

# PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT



**WHEREAS**, the impact of sexual assault and child maltreatment can cause severe and long-lasting physical, emotional, and psychological consequences, the experience can be devastating not only for the child, but also for the family and friends of the child; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault and child maltreatment cross all ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic backgrounds, the tragedy of child abuse can cause disabilities and poor health, depression, poor academic performance, alcohol and other drug problems, and abusive adult relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that child abuse is an adverse childhood experience (ACE) that has a lifetime effect on the survivor and studies have shown that stability, support and healthy relationships have a positive impact on the children impacted by ACEs; CAST promotes stability and support for the child, family and caregivers through the multi-disciplinary team approach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST), a multi-disciplinary team comprised of specially trained individuals representing Child Welfare Services, the District Attorney's Office, Humboldt Domestic Violence Services, Law Enforcement, Mental Health, North Coast Rape Crisis Team, and Tribal Agencies was created to reach one of the most vulnerable populations in our community-children who are victims of sexual and physical abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, CAST is a Nationally Accredited Child Advocacy Center through the National Children's Alliance. The office provides a child friendly setting for forensic interviews to occur; and

**WHEREAS**, since October 1996 the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) has conducted 3,752 comprehensive forensic interviews, and this coordinated response has proven successful in the criminal investigation and the prosecution of the child abuse cases; and

**WHEREAS**, the effective intervention of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse investigation has reduced the number of interviews a child abuse victim must undergo; and

**WHEREAS**, CAST Interviews may also be used to interview witnesses of violent crimes (assault and domestic violence) and can be used in cases where there are allegations of neglect (drug endangered children); and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Humboldt County benefit from coordinated services provided from the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, hereby express appreciation to the members of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) for their 28 years of service to sexual and physical abuse victims of Humboldt County.

Dated: April 23, 2024

Rex Bohn, Chair