

CAFES CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

COORDINATED ACCESS FOR EMPOWERING SUCCESS

BSCC Prop 47 Cohort III

https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccprop47/

CAFES Cohort III Partners

Santa Cruz County Probation
Janus of Santa Cruz
Goodwill Central Coast
Conflict Resolution Center
Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender
Santa Cruz Superior Court
Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office
Neighborhood Courts
Applied Survey Research

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Santa Cruz Superior Court Spotlight Story

The Collaborative Justice System (CJS) is a collection of collaborative courts that aims to improve treatment outcomes, reduce recidivism, respond to public safety and victims' rights concerns, and more effectively utilize public resources. Programs include Behavioral Health Court, Reentry Court, Veterans' Court, Mental Health Diversion and PACT Court (Partnership for Accountability, Connection and Treatment), and Family Preservation Court. Courts are designed to improve participants' lives by increasing their support networks, helping interrupt unhealthy patterns of behavior and assisting to achieve goals. This is accomplished through a collaborative team-based approach amongst the Court, Probation, Parole, County Behavioral Health, County Substance Use Department, Family and Children Services, District Attorney, and Defense Counsel, who all work together to ensure that participants have the support needed to achieve their goals and live healthy lives.

The Collaborative Courts have existed for more than 5 years which have given hundreds of participants at various phases in the criminal justice system the opportunity to volunteer to be part of these Courts, from the diversionary and pretrial stage to the sentencing and post sentencing stages on probation or parole.

Currently, we have a total of 145 participants enrolled in the CJS with another 14 in the referral and intake phases. 45 clients are enrolled in the Behavioral Health Court, 23 families are served in Family Preservation Court, 22 clients are involved in Mental Health Diversion Court with another 24 being seen in their home Courts while on mental health diversion and 2 in the PACT program. Additionally, there are a total of 25 veterans who attend Veterans Court and 3 parolees who voluntarily signed up for the Parolee Reentry Court.

The Collaborative Court team uses a holistic combination of treatment and assistive modalities for mental health issues and substance abuse issues, with an added focus on basic needs for clients such as medical, employment, and benefits. With an emphasis on trauma informed care and a supportive environment, the Collaborative Courts assists people in developing pathways to healthy and crime free living.

One of our persistently struggling participants stated that they "never had a support network before being part of the Collaborative Courts". Others have stated that without the support of the teams, they would not have achieved sobriety, found employment, or reunited with family. This is the crux of the Collaborative Courts, to help people develop themselves, lower their recidivism, and to create support networks so that they can function independently in the community as a giving member.

- **Alphonse Arretz, Collaborative Courts Manager**

CAFES Cohort III Goals

Increase opportunities to reduce criminal legal justice involvement.

Improve individual and community health and well-being.

Improve existing systems and collaboration efforts for those in criminal legal system.

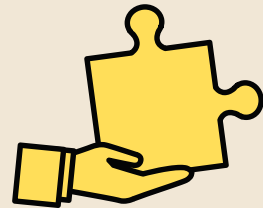
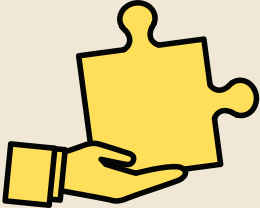
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Meet Sarah Scott, CAFES Court Liaison!

Sarah Scott recently began as the new CAFES Court Liaison. She is excited to expand on her previous experience as the Reentry Court Case Manager and to facilitate meaningful connections between probation, the courts, and court participants. She will be onsite in court to conduct CAFES eligibility screenings, conduct substance use disorder assessments, provide program orientation and case management with new participants, connect participants with community services, attend court hearings, and promote and inform partners of CAFES resources. She is eager to alleviate some of the bottlenecks of potential diversion opportunities and expedite assessments and treatment placements.

2024 CAFES Connection Newsletter Spotlight Story Schedule

Santa Cruz County Probation- **January 2024**

Santa Cruz County of the Public Defender, Partners for Justice- **February 2024**

Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office, Neighborhood Courts- **March 2024**

Santa Cruz Superior Court **April 2024**

Janus of Santa Cruz, CAFES Connector Team- **May 2024**

Goodwill Central Coast- **June 2024**

Conflict Resolution Center- **July 2024**

Applied Survey Research- **August 2024**

CAFES Program Insight, Glaris Carrillo DPO II

1. How has the CAFES program benefited your clients?

CAFES has benefited the clients on the general caseload by filling in the gap of case management due to the ration of supervision by each Probation Officer. CAFES Case Managers have been able to provide clients opportunities to address their substance use, mental health, housing needs, and also provide peer support.

2. Can you please share what your clients' responses have been to CAFES? How do they react when they learn about the funding opportunity they can be granted?

Clients have been very appreciative of the CAFES Program and have expressed relief when they are being funded. During the time clients are being funded they are able to focus on seeking employment without the pressure of being homeless or having to hunt for money to pay for their stay at an SLE.

3. Looking forward, what are you most excited about CAFES?

Looking forward I am excited to see the connections CAFES will have with other providers to expand the housing support for clients.

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Here's how to submit news you would like to include in the CAFES Connection Newsletter...

We want to hear from you!

If you have news, stories, client testimonials, or resources you would like to include for any month of

the CAFES Connection Newsletter, please email

arianna.lomeli@santacruzcountyca.gov

The deadline to send submissions is the third Thursday of each month.