



# County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
Behavioral Health Division



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

**JUNE 18, 2026, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM**

**1400 EMELINE AVENUE, CONFERENCE ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ**

**THE PUBLIC MAY JOIN THE MEETING ON MICROSOFT TEAMS (LINK BELOW) OR  
CALL (831)454-2222, CONFERENCE 995 733 856#**

Xaloc Cabanes Chair 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Valerie Webb Member 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Michael Neidig Co-Chair 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Antonio Rivas Member 4 <sup>th</sup> District	Dan Barnett Member 5 <sup>th</sup> District	Natalie Stott Transitional Age Youth
Kaelin Wagnermarsh Member 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Dean S. Kashino Member 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Hugh McCormick Member 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Rachel Montoya Member 4 <sup>th</sup> District	Jeffrey Arlt Secretary 5 <sup>th</sup> District	Vacant Transitional Age Youth

Kimberly De Serpa Board of Supervisor Member	
Dr. Marni R. Sandoval Behavioral Health Director	Meg Yarnell Behavioral Health Deputy Director

### Information regarding participation in the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting

The public may attend the meeting at the Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline, Conference Rooms 206-207, Santa Cruz. Individuals may click here to [Join Meeting Now](#) or may participate by telephone by calling (831)454-2222, Conference ID 995 733 856#. All participants are muted upon entry to prevent echoing and minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board website.

If you are a person with a special need, or if interpreting services (English/Spanish or sign language) are needed, please call 454-4611 (Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format.

Si usted es una persona con una discapacidad o necesita servicios de interpretación (inglés/español o Lenguaje de señas), por favor llame al (831) 454-4611 (Personas con Discapacidad Auditiva TDD/TTY: 711) con 72 horas de anticipación a la junta para hacer arreglos. Personas con discapacidades pueden pedir una copia de la agenda en una forma alternativa.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Regular Business</b>
1	3:00-3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call</li> <li>• Public Comment (No action or discussion will be undertaken today on any item raised during Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each)</li> <li>• Board Member Announcements</li> <li>• <i>Approval of May 21, 2026 minutes*</i></li> <li>• Secretary's Report</li> </ul>
		<b>Standing Reports</b>
2	3:15-3:25	May Patients' Rights Report- George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate, Advocacy Inc.
3	3:25-3:40	Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa
4	3:40-3:55	Behavioral Health Director's Report – Dr. Marni R. Sandoval, Behavioral Health Director
5	3:55-4:10	Site Visit Ad Hoc Committee Update – Kaelin Wagnermarsh and Dean Kashino
6	4:10-4:25	Funding Ad Hoc Committee – Jeffrey Arlt
		<b>New Agenda Items</b>
7	4:25-4:40	<i>Review revised sections of Jail Packet*</i> – Hugh McCormick
8	4:40-4:50	Establish list of BH Program informational presentations – Xaloc Cabanes
		<b>Future Agenda Items</b>
9	4:50-5:00	Retreat
	5:00	<b>Adjourn</b>

*Italicized items with \* indicate action items for board approval.*

---

**NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS ON:**  
**JULY 16, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**SOUTH COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**500 WESTRIDGE, GREG CAPUT COMMUNITY ROOM, WATSONVILLE**



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

### MINUTES – Draft

#### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MAY 21, 2026, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY, 1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ 95060  
MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE 853 344 567#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Dan Barnett, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Kaelin  
Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes,  
Absent: Natalie Stott, Rachel Montoya, Supervisor De Serpa  
Staff: Marni Sandoval, Connie Moreno-Peraza, Lun Wang, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- 
- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes. Hugh McCormick attended the meeting as a member of the public, as the Oath of Office had not yet been completed.
  - II. Public Comment – 1 individual addressed the BHAB in the conference room.
  - III. Board Member Announcements
    - Connie Moreno-Peraza, HSA Director attended and introduced herself.
    - New board member for 5<sup>th</sup> District, Dan Barnett introduced himself.
    - Recognized that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.
    - Acknowledged Natalie Stott, TAY member, has an upcoming high school graduation.
    - Appreciation expressed for community efforts supporting youth at Juvenile Hall during Mother's Day.
    - Board member shared concerns regarding a recent Mobile Crisis response where police responded with no crisis team member. Questions were raised regarding response protocols and communication with callers. Board will invite Mobile Crisis Team to present at a future meeting to discuss challenges, protocols and outcomes.
  - IV. Approve April 16, 2026 Minutes  
Motion / Second: Valerie Webb / Dean Kashino  
Ayes: Rivas, Kashino, Arlt, Wagnermarsh, Neidig, Webb, Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Barnett, McCormick  
Passed.
  - V. Secretary's Report
    - No attendance issues, no training issues.
  - VI. Patient's Rights Report – George Carvalho, Advocate for Advocacy, Inc.  
April report was provided. George did not attend the meeting.
  - VII. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Dr. Marni Sandoval, Behavioral Health Director
    1. Adults Behavioral Health Update
      - Ongoing implementation of BHSA requirements – adoption of LOCUS, which is a level of care determination tool, and implementation of ACT/FACT and Full-Service Partnership Intensive Case Management.
      - Nine interns completed the Internship Program for the academic year.
    2. Children's Behavioral Health Update
      - Hope Forward | Esperanza Adelante Youth Crisis Center opened on April 2, 2026.
        - 90% of youth safely discharged back into the community.

- Served 55 children/youths to date.
3. Substance Use Disorder Services Update
    - RENEWPath Program which provides housing and outpatient substance use disorder and mental health treatment for folks that have been involved in the justice system, has served 61 participants this year.
    - Onboarded The Camp as a new IOT and residential SUD treatment provider. This expands the adult residential treatment capacity by 21 beds.
    - Received approximately \$580K in one time funding to support individuals sentenced under Prop 36, focusing the funding on training and workforce development around substance use disorder integration efforts, technology and transportation support.
  4. BHSa Integrated Plan Update
    - DHCS approved the narrative portion of the county's plan.
    - Public Comments now integrated into the plan, to be presented to the BOS on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - Working to align contracts with BHSa requirements.
  5. Clarification Items
    - The Governor's proposed budget would change the Mobile Crisis Medi-Cal benefit from an entitlement to an optional benefit. If approved, the change would take effect April 1, 2027. \$527K is already budgeted for the upcoming year, but approximately \$1M would be needed to maintain the program at its current level.
    - MHCAN update: The new board has resolved the budgeting and financial issues and are working to complete their taxes and secure insurance. Efforts are focused on developing a clubhouse model program. They are working on repairs prior to reopening.
- VIII. Site Visit Committee Update
- Upcoming Juvenile Hall site visit - day/time to be determined.
- IX. Funding Ad Hoc Committee
- Committee discussions include the integration of whole person and behavioral health services at Watsonville Community Hospital and issues with Telecare.
  - The committee will provide final recommendations at the next meeting.
- X. Jail Packet - Hugh McCormick
- New section on the status of mental health in the jail was provided to the board.
  - Closure of state hospitals – limited beds, 10% are voluntary admissions and 90% are involuntary. About 15-20 people in jail are eligible to be transferred to state hospitals, but there are no beds available.
  - Inmates are obtaining their medications more quickly than previously.
  - Inmates now have access to personal electronic tablets provided at no cost, which allows them to view their current health records, medications, etc. reducing the need for staff assistance.
- XI. Election of BHAB Officers
- Appointment of Xaloc Cabanes as Chair.  
Motion / Second: Hugh McCormick / Antonio Rivas  
Ayes: Rivas, Kashino, Arlt, Wagnermarsh, Neidig, Webb, Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Barnett, McCormick  
Passed.
  - Appointment of Mike Neidig as Co-Chair.  
Motion / Second: Hugh McCormick / Dean Kashino  
Ayes: Rivas, Kashino, Arlt, Wagnermarsh, Neidig, Webb, Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Barnett, McCormick  
Passed.
  - Appointment of Jeffrey Arlt as Secretary.  
Motion / Second: Hugh McCormick / Kaelin Wagnermarsh  
Ayes: Rivas, Kashino, Arlt, Wagnermarsh, Neidig, Webb, Cabanes

Nayes: None  
Abstain: Barnett, McCormick  
Passed.

- XII. Future Agenda Items
- Board Retreat planning
  - BHAB advocacy strategies
  - Updates on Mobile Crisis Services

- XIII. Adjournment  
Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm

## Summary

This is May 2026, Patients' Rights Advocate Report from the Patients' Rights Advocacy program. It includes the following: telephone calls, reports, and emails. It includes a breakdown of the number of certified clients, the number of hearings, and the number of contested hearings. It also includes a breakdown of Reise Hearing activity, including the number of Riese Hearings filed, the number of Riese conducted, and the number that was lost.

### Patients' Rights Advocate Report May 2026

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### **TELECARE**

On May 1, 2026, This Advocate\* received a voice mail message from a client at the Telecare Psychiatric Facility. The client was upset since it had been over a week of hospitalization. The Advocate reminded the client about his legal status, i.e. conserved. This advocate provided rights information regarding this legal status

On May 2, 2026, This writer received a message from a conservatee receiving treatment at the telecare Psychiatric Facility. This client is in the planning stages of contesting the conservatorship in June but unable to obtain a computer on the unit or to contact her conservator. This writer received permission to speak with the clinical director as well as the conservator. I left a detailed message with the conservator and spoke to the clinical. She informed me that the previous laptop was damaged by another but will obtain a new computer within the next two days. The client was informed of this.

On May 25, 2026, this received a call from a client at the Crisis Stabilization Unit. The client complained that she had been there for almost 4 days. This Advocate also received an email notice of an impending second 5150 hold. This Advocate contacted the client by phone and advised of her rights under AB2275. At that time, she stated that she needed to think about her options since she believed that an out-of-country may be imminent. The following Tuesday we spoke at the CSP. She decided not to file a writ since it was more important to me in a different facility.

On May 28, 2026, This writer received a call from a client held at the PHF under a 5250 hold. I met with the client and advised him of his rights under WIC 5250 including his right of due process and his opportunity to ask for his release from the Hearing office.

#### **Willow brook**

On May 4, 2026, This writer received a phone message from a resident of the Willow brook facility. The client felt targeted by facility staff as well as by county staff. The resident also voiced his desire to move out of state. This Advocate\* spoke with the resident about his concern, however no specific complaints were elicited against either facility, or county staff.

## Front Street Residential

On May 19, 2026, Front Street Facility staff reported to this Advocate\* that a resident reported sexual assault by a community member at a hotel. Police were notified but after two separate attempts by law enforcement, the resident would not divulge any actionable information. The Advocate program will continue to touch base with the resident unless and until he tells us not to engage with him about this incident.

**\*Ms. Davi Schil**

### Reise and Certification Review Hearings May 2026

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	25
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	22
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	9
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	13
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	4
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION HEARING	0
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	3
8. WRITS	0
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	5
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	

**Ombudsman Program & Patient Advocate Program shared 0 clients in this month (shared = skilled nursing resident (dementia) sent to behavioral health unit or mental health client placed in skilled at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility))**

### Reise Hearings. /Capacity Hearings

Total number of Reise petitions filed by the Telecare treating psychiatrist: 0

Total number of Reise Hearings conducted: 0

Total number of Reise Hearings lost: 0

Total number of Reise Hearings won: 0

Total number of Reise Hearings withdrawn: 0

Hours spent on conducted hearing representation: 0

Hours spent on hearings not conducted: 0

Hours spent on all Reise hearings: 0

Reise appeal: 0

**Respectfully Submitted: Davi Schill, PRA  
George Carvalho, PRA**

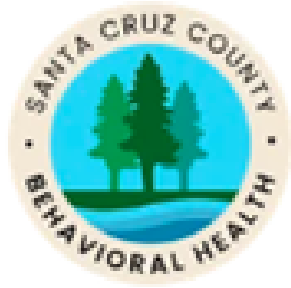


Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

# Behavioral Health Director's Report

Dr. Marni R. Sandoval

Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting – June 18, 2026



## **Behavioral Health Stands Ready to Implement the State-Mandated, Multi-Layered Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) by July 1st**

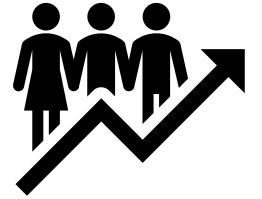
The BHSA brings major changes to behavioral health systems across California, and we are grateful to the many staff, community members, and partners who helped shape Santa Cruz County's response. Through focus groups, community forums, interviews, and surveys, we gathered valuable feedback that informed our BHSA Integrated Plan (IP), which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 9, 2026.

This achievement reflects the incredible work of teams across Behavioral Health to expand access to care and align services with new state requirements. The adopted IP includes funding for culturally-responsive Early Intervention services for children, youth, and families in South County. *Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement inviting community-based organizations to partner with Behavioral Health to support the expansion of these important services.*



*Behavioral Health Supervisors and Managers who supported the laborious BHSA Implementation process.*

# Adult Behavioral Health Update



## BHSA & FSP Implementation

- Preparing for July 1 BHSA implementation
- Implementing FSP Level 1 & Level 2 service structures
- Continuing planning for Assertive Community Treatment and Forensic Community Treatment

## Leadership Update Adult System of Care (ASOC)

### NEW Sr BH Program Manager !!

Jorge Duque, LCSW  
promoted to Senior Behavioral Health  
Program Manager

## Program & Contract Development

Updating contracts to align with new program models and requirements

## Bridge House

- Opening delayed due to required fire prevention corrections
- Ongoing collaboration with partners to support project completion

# Child & Youth System of Care (CSOC) Update




CSOC launching a three-part CBH All-Staff Meeting Series focused on the implementation of **FSP Level 1 – Intensive Case Management within the Children’s System of Care.**

## Series Goals

- Clarify BHSA and its impact on children’s behavioral health
- Review the continuum of Intensive Support Services (ICC, IHBS, TBS, TFC, FSP Level 1, HFW)
- Define eligibility, referral pathways, and service expectations for FSP Level 1
- Distinguish FSP Level 1 from existing services
- Collect staff feedback and questions
- Build shared understanding of our vision for serving youth with the most intensive needs

# Substance Use Disorder Services Update

## New SUD DMC-ODS Fliers



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**Substance Use Disorder Services**  
 Youth & adult services available in English & Spanish

Do you need safe and confidential Substance Use Disorder Services?

**Who We Are:**  
 We are a network of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers. Our teams consist of licensed mental health therapists, addiction counselors, care coordinators, peers, and medical providers.  
 We are dedicated to supporting our clients in their recovery from substance use disorders through an integrated, patient-centered, whole-person care approach.

**Who We Serve:**

- These services are available to persons living in Santa Cruz County with Medi-Cal insurance. People 19-49 are eligible for full Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status.
- We serve individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), including individuals involved in family and children's services (FCS), the criminal justice system, and those impacted by co-occurring conditions.

**Santa Cruz County SUD Provider Network : North & South County:**  
 Santa Cruz County SUDS - Sobriety Works - Janus - Encompass - New Life - PVPSA

- Withdrawal Management (Detox)
- Residential Treatment
- Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Recovery Support Services (RSS)
- Recovery Residence
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Opioid Treatment Programs (Methadone)

**American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) brief assessments available via:**  
 Any network provider or through Santa Cruz County ACCESS Team (800) 952-2335  
 (ACCESS Team hours and office locations listed on next page)

santacruzhealth.org/BehavioralHealth @CountyofSantaCruz May 2026



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**Provider Network Contact List**  
 Youth & Adult Services Available in English & Spanish

**ADULT SERVICES**

County of Santa Cruz SUD: North & South County Outpatient/Recovery support services  
 ☎ 800-952-2335  
 ✉ HSASUDSOutpatient@santacruzcountyca.gov

Encompass: North & South County Residential treatment  
 ☎ 831-226-3728 option 1 or 831-535-3173  
 ✉ EncompassAdultsUDRes@encompasscs.org

Encompass: North & South County Outpatient/Recovery support services  
 ☎ 831-226-3728 Option 1  
 ✉ aitosudreferrals@encompasscs.org

Janus: Withdrawal Management/Residential Treatment/Perinatal and Parenting Residential (allows kids)/Intensive Outpatient/Outpatient treatment/Opioid Treatment program/Medication Assisted Treatment/Recovery Residences  
 ☎ 831-462-1060  
 ✉ admissions@janussc.org

New Life Community Services: North County Residential Treatment (Co-ed also allows kids)  
 ☎ 831-440-3037, Main office number: 831-427-1007  
 ✉ referrals@newlifesc.org

Sobriety Works: North County Intensive outpatient treatment/Outpatient treatment/Recovery support services  
 ☎ 831-476-1747  
 ✉ referrals@sobrietyworks.com

The Camp North County Withdrawal Management, Intensive Outpatient & Residential Treatment  
 ☎ 877-648-6377  
 ✉ camp-intake@camprecovery.com & WestAdmissions@acadiahhealthcare.com

**YOUTH SERVICES**

Encompass: North County Outpatient Treatment  
 ☎ 831-429-8350  
 ✉ youthservicesreferral@encompasscs.org

**Santa Cruz County Walk-in Crisis Services:**

Monday to Friday, 8am-4pm (831) 454-4170 24 hours a day: (800) 952-2335	<b>North County Clinic</b> 1400 Emeline Ave. Bldg. K Santa Cruz, CA 95060	<b>South County Clinic</b> 1430 Freedom Blvd. Suite F Watsonville, CA 95076
--	---	---

santacruzhealth.org/BehavioralHealth @CountyofSantaCruz May 2026

## New Narcan Vending Machines

- Installed at 1400 Emeline
- Installed at 1430 Freedom

# Accessing Care

## Medi-Cal Members



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias



# Mild – Moderate Level of Care Managed Care Plan (MCP)

Central California Alliance for Health  
(CCAH)



## How Members Access BH Care

### Member in need of BH Services

- Member can self-refer by calling Alliance directly
- Member can call contracted BH provider directly for services and bypass Alliance
- Member can call/walk into local MHP access for screening and assessment
- PCP can access referral forms online at Behavioral Health - Central California Alliance for Health (will be updated for internal processes come 7/1/25)



### MCP or MHP completes DHCS Screening Tool

- If member is referred to Alliance or the Mental Health Plan (MHP), a BH CM staff member will screen member for correct system of care and need and provide appropriate referrals within timely access requirement. The Alliance and our 5 MHPs coordinate daily on these referrals

### Member Connected to Care

- Member will be offered appointment assistance and to be connected to a provider with an appointment within timely access requirements

Members can call 800-700-3874  
All members will be getting new CCAH ID cards



# Mild – Moderate Level of Care Managed Care Plan (MCP)

Central California Alliance for Health  
(CCAH)

## Behavioral Health CM Referral



Providers can call the alliance case management line 800-700-3874 X5512



Providers can submit a care management referral form directly through the Alliance website. [Care Management Referral Form - Central California Alliance for Health](#) or Referrals via fax to (831)430-5850.



Referral via e-mail to list CM behavioral health team  
[ListBHCmintakecoordinators@thealliance.health](mailto:ListBHCmintakecoordinators@thealliance.health)



*\*\*CCAH's website is not current for referral pathways until 7/1/25. Current CM referral is on our Provider Care Management landing page [Behavioral Health - Central California Alliance for Health](#)*



# Specialty Mental Health & Substance Use

## Level of Care Behavioral Health Plan (BHP)

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health  
(SCCBH)

**Member can call for screening and assessment/referral anytime Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00  
800-952-2335**

**Member can self-refer by walking into our offices:**

**1400 Emeline Ave., Santa Cruz**

**1430 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville**

**Monday -Friday 8:00-4:00**

**Member will talk to a clinician who will offer a screening to determine appropriate level of care**

**Will be referred to CCAH if screened mild to moderate**

**Will be scheduled for an assessment with a licensed clinician if screened severe**

**Will be offered ongoing behavioral health services at the appropriate level of care**

**Substance Use Services will be screened for and services offered depending on level of care determined**



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

# Easy Referral to Care

Mild-Moderate

Managed Care Plan -  
CCAH

Online Portal  
<https://thealliance.health/for-providers/care-management-referral-form/>

800-700-3874 x5512



Severe

County Behavioral Health  
Plan

Access Line

800-952-2335  
(24 hour line)



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

Crisis



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

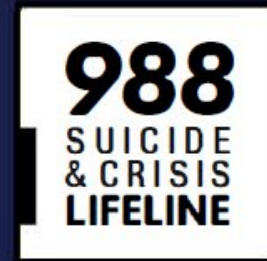
Santa Cruz County Mobile Crisis Response Team

**1-800-952-2335**

[santacruzhealth.org/CrisisResponse](http://santacruzhealth.org/CrisisResponse)

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

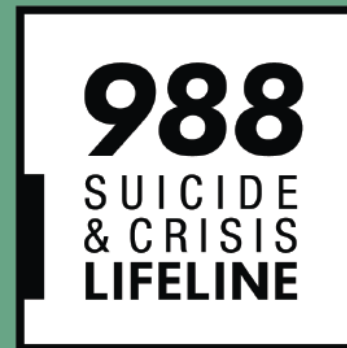
**Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org, or reach out to a mental health professional.**



PEP23-08-03-001  
331859-L

**YOU  
MATTER**

Text.  
Call.  
Chat.



PEP23-08-03-012

# Questions?

Thank You



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias





# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Substance Use Disorder Services

Youth & adult services available in English & Spanish



Medi-Cal Eligibility



Do you need safe and confidential  
Substance Use Disorder Services?



## Who We Are:

We are a network of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers. Our teams consist of licensed mental health therapists, addiction counselors, care coordinators, peers, and medical providers.

We are dedicated to supporting our clients in their recovery from substance use disorders through an integrated, patient-centered, whole-person care approach.

## Who We Serve:

- ✔ These services are available to persons living in Santa Cruz County with **Medi-Cal insurance**. People 19-49 are eligible for full Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status.
- ✔ We serve individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUDS), including individuals involved in family and children's services (FCS), the criminal justice system, and those impacted by co-occurring conditions.

## ▼ Santa Cruz County SUD Provider Network : North & South County: ▼

Santa Cruz County SUDS – Sobriety Works – Janus – Encompass – New Life – PVPSA

- ✔ Withdrawal Management (Detox)
- ✔ Residential Treatment
- ✔ Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- ✔ Recovery Support Services (RSS)
- ✔ Recovery Residence
- ✔ Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- ✔ Opioid Treatment Programs (Methadone)

### American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) brief assessments available via:

Any network provider  
or  
through Santa Cruz County ACCESS Team  
(800) 952-2335

*(ACCESS Team hours and office locations listed on next page)*





# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Provider Network Contact List

Youth & Adult Services Available in English & Spanish

## ADULT SERVICES

**County of Santa Cruz SUD:** North & South County Outpatient/Recovery support services

☎ 800-952-2335

✉ [HSASUDSOutpatient@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:HSASUDSOutpatient@santacruzcountyca.gov)

**Encompass:** North & South County Residential treatment

☎ 831-226-3728 option 1 or 831-535-3173

✉ [EncompassAdultSUDRes@encompasscs.org](mailto:EncompassAdultSUDRes@encompasscs.org)

**Encompass:** North & South County Outpatient/Recovery support services

☎ 831-226-3728 Option 1

✉ [altosudreferrals@encompasscs.org](mailto:altosudreferrals@encompasscs.org)

**Janus:** Withdrawal Management/Residential Treatment/Perinatal and Parenting Residential (allows kids)/Intensive Outpatient/Outpatient treatment/Opioid Treatment program/Medication Assisted Treatment/Recovery Residences

☎ 831-462-1060

✉ [admissions@janussc.org](mailto:admissions@janussc.org)

**New Life Community Services:** North County Residential Treatment (Co-ed also allows kids)

☎ 831-440-3037, Main office number: 831-427-1007

✉ [referrals@newlifesc.org](mailto:referrals@newlifesc.org)

**Sobriety Works:** North County Intensive outpatient treatment/Outpatient treatment/Recovery support services

☎ 831-476-1747

✉ [referrals@sobrietyworks.com](mailto:referrals@sobrietyworks.com)

**The Camp** North County Withdrawl Management, Intensive Outpatient & Residential Treatment

☎ 877-648-6377

✉ [camp-intake@camprecovery.com](mailto:camp-intake@camprecovery.com) & [WestAdmissions@acadiahealthcare.com](mailto:WestAdmissions@acadiahealthcare.com)

## YOUTH SERVICES

**Encompass:** North County Outpatient Treatment

☎ 831-429-8350

✉ [youthservicesreferral@encompasscs.org](mailto:youthservicesreferral@encompasscs.org)

## Santa Cruz County Walk-in Crisis Services:

Monday to Friday, 8am-4pm

(831) 454-4170

24 hours a day:

(800) 952-2335

**North County Clinic**

1400 Emeline Ave. Bldg. K

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**South County Clinic**

1430 Freedom Blvd. Suite F

Watsonville, CA 95076



**CONDADO DE SANTA CRUZ  
AGENCIA DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD**

**Servicios para Trastornos por  
Uso de Sustancias**

**Servicios para jóvenes y adultos**



**Elegibilidad de Medi-Cal**



**¿Necesita servicios seguros y confidenciales para  
el trastorno por uso de sustancias?**



**Quiénes Somos:**

Somos una red de proveedores de tratamiento de trastornos por uso de sustancias. Nuestros equipos consisten de terapeutas de salud mental, consejeros de adicciones, coordinadores de atención, pares y proveedores médicos.

Estamos dedicados a apoyar a los clientes en su recuperación de trastornos por uso de sustancias a través de un enfoque integrado, centrado en el paciente y de atención integral de la persona.

**A Quién Servimos:**

- ✓ Estos servicios están disponibles para las personas que viven en el condado de Santa Cruz con seguro de Medi-Cal. Las personas de 19 a 49 años son elegibles para la cobertura completa de Medi-Cal sin importar su estado migratorio.
- ✓ Servimos a personas con trastornos por consumo de sustancias. Incluidas las personas que participan en los servicios de la familia y los niños (FCS), el sistema de justicia penal y las personas afectadas por condiciones concurrentes.



**Red de Proveedores del Condado de Santa Cruz  
Área Norte y Sur**



**Santa Cruz County SUDS – Sobriety Works – Janus – Encompass – New Life – PVPSA**

- ✓ Manejo de la Abstinencia (Desintoxicación)
- ✓ Tratamiento Residencial
- ✓ Tratamiento Ambulatorio/Ambulatorio Intensivo
- ✓ Servicios de Apoyo de la Recuperación (RSS)
- ✓ Residencias de Recuperación
- ✓ Tratamiento Asistido por Medicación (MAT)
- ✓ Programas de tratamiento de opioides (Metadona)

**Evaluaciones Breves de la Sociedad Americana de Medicina de Adicciones (ASAM) disponibles a través de:**

Cualquier proveedor de la red

o

A través del equipo de ACCESO del Condado de Santa Cruz  
(800) 952-2335





## CONDADO DE SANTA CRUZ AGENCIA DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD

### Lista de Contactos de la Red de Proveedores

*Servicios para jóvenes y adultos*

#### SERVICIOS PARA ADULTOS

**County of Santa Cruz SUD:** *Servicios ambulatorios y de apoyo de la recuperación en el Norte y Sur del condado*

☎ 800- 952-2335

✉ HSASUDSOutpatient@santacruzcountyca.gov

**Encompass:** *Tratamiento residencial en el Norte y Sur del condado*

☎ 831-226-3728 opción 1 o 831-535-3173

✉ EncompassAdultSUDRes@encompasscs.org

**Encompass:** *Servicios ambulatorio/servicios de apoyo de la recuperación (Norte y Sur del condado)*

☎ 831-226-3728 opción 1

✉ altosudreferrals@encompasscs.org

**Janus:** *Manejo de abstinencia/programas residenciales/perinatales y programas residenciales para padres (permiten niños)/Programas intensivos para pacientes ambulatorios/programas de tratamiento ambulatorio/programas de tratamiento de opiáceos/tratamiento asistido con medicamentos/residencias de recuperación*

☎ 831-462-1060

✉ admissions@janussc.org

**New Life Community Services:** *Tratamiento Residencial (permite niños) en el Norte del Condado*

☎ 831-440-3037, Oficina: 831-427-1007

✉ referrals@newlifesc.org

**Sobriety Works:** *Tratamiento ambulatorio Intensivo, ambulatorio y servicios de apoyo de la recuperación en el Norte del Condado.*

☎ 831-476-1747

✉ referrals@sobrietyworks.com

**The Camp** *Manejo de abstinencia/programas residenciales, y tratamiento ambulatorio Intensivo en el Norte del Condado*

☎ 877-648-6377

✉ camp-intake@camprecovery.com & WestAdmissions@acadiahealthcare.com

#### SERVICIOS PARA JÓVENES

**Encompass:** *Tratamiento ambulatorio en el Norte del Condado.*

☎ 831-429-8350

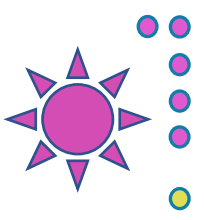
✉ youthservicesreferral@encompasscs.org

#### Servicios de Crisis sin Cita Previa:

Lunes a Viernes, 8am-4pm  
(831) 454-4170 o  
24 horas al día:  
(800) 952-2335

**Clínica del Norte del Condado**  
1400 Emeline Ave. Bldg. K  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Clínica del Sur del Condado**  
1430 Freedom Blvd. Suite F  
Watsonville, CA 95076



## INSIDE THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL FACILITY

NOTES, TAKEAWAYS, AND THOUGHTS FOLLOWING A PERSONAL, GUIDED (2 HOUR) TOUR OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL - AND INTIMATE SIT-DOWN INTERVIEW (SESSION) WITH CORRECTIONS STAFF AND CHIEF DEPUTY BRIAN CLEVELAND



**OUTSIDE OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
MAIN JAIL**



**CHIEF DEPUTY OF CORRECTIONS  
BRIAN CLEVELAND**



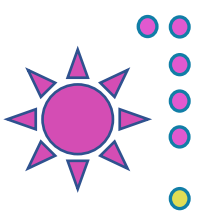
**INSIDE "F UNIT" IN THE SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY MAIN JAIL**

### ARRIVAL, INTRODUCTIONS, AND INITIAL THOUGHTS – DESCRIBING OUR INFORMATIVE SIT DOWN SESSION WITH BRIAN CLEVELAND AND MEMBERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL STAFF

We convened at the Santa Cruz County Main Jail and entered the Jail Lobby as a small team/group. We were asked to surrender all possessions — including wallets, keys, cellphones and in one case, a hat. We were ushered into a small meeting room where close to 10 (maybe 8) corrections staff — from a variety of departments — with a medical and behavioral health focus - were waiting to speak to us, give an update regarding medical and mental health operations and programming (including its new contract with Naphcare), and answer our questions.

After introducing ourselves and exchanging pleasantries and greetings with the Jail staff, further introductions by and role descriptions of the convened corrections staff was in order. Before we chose to launch into our Q+A period, Deputy Chief of the Santa Cruz County Department of Corrections — basically the Jail's head honcho — began to speak; beginning with some mental health issues, operations, and concerns he believed worth highlighting.





**IN (AND INSPIRED BY) THE WORDS AND WISDOM OF CHIEF DEPUTY BRIAN CLEVELAND**

The Jail was built long ago in the 1980's. It is largely generally run down, somewhat insufficient and improperly design and/or laid out for a County the size of (the current) Santa Cruz and a brand-new Jail facility is a far-off dream that could potentially cost over \$100 million. He started with a grand idea that he and his partner, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff, have discussed regarding moving the Jail's mental health and "detox" population to a separate facility. He then highlighted two of his highest concerns regarding mental health operations in his jail: the current operations of the "Incompetent to Stand Trial Program/List" and the currently tenuous state of the County's beleaguered "step down" situation and lack of programs, and his facilities current policies and increasingly pressing challenges. Slightly later in our initial interview with jail staff, Cleveland admitted that sometimes "when people are able to be released, we literally have now place for them to go. This was a serious problem, we agreed.

**INMATES IN LIMBO: THE "INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL" PROGRAM. AND LARGE-SCALE PRESCRIPTION, DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS BY THOSE INCARCERATED IN THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL**

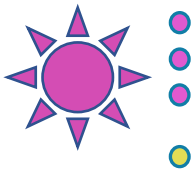
The jail's "incompetent to stand trial" program, its complicated processes, and the potential negative impact inherent issues have and could have involved inmates — on a "list" after deemed incompetent to stand trial, was something Cleveland highlighted. The jail works with the public defender's office for medications for inmates on the "list" but sometimes inmates could be in the facility — in a sort of limbo — for weeks without medication. The entire incompetent to stand trial process "needs to be streamlined" he said, "with more providers needed." Only when someone is on medications can they stabilize, he admitted. When inmates are released, that when Cleveland says he and the jail needs partners to help them transition; "we often lose them" he says. There are some men and women in the Santa Cruz County Jail that, because of a conservatorship or other situation, need to be "shipped" to a State Hospital — but the paperwork, and entire process of it all can take months. In the meantime, the Jail must "hold" these "releasable" patients and do their best to treat their often-serious behavioral and emotional issues. The truth is, admits Cleveland, is that "we're really just stabilizing here in jail, there's no therapy or treatment" involved. This is a problem, and one of the reasons that most of the Santa Cruz County Jail's entire population is on some form of medication. 80% of those in the Jail's Probation program is on one or more medication — with 40-60% of those on a psychiatric medication. In addition, in and some part in relation, to this issue there are a collection of mentally inmates who could — if there were facilities or providers who were equipped/available to take them — "step down" and leave the Jail for community-based treatment and therapy. The lack of mental and behavioral health mental health "step down facilities" is of considerable concern.

Santa Cruz County has a general problem with bed space, admits Cleveland. In both the mental health and substance abuse disorder (SUDS) space(s). Mental health and SUDS are often interrelated — so much so that the sister spaces are often simply referred to and grouped together as "behavioral health. Many behavioral health programs simply do not accept patients who are on psychiatric medications — a problem considering many individuals live with can and enter the Jail with co-occurring mental health and drug or substance use issues and disorders. A number of individuals with co-occurring SUDS and mental health challenges must first enter a mental health facility (operated by community-based "providers") before they can or are allowed to enter programs (often residential) specifically designated for substance use and abuse treatments. Many SUDS patients within the Jail can't even reach the first step in the process — entering a — officially securing a "bed" - in a local mental health residential program — much less make it to a SUDS treatment program (eventually). The lack of "step down" programs and mental health treatment residential programs means that more patients, living with SUDS and behavioral health challenges are spending (much longer, often unnecessary weeks or months) in his Jail — which is not geared for or equipped to provide necessary services, treatments, therapies, or interventions.

**LACK OF BED SPACE AND POST-RELEASE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY — ESPECIALLY "STEPS DOWNS"**

Chief Deputy Cleveland specifically points to the sudden and somewhat shocking — considering it was one of *only two operating step downs in Santa Cruz County* - recent closure of "Telos," a 10-bed mental health residential program run by local community-based mental health organization, and industry leader, Encompass Communications. The Santa Cruz County Jail had sent releasable inmates with behavioral health issues to Telos, and sister Encompass-run program El Dorado House — for years. The closing of the Telos mental health residential treatment program — officially known in the industry as a "step down facility" — has placed immense pressure and systemic stress on the County's only currently functioning step down, 12-bed El Dorado Center, which exists to treat *both* community members (mostly transitioning from inpatient mental health units like Santa Cruz's Telecare) and those leaving the Santa Cruz County Jail. In the months since Telos suddenly shut down, due to budget concerns at Encompass (and the larger mental health industry for that matter).- waiting lists at El Dorado Center have swelled, causing a backup — meaning longer, unnecessary stays — at both the Telecare inpatient unit (where people stabilize and seek initial treatment





after a mental health crisis or event) and the Jail. Inmates that he releases in order to “transition” (back) into the community “don’t get better right away,” Cleveland admits.

Sometimes it takes a variety of therapies, treatments, structured, (often residential) environments, programs modalities to complete the process, and for people to get better, he summarizes. The waitlist at longtime Jail partner, El Dorado Center — which has gently welcomed inmates/patients transitioning and stepping down from incarceration for decades, sometimes arriving with close to nothing and wearing ankle monitors — has seen its program’s waitlist dramatically swell. After the closure of sister program Telos, the increased demand for the highly regarded mental health residential treatment services that El Dorado has long provided to struggling community members have begun to overwhelm its capabilities. And the lack of available “bed space” at Santa Cruz County’s sole operating step-down program — the first of many necessary interventions and steps in the circuitous reentry process for those leaving Telecare of Jail coping with and/or battling mental health and substance use concerns — has caused the operators of El Dorado Center to have to shorten and reduce the stays of program participants for the first time in its storied history. In the end and through all of this, states Cleveland seriously, **“there are probably around 27-32 men and women on ‘lists’ in the Santa Cruz County Jail who are capable of being released, or releasable, with nowhere to go.”** Further in our sit down with corrections staff, Cleveland bluntly states “We’re the warehouse. People ship people here.”

CLEVELAND’S ASSESSMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES AND OPERATIONS WITHIN THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL — INCLUDING BRAND-NEW THIRD-PARTY MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER (CONTRACTOR) “WELLPATH”

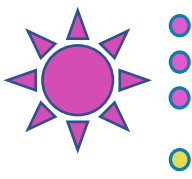
Wrapping up his rather glum assessment on the County’s mental health (and SUDS) step-down operations, Brian Cleveland launches into a brief assessment of other behavioral health-related issues at the Jail. The Main Jail’s intake procedures regarding mental health and general medical concerns have been enhanced, and this bright eyes he mentions the jail’s new body scanner — meant to curb or stop the inflow of contraband and drugs — especially Fentanyl — which has probably emerged as the Jail’s number one illicit substance in recent years. Next, he happily describes the Santa Cruz County Jail’s rather new “Sobering Center” — something that we as a committee warranted more conversation and investigation — that we will specifically detail in its own section of the Jail 101 Guide.

Emphasizing inmates’ collective need for greater support, guidance, and resources intrinsic to and necessary for their successful reentry into the community, Cleveland highlighted Cal AIM, kicking off in October of 2026, as an intriguing future opportunity at the Jail. The program’s fully funded release and case-management enhancements for inmates embarking on the reentry process will do wonders to create the “warm handoff” that he finds necessary. He then briefly mentioned the Custody Alternative Program (CAP) stating that while its numbers were dwindling, the demand for the Jail’s Work Release Program (purveyed by the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County) had risen significantly in recent years.

Our eyes and ears when Cleveland broached the subject of the Jail’s termination of its long-held multi-million dollar contract with private, third-party provider Wellpath, who long ran the Santa Cruz County Jail system’s extensive medical and behavioral health programming and operations. Officially cutting ties with WellPath, Cleveland and heads of the Jail system — all local facilities — selected equally-large and industry leader Naphcare to take over the provision of medical and mental health operations in a total contract he valued at between 10 to 11 million dollars annually. That shocked us considering the Jail’s current annual contract and agreement with Wellpath is, or was only valued at around 5 million dollars. The dollar amount, transition to and from, and the intricacies regarding Naphcare’s gigantic new contract with the Santa Cruz County Jail, and how its operations could and will differ with and otherwise enhance the contracted medical and behavioral health services (including dental care and prescription delivery) previously provided through and operated by Wellpath is of noteworthy concern. And we have decided to fully investigate the important, you could say dramatic transition, or “handoff” in its own comprehensive section on the Jail 101 Guide.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF’S TABLET EXPERIMENT

After briefly answer a few of our queries about the Jail’s new medical and mental health arrangement, Cleveland began to tell us about the fleet of new personal tablet computers that his department is now providing — free of charge — to inmates in all wings and units throughout the Jail. We were intrigued by the new communications contract that the jail had entered with tablet-system operator/provider Smart Communications and the specific ways, and available functions the tablets and associated services operated, and the exact wording of the Jail’s rather substantial new partnership with the for-profit correctional communications giant. So much so, that we’ve decided to explore this arrangement — comprehensive — in both size, scope, and implications in its own Jail 101 section. Cleveland highlighted that inmates can use their new personal electronic devices to file medical and mental health requests, grievances, access premium entertainment features like



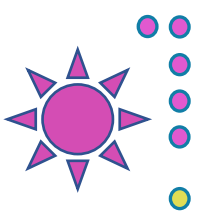
music, books, and movies, and pay to send e-messages and to video chat with friends and families. Though many of the features on the readily available tablet computers do come at a cost, some services like commissary, access to a law library, and filing requests are totally free of charge. The e-messaging and video visiting features embedded in the tablets by Smart Communications do cost inmates money – typically 50 cents per message and \$1 to send a photo through the platform – but Cleveland happily admitted that the Jail will give all inmates 2 free e-messages and 2 free video visits every week. Shortly after COVID, the Jail stepped up its tablet program. Before inmates had their own personal tablet device, each unit of the jail was given only 2 or 3 tablets to collectively share. This arrangement proved insufficient and various issues and complications arose. Cleveland told us that the monies made by the Santa Cruz County Jail through its personal tablet computer system, and arrangement with Smart Communications would go into the facility’s Inmate Welfare Fund – but the details regarding exactly how the funds from the new revenue stream would be used -and managed – specifically – beyond provided ideas like adding classes, televisions, and sports equipment – seemed rather vague considering the program’s (growing) importance and potential size and impact within the Jail.

## POST SIT-DOWN SESSION (MEETING) WITH CHIEF DEPUTY CLEVELAND AND HIS TEAM: A NARRATION OF OUR EXTENSIVE GUIDED TOUR THROUGHOUT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL FACILITY

After wrapping up around an hour of friendly back-and-forth communication and a superfluity of ideas, concerns, and information supplied by Brian Cleveland, our small committee was excited to begin our tour throughout the Santa Cruz County Main Jail. We departed our meeting space and said goodbyes to the session’s mostly silent participants/staff and entered into the jail structure itself. For some it was an unsettling experience, and for others, having already taken similar tours it was a less stressful occurrence. Led by Cleveland himself, and tailed by a uniformed corrections officer for our protection we were given close to full access to all major areas of the facility. As we visited sections like the intake area, booking area and associated holding and detox cells, processing units, and then began to tour the inmate wings and units themselves, we felt relatively safe given the circumstances. We passed inmates donning different colored outfits, and walked through passageways, tunnels, and wings past Jail units equipped with one-way glass – we and corrections officers could see the inmates, but they couldn’t see us. Some inmates tried to peak through the opaque glass partitions, but this was a big “no no” – leading correctional staff to wrap against the glass and chastise the guilty, curious parties. This stopped such actions. Some (younger) women in our party became uncomfortable with the behavior by a few male inmates – who, having clearly been separated by female humans for some time, clearly sought attention and yelled vulgar and shockingly offensive things from their separate single-cells as we slowly passed by. For the most part though, we could see the inmates and they could not see us.

### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT: NOW, AND MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

Our group was altogether curious, almost equally so, about not only how the Jail was laid out and structured, but how inmates were classified, separated, placed, and how each unit of the Jail actually functioned and was used. We were given brief glimpses into units like the fabled “O-unit” or “observation-unit,” that we, representing a mental health board had heard tales about. But weren’t allowed to enter. O-Unit typically houses the Jail’s toughest cases – those experiencing psychosis, who are/were violent, and otherwise not equipped to mentally or emotionally handle the stresses or life of general population or unmonitored secured confinement. Those in O-Unit live in cells, solitary confinements in most cases, under 24/7 cameras and regular check-ins and passes by corrections officers. They are seen by a Jail psychiatrist and are typically given/receive some type of psychiatric medication(s) as well. After O-Unit we slowly made our through the jail’s “West Housing Wing,” which typically houses/handles the facility’s most violent, troublesome, and problematic cases (inmates). The jail’s most-violent offenders are placed in Q-unit, where they live in small, single cells and are only allowed “out” to shower and walk around a small dining area 10 to 14 hours a week. Q-unit is small, only housing 8 violent inmates, but the West Wing’s other units like J-Unit, with a mix of around 20 general population and max-general population men buzzed with life and activity. The West Wing’s K-unit, stated Cleveland, mostly contains inmates with mental or behavioral health issues or inmates that just simply don’t get along with others. Cleveland patiently broke down the intricacies of most units, on each wing of the jail as we slowly passed through. He also stressed that some inmates actually *want* to be placed in solitary cells/confinement, and when requested, he and his corrections staff try to make this possible. Our group was impressed by the thoroughness of Cleveland’s tour and the time that he devoted to us. As representatives of a behavioral health body, we were most interested in how those with mental health and substance use disorders and concerns were classified and housed throughout the Jail. As we continued through the wings and halls of the facility, Brian Cleveland spoke to us regarding his plans and proposal regarding a new, complete mental health reorganization in the Main Jail.



The Santa Cruz (Main) Jail is an admittedly antiquated structure — even according to Cleveland — that’s struggling to stand up to the test of time. But with a completely new jail — one that Cleveland admitted is probably necessary at this, or at least some point — costing an estimated \$100 million+ that’s sadly not an option on the table (at least for now). Cleveland says that his new mental health idea, or project let’s say, entails a complete unit-reorganization and restructuring in which all of the Santa Cruz County Jail’s behavioral health (mental health and SUDS) inmate populations are “condensed into one central area.” His new “mental health wing” of the Main Jail would contain multiple behavioral units in a central, easily monitored and supported environment. Cleveland pointed us to the North Wing of the Main Jail, specifically to its A” and “D” units — where he has already begun his experiment. Eventually, he intends for the entire North Wing of the Jail to be its de facto mental health wing, but for now he’s concentrating on units A and D. In a proof of concept, D-Unit currently houses inmates with semi-serious mental health issues — and utilizes an innovative incentive-based system that he dreamed up with inspiration from similar inmate-incentive programs successfully used in jails in Ventura County and San Luis Obispo. The combination of D-Unit’s incentive-based system, CIT-trained officers, and popular onsite puppy have been effective thus far. So much so that the Deputy Chief hopes to establish similar programs/systems throughout the entire North Wing (all units or at least three). Similar systems implemented in county jails like Ventura (with four designated and central mental health units) have proved themselves to be a resounding success — dramatically curbing instances of violence and the number of assaults (to officers and inmates). The point and incentive-based program used in San Luis Obispo County’s four centrally located mental health units proved equally effective. Cleveland’s descriptions of these systemic inspirations made us want to further look into the internal workings and specifics of these success stories for ideas and inspiration. An important part of Brian Cleveland’s proposal regarding the restructuring and overall reorganization of the Jail, specifically its mental health and SUDS (behavioral health) population involves the Santa Cruz County Jail’s Rountree facility. Rountree itself, could comfortably house 4 open general population units for those with mental health and/or substance use challenges all on its own. Cleveland explains to us that Rountree “is the next step.”

---

## ULTIMATE TAKEAWAYS AND THANKYOU’S

---

The patience and clarity given to us, as outsiders, by Brian Cleveland and the entire Santa Cruz County Jail is of considerable note. Without the inside access we were generously granted, as representatives of a behavioral health related board, we would be unable to fully understand or vividly picture the internal workings of our county’s largest and most impactful correctional institution. We used much of the information and knowledge gleaned from our 3+ hour tour and sit down with correctional staff as a jumping off point — providing a spark to ignite further, more in-depth investigations into key aspects of the Jail’s expansive operations.

We dearly thank Mr. Cleveland, and the entire Santa Cruz County Jail’s corrections officers and hard-working staff members for their being so forthcoming, transparent, open honest with us regarding the Jail system’s overall structure, functioning, and complicated internal operations — that highlighted both their tremendous successes and equally dramatic shortcomings.

## JAIL 101 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL TOUR AND THOUGHTS GUIDE WORKS CITED

Altenberg, Nik. “Santa Cruz County Sheriff Eyes New Mental Health Jail Facility - Santa Cruz Local.” Santa Cruz Local, 11 Dec. 2025,

[santacruzlocal.org/2025/12/11/sheriff-eyes-new-mental-health-jail/](https://santacruzlocal.org/2025/12/11/sheriff-eyes-new-mental-health-jail/). Accessed 2 June 2026.

Becker, Maya. “A Look inside Santa Cruz County Main Jail - City on a Hill Press.” City on a Hill Press, 16 Feb. 2024,

[cityonahillpress.com/2024/02/16/a-look-inside-santa-cruz-county-main-jail/](https://cityonahillpress.com/2024/02/16/a-look-inside-santa-cruz-county-main-jail/).

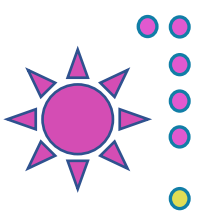
“Blaine St. Facility.” [Santacruzcountyca.gov](https://santacruzcountyca.gov), 2025, [shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections/BlaineStFacility.aspx](https://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections/BlaineStFacility.aspx). Accessed 2

June 2026.

Chun, Max. “Santa Cruz County Officials Begin Studying Replacement for Main Jail.” Lookout Santa Cruz, 25 Sept. 2023, [lookout.co/santa-cruz-county-](https://lookout.co/santa-cruz-county-main-jail-new-sheriffs-office/story)

[main-jail-new-sheriffs-office/story](https://lookout.co/santa-cruz-county-main-jail-new-sheriffs-office/story). Accessed 2 June 2026.





“Corrections.” [Santacruzcountyca.gov](http://Santacruzcountyca.gov), 2026, [shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections.aspx](http://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections.aspx). Accessed 2 June 2026.

“Corrections Bureau Frequently Asked Questions.” [Santacruzcountyca.gov](http://Santacruzcountyca.gov), 2025, [shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections/CorrectionsFAQ.aspx](http://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections/CorrectionsFAQ.aspx).

“Forms & Documents.” [Santacruzcountyca.gov](http://Santacruzcountyca.gov), 2026, [shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/INeedTo/FormsDocuments.aspx](http://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/INeedTo/FormsDocuments.aspx).

Manzella, Alesandro. “Prison in Paradise; Santa Cruz County Jail Criticized in Annual Grand Jury Review | the Pajaronian | Watsonville, CA.” *The Pajaronian | Watsonville, CA*, 14 June 2024, [pajaronian.com/santa-cruz-county-grand-jury-jails-report/](http://pajaronian.com/santa-cruz-county-grand-jury-jails-report/). Accessed 2 June 2026.

“Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office Homepage.” [Santacruzcountyca.gov](http://Santacruzcountyca.gov), 2025, [shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/](http://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/).

“Santa Cruz Main Jail.” [Santacruzcountyca.gov](http://Santacruzcountyca.gov), 2025, [shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections/SantaCruzMainJail.aspx](http://shf.santacruzcountyca.gov/SheriffHome/OurAgency/Corrections/SantaCruzMainJail.aspx).

