



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 20, 2018

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MHSA PUBLIC MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce three public meetings on the County's Mental Health Services Act programming.

The purpose of the Mental Health Services Act is to expand and improve mental health services and the mental health system. The plan is based on feedback from residents, people who experience mental health issues and their families and other community stakeholders. The MHSA funds everything from early childhood programs; youth, LGBTQ, senior and other population-based services; street-level crisis intervention through mobile emergency response teams (MERT) and many other programs.

Through the Mental Health Services Act, the County spends approximately \$13 million annually to support mental health care and well-being through Santa Cruz County, primarily through community-based services and support programs. Overall, the County spends approximately \$80 million each year on community behavioral health care.

The meeting times and locations are:

Mid-County

Tuesday, September 25th, 10 a.m. – noon

Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office, 5200 Soquel Avenue, 1st Floor Administration Building, Santa Cruz

South County

Wednesday, September 26th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400 (4th Floor), Watsonville

North County

Thursday, October 11th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Room 10, Santa Cruz

Residents may review the plan and submit a comment online by visiting:

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/BehavioralHealth/MentalHealthServicesAct.aspx>