and individuals

Innovative Approach



Innovative Approach

- Schools and private providers are working in collaboration.
- Team approach for communicating between the groups.
- Explanation of roles
- Shared responsibility of student targets.

Innovative Approach

Benefits

- Collaborative networks that include families, agencies, and schools
- Positive agency relationships focused on targeted outcomes
- Removing barriers allowing services to compliment one another
- Maximizing resources (personnel, services)

Building an Innovative Approach

Considerations:

- Developing the team
- Building and sustaining the collaboration
- Understanding a medical model vs educational model

Developing the Team

- Team leader
- Identify the private and educational service providers
- Sign Releases of Information (ROI)
- Relay the areas of expertise
- Identify your area of expertise
- Clarify roles

Building Collaboration

- Encourage communication prior to a meeting
- Ensure all parties are represented at IEPs
- Set norms at the beginning of the meeting
- Use collaborative language
- Consider Person Centered Planning
- Strength-based language

Sustaining Collaboration

- Always bring the discussion back to the long-term goals for the person
- Refrain from the blame game
- Go back to the agreed-upon norms
- Revisit medical model vs educational model

Medical Model vs Educational Model

Medical Diagnosis:

- DSM-5
- Medical Diagnosis, treatment/therapy addresses medical condition
- Medical Professionals
- Clinical Setting

Educational Eligibility:

- Education Code
- Educational impact/benefit
- Multidisciplinary school team (teachers, school psychologists, therapists, etc.)
- School Setting

Ideas for Improved Collaboration

Home:

- Create a “Meet my Child” sheet that can be shared with school, medical, babysitter, and/or family and friends;
- At the beginning of the school year initiate signing a release of information with all service providers;
- Send out an introductory email with the signed releases attached with all providers.

School:

- Introduce yourself at the beginning of the year;
- Create a “What to expect this Year” fact sheet (IEP month; progress reporting periods, contact information);
- Consider inviting the parent in for an informal “get to know you meeting”;
- Contact the private providers before the IEP to develop rapport and review areas of need and goals.

Innovative Approaches @ Thompson Autism Center

- Families, Agencies, & Schools Together
- Undivided

Families, Agencies, & Schools Together

FAST's mission is to increase access to quality programming and improve educational outcomes for students with neurodevelopmental disorders.

We strive to build collaborative relationships between families, schools, medical/clinical providers, and supporting agencies.

We provide educational workshops and individual and small group consultation to support families and professionals successfully navigate through the complexities of the Special Education system.

FAST also provides professional development opportunities for schools and community agencies aimed at increasing understanding, access, and evidence-based practices.

Our History

The Creation

Families & Schools Together was developed in collaboration with Chapman University, the Thompson Family Foundation, and UCI Health.

The Evolution

To expand our impact and meet demands, FAST grows and evolves into a multi-tiered system of support and services.

The Name Change

To better reflect our service model, our name was changed to Families, Agencies, & Schools Together (FAST).

2013

2020

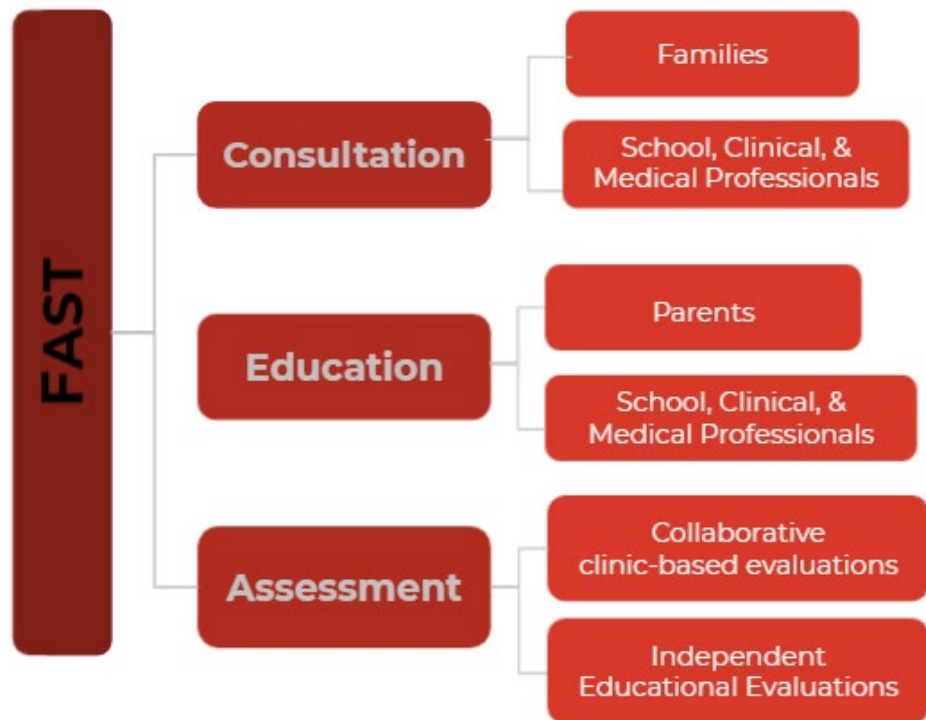
The Opening

FAST launched at UCI Health's Center For Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The Expansion

FAST launches at the Thompson Autism Center @ CHOC

FAST





Families

Agencies

Schools

Together

Families

- Workshops
 - Success in Special Education: Beginning & Advanced
 - IEP Navigation
 - Autism 101
- Problem Solving Consultation
 - Individual consultations
 - Document reviews and explanations
 - IEP meeting preparation
 - IEP team collaboration
- Educational & Diagnostic Assessment (at CAND)
- Transition Programing



Agencies

Medical & Clinical

- Professional Development
 - UCI & CHOC Residency Rotations and Grand Rounds
- Consultation
- Collaborative Appointments

Community

- Training/Workshops focused on Access & Understanding
- Developmental Screenings
- Consultation
- Collaborative Events

FAST has provided training on the Special Education process and collaboration between teams to over 600 medical & clinical providers since 2016.



Schools

- Training/Workshops
 - Autism Diagnostic Observation System (ADOS-2) Clinical Level Training
 - ADOS-2 Refreshers
 - Conducting a Comprehensive School-based Autism Evaluation
 - Building Positive Relationships for Parents
 - Supporting Students with ASD in the General Education Classroom
 - Community Advisory Committee (CAC) presentations
- Case Consultation
- Program Consultation
- IEP team Collaboration
- Educational Assessment (CAND)

★ ★ ★ We have collaborated with 57 different school districts.

★ ★ ★ FAST has provided training focused on evaluating and supporting students with ASD to over 1800 educators.

Undivided.io

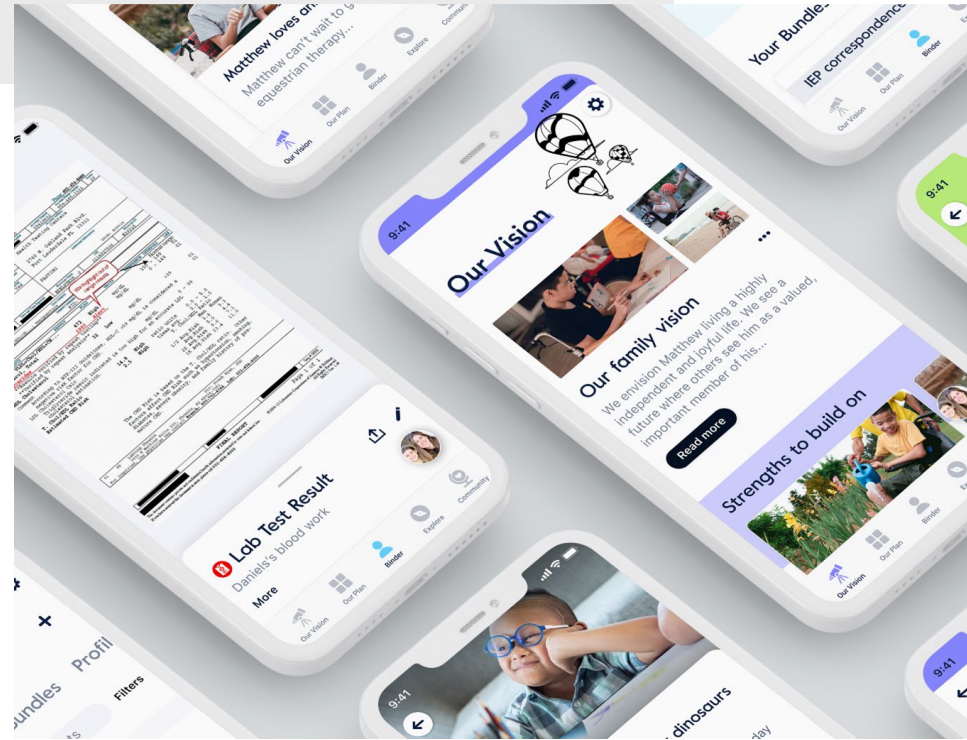
Undivided helps families navigate the systems and supports that are already out there and complements those with the support of Undivided Navigators and a community of parents.

This support is wrapped inside a web and mobile app that acts as a personal health record specially designed for the unique challenges of raising a child with disabilities.

Undivided Support System

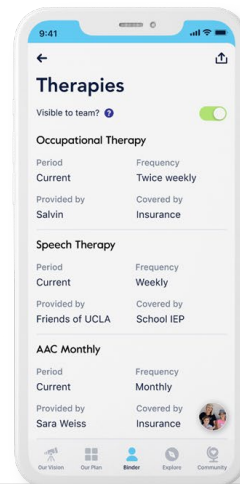
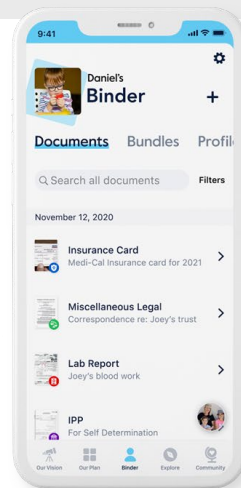
Provides a centralized platform where families can learn, make progress, and collaborate with their care teams:

- Share and manage documents and information from anywhere.
- Get access to experts and staff members.
- Identify, track, and complete goals.
- Partner with an Undivided Navigator each step of the way.



Undivided Account and Digital Binder

- Replace your paper files with a highly organized digital binder.
- Upload and access your child's medical, school, and therapy records from anywhere.
- Share your digital binder with anyone on the care team.



Undivided Experts and Events

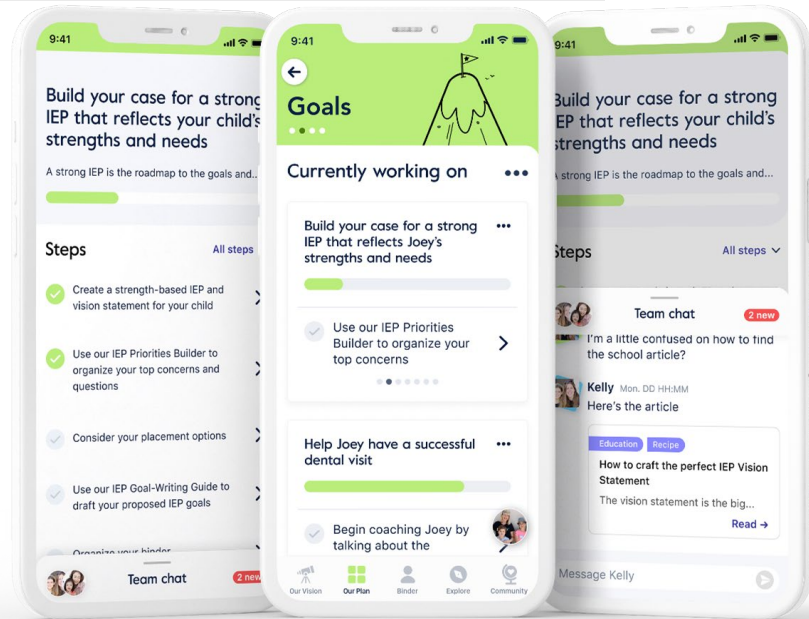
- Get the lowdown and latest news from industry experts.
- Enjoy unparalleled access to ask questions in a safe space.
- Learn from the experiences of others.
- Become an informed parent advocate.

[Undivided.io](https://undivided.io) | [@undividedapp](https://twitter.com/undividedapp)



Undivided Goal Orientation and Guides

- Partner with Undivided to identify your goals and priorities.
- Follow step-by-step guides created with industry experts to help you accomplish your goals.
- Get support from your Undivided Navigator whenever you need it.



Undivided Dedicated Navigators

- Work with an Undivided Navigator who has been there before and will support you at every turn.
- Stay in touch through In-app messaging and monthly boost calls so you have the support you need to thrive.



Questions?

Thank you for joining us today.

To learn more about
the FAST model,
please visit:

www.chapman.edu/tpi

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Contact Information

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William & Nancy Thompson
— Family Foundation —

UCI Health



**Thompson Policy Institute
on Disability**