



COMMUNITY
SERVICES

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Asante Services Annual Program Report 2025-2026

About Us

Asante FASD and other Neurodevelopmental Services is committed to the prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), and to helping people and families with FASD and other complex neurodevelopmental needs reach their full potential. We provide speech-language therapy and multi-disciplinary assessments for FASD and other complex needs to all age ranges (young children to adults) and to clients experiencing multiple intersections of marginalization. We also participate in opportunities for community education, research, and resource development.

Assessments and speech-language therapy are provided on a contracted basis through the Province of BC, Provincial Health Services Agency, and Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society, as well as on a fee for service basis including public and private funding sources. We also receive short-term funding from the Law Foundation of BC for a four-year research project and completed time-limited contracts with Carrier Sekani Family Services and Community Living BC this year. We serve clients and families across the province.

Who we served...

Profile	2025-26	2024-25 ¹
# of cases ²	221	104
# of youth	216	98
% young women	33%	30%
% young men	65%	66%
% self-identified as transgender	2%	4% ³
% self-identified as Indigenous	50%	50%
Average age when cases were opened	14	17

¹ Asante joined PLEA in June 2025.

² # of cases is greater than the # of youth because some youth received multiple services or were re-referred

³ 2 non-binary, 2 transgender

How we did...service delivery

1. Assessment and Speech-Language Therapy

From April 1, 2025, through to March 31, 2026, Asante Services has delivered:

- 167 assessments for 162 children, youth, and adults, including:
 - 143 related to FASD or complex needs
 - 9 for autism spectrum disorder
 - 8 comprehensive psychology evaluation
 - 7 adaptive functioning assessments (standalone)
- Responded to approximately 400 community inquiries from individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions, and their families, seeking information and access to resources or services.
- Delivered 221 sessions for speech-language therapy to 51 different children and youth.

Clients accessed Asante from every region in BC and ranged in age from two to fifty-eight. Components for FASD and complex needs assessments generally include evaluations by a physician (pediatrician or family practitioner) and psychologist, as well as a speech-language pathologist for children and youth. Evaluations, including assessments for autism spectrum disorder, include time with the client directly as well as interviews with individuals who know the client well.

Clients accessing assessment this year had an average age of 15, and 61% identified as Indigenous. These statistics reflect the special communities Asante serves with contracts specific to Indigenous children and youth, as well as youth and adult programs unique in BC. Asante serves children, youth, and adults of all backgrounds and from across the province, with specially developed skills in engaging clients with complex needs such as mental health, substance use, concurrent disorders, justice involvement, and insecure housing or homelessness.

2. Increasing Capacity to Identify and Support Individuals with FASD and Complex Needs

Asante Services has hosted the project “Increasing Capacity to Identify and Support Individuals with FASD and Complex Neurodevelopmental Needs in British Columbia” for the past 4 years, in partnership with Canada FASD Research Network (CanFASD), University of Guelph, University of Alberta, and University of Regina. The focus of the project is on creation of a cutting-edge screening toolkit for FASD and complex needs designed for use in a variety of criminal legal settings, while also fostering a community of practice concerning FASD and complex needs amongst criminal legal professionals in BC.

Asante serves as the ‘on the ground’ partner for the project, bringing local knowledge and networks in as a strength. The toolkit, and accompanying decision guide, are in their final stages, after many rounds of feedback from our Advisory Committee and research partners. In the coming months, the toolkit and decision guide will be piloted in three local organizations, implemented alongside a full evaluation process. This step will allow the team to gather the feedback of frontline professionals and managers, to further refine the toolkit before it is widely distributed.

The team is also creating a website to house the toolkit, decision guide, and other accessory documents and resources. All content will be freely available online once completed, and many organizations locally, nationally and internationally have expressed interest in using it. The hope is that these tools generated through the project will facilitate FASD and complex needs screening and awareness in criminal legal settings, and lead to more neurodevelopmentally-informed responses amongst professionals working in these contexts.

How we did...against the goals we set ourselves

1. **Extend communication and branding campaigns for the transition of The Asante Centre to Asante Services at PLEA, including new service pamphlets and website updates.**

In Progress. The PLEA Communications team successfully rebranded Asante Services' pamphlets in advance of International FASD Awareness Day in September, when Asante staff attended a community resource fair for the occasion and shared information on the program. The website has also been successfully rebranded, as well as most referral forms and resources. We continue to work on the remaining resources, such as videos orienting clients to the assessment process.

2. **Begin design of outcomes measurement goals and mechanisms to gain understanding and benchmarks for the program's efficiency and effectiveness in meeting client needs.**

In Progress. The Theory of Change and goals for outcome measurement are complete. Next steps include finalization of mechanisms to gather data, and then implementation in spring 2026.

3. **Expand clinical capacity for assessment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across the lifespan.**

Achieved. Two clinicians received training in assessment and diagnosis of ASD this year, including a pediatrician for assessment of children up to 16 years old, and a psychologist for assessment of youth and adults aged 16+. ASD assessments for youth and adults accessing Asante Services have already begun in Winter 2026, and child assessments will be offered by spring 2026.

4. **Enhance clinical capacity for assessment and virtual speech-language therapy across the province.**

Achieved. A second speech-language therapist was engaged in Fall 2025, increasing capacity for virtual and in-person therapy. Frameworks have been established for virtual assessment, as well, with new tools and procedures for offering this service when an in-person assessment is not possible or a virtual option is in the person's best interest. We successfully completed our first virtual assessments in Winter 2026 and look forward to further exploring more opportunities for this virtual care.

5. **Implement the completed toolkit developed through the "Increasing Capacity to Identify and Support Individuals with FASD and Complex Neurodevelopmental Needs in British Columbia" project.**

In Progress. The decision-guide with toolkit has been fully drafted, and the research team is currently working with pilot partners for the evaluation components. The tool is expected to be available by September 30, 2026.

Selected accomplishments...

1. Asante Services completed 167 assessments this year, twice those completed last fiscal. We were able to offer services at PLEA offices around the Lower Mainland, as well as through outreach clinics to the Island (Victoria and Duncan) and the North (Prince George, Vanderhoof).

2. Supported community capacity and learning through multiple mechanisms this year, including delivery of multiple presentations on FASD/neurodiversity, hosting a Bachelor of Social Work student, and responding to over 400 inquiries from families and professionals across BC seeking information and resources.
3. Collaborated with Carrier Sekani Family Services to deliver 21 assessments for children and youth across northern BC through a series of travel clinics, improving access by bringing services closer to families' home communities.
4. Distributed nearly \$16,000 in micro-grants through the closure of the FASD Collaboration Roundtable, enabling more than 30 children and youth with FASD to access critical therapeutic and recreational supports.
5. Strengthened clinical capacity by onboarding three physicians, two speech-language pathologists, and one psychologist, significantly enhancing the team's ability to meet growing client demand.

Selected stories...

1. Mary was diagnosed with FASD at Asante as a young child, and now in her late 20s was experiencing housing insecurity, including extended periods in shelters. She faced significant barriers navigating the CLBC application process, but with support from a dedicated community advocate, she was re-referred to Asante for an updated adaptive assessment to determine eligibility for disability services. Mary completed the assessment of daily living skills, resulting in eligibility for CLBC through their Personalized Supports Initiative stream – a pivotal step that has significantly improved Mary's housing stability and overall quality of life.
2. Kris, a 5-year-old preparing to enter kindergarten, was referred for assessment following preschool concerns related to behaviour and early learning. During the FASD assessment process, clinicians identified additional indicators consistent with neurodevelopmental differences, prompting referral for a concurrent autism assessment. Kris subsequently received both diagnoses, providing a clearer understanding of their developmental profile and support needs. These results have enabled timely access to an education assistant in kindergarten and will inform a tailored Individual Education Plan from the outset of their schooling, supporting early, structured intervention during a critical stage of development.
3. Jackson, a 17-year-old in ministry care, was referred for an FASD assessment and expressed urgent distress about “the voices in his head” and his impending transition out of care at 19. Initial psychological assessment was not possible due to active psychosis. In response, the Asante psychologist coordinated closely with community mental health providers and psychiatric inpatient teams, engaging Jackson across multiple settings and timepoints to complete sufficient assessment for diagnosis. This persistence resulted in a confirmed FASD diagnosis, securing access to disability supports and developmentally informed psychiatric care—critical interventions to stabilize his mental health, support his transition to adulthood, and reduce his risk in the community.

Biggest challenges...

1. Staff turnover was a concern in three key staff roles this year, delaying service delivery and reducing capacity for clinic outreaches while roles were vacant or new members were in training stages. The remaining team members were exceptional in covering these gaps and finding creative solutions to meeting client needs during these times.

Our team...personnel⁴



Our team...learning undertaken

- Response-Based Practice (healing from violence)
- Difficult Conversations and Conflict Resolution Foundations: Building skills and confidence in conflict
- Hiding Autism: A Camouflaging and Masking Survival Kit for Clinicians
- Global Developmental Delay
- Expanded Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs
- PDA- Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome
- Beyond the DSM: Communicating Complexity in Pediatric Neurodevelopment New CDBC guidelines for terminology
- Complexity in Psycho-Educational Assessments

⁴ Number of humans beings connected to the program, not full-time equivalents (FTEs)

- FASD/Complex Needs Brain Domains

All new staff team members also received new or refreshed training focused on training essential to working in alignment with the organization's values and considerations, including:

- Trauma informed practice
- Living Works suicide prevention and intervention
- Strengths-based practice
- Sexual exploitation and human trafficking
- San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety
- FOIPPA privacy and confidentiality
- Occupational health and safety
- Naloxone response to drug overdose

Our team... relationships

Asante Community Relationships and Partnerships:

- BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- Canada FASD Research Network (CanFASD)
- Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Community Living BC
- FASD Collaboration Roundtable
- Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (Xyólheméylh)
- Law Foundation of BC
- Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Youth Justice
- MCFD Children and Youth with Support Needs
- Provincial Corrections, Integrated Transitional Release Planning,
- Provincial Corrections, Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative
- Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children
- University of Guelph
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- University of Regina

Next year's goals...

1. Implement outcomes measurement tools to gain understanding and benchmarks for the program's efficiency and effectiveness in meeting client needs.
2. Enhance capacity and frameworks for assessment of autism, including team knowledge and experience with individuals across the lifespan who have both autism and FASD or other complex needs.
3. Complete implementation of the decision guide and toolkit developed through the "Increasing Capacity to Identify and Support Individuals with FASD and Complex Neurodevelopmental Needs in British Columbia" project.
4. Strengthen cultural safety and gender-diverse competency across service delivery, including more inclusive, culturally responsive, and affirming assessment practices and report writing.

5. Explore opportunities for expanded service delivery, amplifying voices of individuals with living experience and identifying opportunities for growth.

For more information...

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