

CAFES CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 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

Contents

Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender
Spotlight Story
A Moment with Alexander Berry, Client Advocate
A Moment with Maya Perrelli, Holistic Defense Advocate
CAFES Cohort III and Sober Living Environment Funding
Importance of Sober Living Environment Funding Extension
with Carlo Castagnetto, DPO II
Importance of Sober Living Environment Funding Extension
with Shanee Martin, Collaborative Court Case Manager
Importance of Sober Living Environment Funding Extension
with Deborah Voith, DPO II
How to submit CAFES news you would like to share
2024 CAFES Connection Newsletter Spotlight Story Schedule

Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender Spotlight Story

CAFES Cohort III presents an exciting opportunity to work closely with The Public Defender's Office. Particularly with Caitlin Becker, Director of Holistic Defense and her team. The Holistic Defense team consists of Partners for Justice Client Advocates and Social Workers. CAFES Cohort III offers the opportunity for Holistic Defense to submit requests for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Assessments, Case Management, Sober Living Environment funding, Treatment funding, and Bridge Housing funding for their clients.

The Public Defender's Office (PDO) represents Mark.* Mark has been a long-time client of the PDO who has been frequently charged in the criminal legal system due to persistent challenges with a recurring substance use disorder. Our advocate worked with Mark and his attorney to identify a local treatment program. He was eager to reunite with his wife and son and begin the road to recovery. Because Mark's insurance was out of county, he was not able to get the assessments necessary to determine his eligibility for treatment. The CAFE program funded an assessment for Mark to determine his eligibility for treatment. The clinical assessment determined that Mark qualified for inpatient residential treatment, and the CAFE program paid for Mark to begin his course of treatment. In the meantime, his advocate initiated a transfer of Mark's medi-cal so that he could receive full medical insurance coverage here in Santa Cruz. Now, Mark has successfully completed his treatment program and has medi-cal in Santa Cruz County. He is on the waiting list for an SLE and will be able to engage in outpatient treatment covered by his insurance upon his entry into a sober living environment. Because of Mark's success in treatment, we were able to negotiate a favorable resolution in court and his case is now closed.

- Caitlin Becker, Director of Holistic Defense



A Moment with Alexander Berry, Client Advocate

1. When working with clients, what has been the most beneficial element of CAFES that has helped enable them to reach success?

The ability to fund client's stays at sober living environments has enabled many of my clients, who often have nowhere else to go, to get a solid footing. Without having a safe place to stay at night, many of our clients would otherwise struggle with meeting Court, pretrial or probation requirements.

2. What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is working directly with in-custody clients to help them navigate the complexities of the system which often prevent them from being released and working with my clients to ensure their smooth release from jail and their safe return home. This includes verifying addresses, personally following up with the jail and with pretrial services to ensure that those verifiable addresses are on file and that there are no issues with the conditions of release, and often meeting my client at their release to ensure that they transportation.

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

I'm excited to continue to expand the ways in which I utilize CAFES funding for my clients and to work with new CAFES partners to expand the services available to my clients.

-Alexander Berry, Client Advocate

A Moment with Maya Perrelli, Holistic Defense Advocate

1. When working with clients, what has been the most beneficial element of CAFES that has helped enable them to reach success?

The most beneficial element of CAFES, from my experience, is the funding that pays for treatment programs and sober living environments. This gives clients a chance to go to treatment if they don't have medi-cal or without having to wait to get their medi-cal transferred if it's out of Santa Cruz County (most of the time if this is the case they would have to wait in custody for possibly months). Going to a treatment center is imperative for clients who are struggling with substance use. CAFES also gives them a period of transition once they are released from the program to stay at an SLE and time to find a job and structure in their life. Without stable housing it is nearly impossible to maintain sobriety.

2. What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is making connections with clients and watching them do well for themselves and their loved ones.

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

Looking forward, I am most excited about CAFES partnering with more SLEs and treatment programs so there are more available options to get our clients into housing and programs and out of custody.

-Maya Perrelli, Holistic Defense Advocate

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.

ATTENTION CAFES PARTNERS:

Upcoming training event!

3-27-2024 Building Resilience by Tenzin Chogy

from Conflict Resolution Center!

From 10:00 AM to 12 PM

303 Water St.

**If you are interested in attending, please email
Hugo.Calderon@santacruzcountyca.gov and
Natalie.Berns@santacruzcountyca.gov**

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CAFES Cohort III and Sober Living Environment Funding

CAFES's Sober Living Environment funding is an excellent resource to help build a foundation of sobriety for clients. All clients receiving funding are notified of the importance in creating a plan on how to pay their rent once their funding is over. Case managers can help their client to create a plan to obtain cost ownership. A plan offers an excellent opportunity to actively work for the creation and means of sustaining financial independence. However, some clients need additional support before reaching this level. This additional support can be obtained through CAFES SLE extension funding. For clients that need additional support most are granted two extensions after their first month in an SLE. For clients that need funding beyond three months, case managers may advocate for more funding. For those clients, the efforts to gain employment to obtain cost ownership will be reviewed at the point.

SLE's CAFES provides funding for

17th Ave. House- Janus
El Dorado House- Janus
Juan Pablo House-Sobriety Works
Branciforte House -Sobriety Works
Lotman House -Sobriety Works
Cortez House- Sobriety Works
Cleveland House- Encompass
Weeks House- Encompass
Freedom House- Encompass
Alamo House- Justin G.
East Beach House-Dane D.

Importance of Sober Living Environment Funding Extension with Carlo Castagnetto, Deputy Probation Officer II

1. How important is the extension funding that CAFES offers to your clients?

CAFES extension funding for SLE's provides crucial support and stability to clients in what can be a vulnerable re-entry period. SLE's provide a safety net that impacts a client's ability to succeed. When a client gains secure funding, they do not need to worry about making rent money from other means. SLE's extension funding does not stop at financial importance it elevates support and provides clients with opportunities to make changes.

2. With your experience in mind of other funding programs, what does CAFES offer/have an element that stands out the most?

In my experience, the difference that I see in what CAFES has to offer is the synergy among a multi-agency approach to helping clients succeed. The unified support network that CAFES has created is incredible.

3. When working with clients, what has been the most beneficial element of CAFES that has helped enable them to reach success?

The most beneficial element of CAFES that has helped my clients reach success is funding for housing and SUD services. My clients who are in SLE's have higher success rates. SLE's tailor and target the needs of my clients.

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

Looking forward, I am excited to see CAFES expand. I am excited to see who will join as partners in the future. The more we are able to offer our community, the more success we will be able to share as a whole.

-Carlo Castagnetto, Deputy Probation Officer II

Importance of Sober Living Environment Funding Extension with Shanee Martin, Collaborative Court Case Manager Superior Court of California, County of Santa Cruz

1. How important is the extension funding that CAFES offers to your clients?

The extension funding is very important to clients that are working with the collaborative courts. It helps ensure that clients will be able to continue living in a sober living environment safely. Which is detrimental to their recovery. Many clients wouldn't be sober as long as they are without the funding from CAFES.

2. When working with clients, what has been the most beneficial element of CAFES that has helped enable them to reach success?

The funding has been very beneficial to our clients to maintaining their sobriety.

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

I am looking forward to CAFES doing more. I am not too familiar with the program, but I am excited to know what services would be coming from CAFES in the future.

-Shanee Martin

Importance of Sober Living Environment Funding Extension with Deborah Voith, Deputy Probation Officer II

1. How important is the extension funding that CAFES offers to your clients? With your experience in mind of other funding programs, what does CAFES offer that stands out the most?

Super Helpful – I am not aware of any other programs that offer funding to individuals that are system involved and not 1170h clients. CAFES extensions allows are clients to obtain some financial footing/stability to find employment and establish a budget with all the other bills they are likely paying.

2. When working with clients, what has been the most beneficial element of CAFES that has helped enable them to reach success?

The assistance of the Janus Providers help our clients establish the appropriate level of care and place them in appropriate settings.

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

The support from our Janus Partners.

-Deborah Voith, Deputy Probation Officer II

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.

2024 CAFES Connection Newsletter Spotlight Story Schedule

Goal: Each partner will have the option to submit a recap of their scheduled month or anything they would like to share highlighting the collaborative work and efforts of CAFES Cohort III.

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 Collaborative Courts- **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**

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