

County of Santa Cruz Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

February 9, 2023	Remote Access via Microsoft Teams
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Office	Representative
District Attorney's Office	Jeff Rosell, District Attorney *
Health Services Agency	Monica Morales, Director of Health Services Agency *(late**)
Sheriff's Office	Jim Hart, Sheriff-Coroner *
Probation Department	Fernando Giraldo, Chief Probation Officer *
Public Defender	Heather Rogers, Public Defender *
Superior Court of Santa Cruz	Sasha Morgan, Court Executive Officer *
Capitola Police Department	Andrew Dally, Chief of Police *
County Office of Education	Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools
Health Services Agency	Lisa Todd, Chief of Substance Use Disorders Programs (absent)
District Attorney's Office	Laura Espindola, Manager of Victim Witness Assistance Program
Human Services Department	Randy Morris, Director of Human Services Department
Board of Supervisors	Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor (absent)
Human Services Department	Andrew Stone, Director of Workforce Investment Board
Santa Cruz Volunteer Center	Karen Delaney, Executive Director

*Denotes voting member

**Monica Morales arrived at 1:05 p.m.

- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA: (verbal)
- III. APPROVAL OF AB361 RESOLUTION: Motion made by Sheriff Hart and seconded by Jeff Rosell. Item passed.

Aye: Giraldo, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell No: Abstain: Morgan Absent: Morales (late)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Jeff Rosell and seconded by Heather Rogers. Item passed.

Aye: Giraldo, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell, Morgan No: Abstain: Absent: Morales (late)

V. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Stephanie Barron Lu, Executive Director at Positive Discipline Community Resources and as part of Moms Demand Actions asked for interest and support for a gun buyback event. Sheriff Hart asked Stephanie to contact the Sheriff's Office to have a discussion. Community Corrections Partnership Minutes February 9, 2023 Page 2

VI. ORAL REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

1 Probation Initiatives and Staffing Update:

Chief Giraldo introduced Asst. Division Director Lori Feldstein to the Adult Division, and Division Director Jose Flores to the Juvenile Division.

Probation introduced the concept of the coaching model Probation Coaching vs Refereeing at the Reducing Revocations Challenge: Advancing Probation Practices event in December 2022. The coaching model advances the way Probation does its work to maximize success and further engage clients. Probation will look to get technical assistance from Justice System Partners to help implement the coaching model across the Department.

Additionally, Probation will pilot a small incentive-based case management program around individuals struggling with substance abuse.

Probation will be sending out a survey to our key stakeholders and partners to receive feedback for the Department's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

2. Report on CAFES Cohort II and Cohort III Programs (Proposition 47):

Coordinating Access for Empowering Success (CAFES) Cohort II funding is ending officially in May 2023. CAFES was able to serve more than 600 individuals during those three years. Final evaluation and data will be available in the summer.

CAFES Cohort III funding of \$6 million was received in 2022. The program will technically run from September 2022 through June 2026, although direct client services will run from March 2023 through March 2026.

There are a few components of the program that have begun such as the Public Defender's Office Advocate Team expansion, and we are working on the Neighborhood Court expansion with the District Attorney's Office and Conflict Resolution Center. The day-to-day oversight position has been filled by our Assistant Division Director Hugo Calderon.

Through temporary workarounds, we can continue to fund SUD treatment, SLE and bridge housing for new and existing CAFES participants.

3. Report on Shared Safety Workgroup:

Sarah Emmert, Director of Community Impact, United Way of Santa Cruz County, reported on the Safety Workgroup. Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for information.

4. Treatment Funding for In-County Forensic DNA Laboratory: Motion made by Jeff Rosell and seconded by Chief Dally. **Item passed.**

Aye: Giraldo, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell, Morgan, Morales No: Abstain: Absent:

Sheriff Hart requested to allocate \$2.8 million from the surplus AB109 Treatment funding to construct a DNA Laboratory and purchase some of the equipment. The DNA Laboratory has been in the planning process for several years but has experienced delays in funding due to other County projects and the COVID pandemic. The total cost of the project is \$3.2 million.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 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 alternate format.

Por favor haga arreglos anticipadamente por teléfono al número (831) 454-3105.

Community Corrections Partnership Minutes February 9, 2023 Page 3

The Sheriff's Office has money in different trusts to cover the gap and funding in place in trusts specific to the Sheriff's Office for the next 5 years with no net County costs.

Currently, the County uses the Department of Justice's DNA lab when there is DNA evidence in a case and in serious and violent cases; it can take 1-12 months to get results back and there is a limited number of samples that can be submitted.

Having our own DNA lab will allow the Sheriff's Office to service all agencies in the County and do a more thorough, quick, and efficient job of either identifying a suspect or excluding a person of interest. Victims and survivors of violent crimes, such as sexual assault and homicide, will be the primary group this project serves.

The Sheriff's Office has 1,700 sq. ft. of space available and a great laboratory team in place to add the DNA lab. There are a lot of federal grants available to pay for the laboratory past the 5-year mark but there must be a standing certified laboratory in place. The project has support from CAO, BOS and local law enforcement.

Chief Giraldo added that over the last two years the AB109 Treatment funds had surplus of dollars despite COVID. Trust funds grew significantly and will continue to allocate funding to treatment programs.

5. AB109 Treatment and Intervention Service Funding Cycle Timeline: Fernando Giraldo

Technically concluding a 4th year of AB109 funding and would normally have been an RFP cycle; however, due to the pandemic, it will stall for a year. The current cycle will extend to 5 years. New RFP in January of 2024 and new services in July 2024.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

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County of Santa Cruz Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTERNSHIP FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

WHEREAS, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP is a legislative body under the Brown Act as defined under Cal. Gov. Code section 54952(b) and Santa Cruz County Code Section 2.38.110; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"), urgency legislation effective immediately, that amended Government Code section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue to meet under modified teleconferencing rules provided that they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(1)(A), a legislative body may meet under the modified teleconferencing rules during a proclaimed state of emergency, and where local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel strongly recommended that legislative bodies in Santa Cruz County continue to engage in physical/social distancing by meeting via teleconference as allowed by AB 361 and confirmed that she will regularly review and reconsider this recommendation and notify the public when it is no longer recommended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(3), within 30 days of the date the legislative body first holding a teleconferenced meeting under the modified rules, and every 30 days thereafter, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings provided it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined either that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person or that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP held its subsequent teleconference meeting under AB 361; and

WHEREAS, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP has reconsidered the circumstances of the current state of emergency and finds that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of members of the public to participate safely in person and further finds that the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, and due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP deems it necessary to utilize the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361;

NOW, THEREFORE, the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP makes the following findings by a majority vote:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct, and adopted as findings of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP.

Section 2. Effective immediately, and for the next 30 days, the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP will meet via teleconference as authorized under AB 361 and Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

Section 3. No later than thirty (30) days from making today's findings, or at the next scheduled meeting, the Commission will reconsider the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and, if necessary, adopt subsequent findings to continue holding teleconference meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP in Santa Cruz, State of California, this <u>9th</u> day of <u>February</u> <u>2023</u>, by the following vote:

AYES: Giraldo, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell NOES: ABSENT: Morgan ABSTAIN: Morales (late)

DocuSigned by: Fernando Giraldo

Chair, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

DocuSigned by: Gerardo Leon-Garcia ATTEST:

Department Staff

Approved as to Form:

DocuSigned by: Kuly Mangunz

Office of the County Counsel



County of Santa Cruz Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

February 9, 2023 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Remote Access via Microsoft Teams

Pursuant to AB361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953, due to the ongoing COVID-19 state of emergency and upon recommendation of the County Health Officer, public meetings of the Community Corrections Partnership will be conducted in a remote format. Members of the public can attend virtually by teleconference and an opportunity to comment will be provided.

Please follow this link to participate in the meeting:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetupjoin/19%3ameeting_NDZjNGIzYWEtYWE5Mi00ZjEzLTk3ODAtNjZiMTU0ODgzOGZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b %22Tid%22%3a%2252044d34-04cb-41a4-a0cd-54ae6eeffb9f%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2219666a3a-af60-4480-9205-85ffdfca8369%22%7d

Conference Call-in #: 831-454-2222 ID: 284 754 966# | Meeting ID: 289 314 107 280# Passcode: xY6rbF

For questions regarding the remote meeting process, please contact Gerardo Leon Garcia at 831-454-3105 or <u>PRB1150@santacruzcounty.us</u>

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF AB361 RESOLUTION
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- V. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Members of the public are allowed 3 minutes to address any item pertaining to the CCP, but not on the Agenda.

- VI. ORAL REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS
 - 1 Probation Initiatives and Staffing Update: Fernando Giraldo
 - 2. Report on CAFES Cohort II and Cohort III Programs (Proposition 47): Sarah Fletcher
 - 3. Report on Shared Safety Workgroup: Sarah Emmert
 - 4. Treatment Funding for In-County Forensic DNA Laboratory: Jim Hart
 - 5. AB109 Treatment and Intervention Service Funding Cycle Timeline: Fernando Giraldo
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

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Por favor haga arreglos anticipadamente por teléfono al número (831) 454-3800.



County of Santa Cruz Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

December 12, 2022	
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	

Remote Access via Microsoft Teams

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Office	Representative
District Attorney's Office	Jeff Rosell, District Attorney *
Health Services Agency	Monica Morales, Director of Health Services Agency *(late**)
Sheriff's Office	Jim Hart, Sheriff-Coroner *
Probation Department	Fernando Giraldo, Chief Probation Officer *
Public Defender	Heather Rogers, Public Defender *
Superior Court of Santa Cruz	Alex Calvo, Court Executive Officer * (absent)
Capitola Police Department	Andrew Dally, Chief of Police *
County Office of Education	Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools (absent)
Health Services Agency	Anthony Jordan, Chief of Substance Use Disorders Programs (absent)
District Attorney's Office	Laura Espindola, Manager of Victim Witness Assistance Program
Human Services Department	Randy Morris, Director of Human Services Department (absent)
Board of Supervisors	Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor (absent)
Human Services Department	Andrew Stone, Director of Workforce Investment Board
Santa Cruz Volunteer Center	Karen Delaney, Executive Director (absent)

*Denotes voting member **Monica Morales arrived at 10:16 a.m.

- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA: (verbal)
- III. APPROVAL OF AB361 RESOLUTION: Motion made by Sheriff Hart and seconded by Jeff Rosell. Item passed.

Aye: Giraldo, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell No: Abstain: Absent: Morales (late), Calvo

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Heather Rogers and seconded by Sheriff Hart. Item passed.

Aye: Giraldo, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell No: Abstain: Absent: Morales (late), Calvo

- V. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None
- VI. ORAL REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS
 - 1. Santa Cruz County Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan 2022-2023

Community Corrections Partnership Minutes December 12, 2022 Page 2

Chief Giraldo spoke briefly about the plan and thanked Sr. Dept. Admin Analyst, Andrew Davis, for his lead work on the plan. Santa Cruz County Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan 2022-2023 is available on the Probation webpage: <u>County of Santa Cruz (santa-cruz.ca.us)</u>.

Motion made by Sheriff Hart and seconded by Jeff Rosell. Item Passed.

Aye: Giraldo, Morales, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell No: Abstain: Absent: Calvo

2. Report on CAFES Cohort II Program (Proposition 47)

Asst. Division Director, Natalie Berns, gave an update on the Prop 47 Grant CAFES Cohort II Program and provided links available for review. Once the final evaluation of Cohort II is complete, the results will be shared. Probation has received positive feedback that this project has been beneficial to the community and the individuals served.

The County has been approved for the next round of Prop 47 funding (Cohort III) and Probation will request that the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) continue to stand as the Advisory Board for the CAFES project for the next three years.

CAFES Prop 47 Dashboard | Tableau Public: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/asr1451/viz/CAFESProp47Dashboard/Introduction

Santa Cruz County Probation Dept – Smartsheet.com: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=c63b42eca6cf4326acb3cd85781adc63

Statewide Dashboard – Smartsheet.com: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=f1cf46a86b2f4e8199bff93cc5d20e81

3. Approval of CCP serving as Advisory Committee for CAFES Cohort III

Chief Giraldo formally asked the CCP to be the CAFES Cohort III Advisory Board and provided information on the expected commitment from the CCP. Probation will update the CCP on the progress and completion of project objectives as they did during the CAFES Cohort II project.

Motion made by Heather Rogers and seconded by Jeff Rosell. Item passed.

Aye: Giraldo, Morales, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell No: Abstain: Absent: Calvo

4. Treatment Funding for Juvenile Hall Services Enhancement

Division Director Sara Ryan provided background information and detailed the need for the Juvenile Hall renovation and gym projects to be completed. The projects have faced many challenges and delays, but they are still moving forward.

The County's Juvenile Hall facility was built in 1968 and, after more than five decades in use, it needs significant upgrades and renovations to provide both security and opportunity for rehabilitative programming. The County was awarded over \$11 million in state grant funding for two different rounds of projects for the

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Community Corrections Partnership Minutes December 12, 2022 Page 3

facility. In 2009, \$1.33 million in first round of funding was received through SB 81 for the construction of an all-weather gymnasium. The gym would have a basketball court, two classrooms, and provide space for family visits. In 2015, an additional \$9.5 million in funding was awarded from BSCC for significant renovations and Seed to Table program. Seed to Table provides a garden, greenhouse, a place for counseling services and upgrades to the kitchen.

Assistant County Administrative Officer Nicole Coburn shared that the County has had cost overruns for the gym and renovation projects. The recent rise in costs is due to pandemic supply chain labor cost increases. The current funding gap for the projects is \$4.2 million. The County has one-time AB109 funds from unspent treatment dollars and unusually high growth allocations, and it is proposing to use a portion of this money toward the Juvenile Hall renovation and gym projects. This is an allowable use of these funds, and it is important to the County to have a Juvenile Hall facility that can provide the appropriate services to the youth it serves.

Motion made by Sheriff Hart and seconded by Jeff Rosell. Item Passed

Aye: Giraldo, Morales, Hart, Rogers, Dally, Rosell No: Abstain: Absent: Calvo

5. AB109 Treatment and Intervention Service Funding Cycle Timeline

Probation Analyst Andrew Davis shared that the most recent four-year cycle treatment and intervention services funding cycle coincided with the pandemic, and service providers were not able to demonstrate the effectiveness and utilization of their programs. Probation reviewed this with providers and found sound support, to delay the start of the next cycle for an additional year. The next Request for Proposals for AB109 treatment and intervention service funding is expected to be released near the end of this calendar year, with the start of the new cycle in July of 2024.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Por favor haga arreglos anticipadamente por teléfono al número (831) 454-3105.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP in Santa Cruz, State of California, this <u>9th</u> day of <u>February</u> <u>2023</u>, by the following vote:

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

> Chair, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

ATTEST:

Department Staff

Approved as to Form:

Office of the County Counsel

Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership Shared Safety Workgroup

Sarah Emmert, Director of Community Impact United Way of Santa Cruz County February 2023

Overview

- SSW Members
- Current Shared Safety Efforts
 - Victim Financial Restitution
 - Wrap Around Supports for Victims of Violent Crime
 - Survivor System Navigation & System Mapping Project
 - Trauma Recovery Center Planning
- Discussion & Questions

Community Corrections Partnership Shared Safety Workgroup (SSW)

- Barrios Unidos
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Behavioral Health
- Community Action Board
- Conflict Resolution Center
- County Administrative Office
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- District Attorney's Office
- Encompass Community Services
- Human Care Alliance

- Monarch Services
- Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance
- Probation Department
- Public Defender's Office
- Resource Center for Nonviolence
- Santa Cruz County United for Safe & Inclusive Communities
- United Way
- Walnut Ave. Family & Women's Center
- Survivors

Funded by: Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership

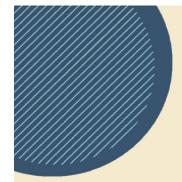
BLUEPRINT OVERVIEW



What You'll Find in the Report

Our Goals

- #1 Prioritize Healing and Restoration for Crime Survivors
- #2 Ensure Access to Trauma Recovery Services
- #3 Engage Crime Survivors to Prioritize and Elevate Their Voices
- #4 Strengthen Community Trust and Confidence in the Criminal Justice System
- #5 Recognize Who is Most Vulnerable to Crime
- Top Recommendations
- What Has Shifted & Next Steps



Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety

Phase 1: Survivors at the Center



Shared Safety: Survivors at the Center 2022-23 Focus

Victim Financial Restitution

Wrap Around Supports for Victims of Violent Crime

Survivor System Navigation & System Mapping Project

Trauma Recovery Center Planning

Victim Financial Restitution

► Goals:

- Reduce barriers & gaps to increase access to financial restitution for crime survivors
- Decrease financial burden related to crime on survivors
- Ad Hoc Committee: District Attorney's Office, Probation, Public Defender's Office, & United Way

Wrap-Around Supports for Victims of Violent Crime

► Goals:

- Increase connections to services & resources for survivors to support restoration & healing
- Decrease trauma-responses & future unhealthy behaviors (mental health, SUD, poor physical health, criminogenic behavior, etc.)

Watsonville's Trauma Response Multidisciplinary Team

WHAT IS TRAUMA?

'An event or circumstance that results in physical, emotional, and/ or life threatening harm."

Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Traumatic events can be scary and shocking. Experiences such as acts of violence, homicides sexual abuse, suicides vehicle fatalities and traumatic artist.

IMPACT OF TRAUMA

When trauma is left untreated, it can lead to unhealthy coping behaviors. Including clinical symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress.



For More Information Contact:

Meredith Flores, MSW

Program Coordinator of the Watsonville Trauma Response MDT

Email: meredith.flores@cityofwatsonville.org



Watsonville

Trauma

Response

Multidisciplinary Team



OUR PURPOSE

Watsonville Trauma Response Multidisciplinary Team aims to provide timely support and care to those Individuals Impacted by trauma.

Partners will provide services in an integrated, comprehensive, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and evidenced based practice.

WHO WE ARE

The Watsonville Trauma Response Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) aims to improve community safety and wellness by offering professional support to individuals and families impacted by trauma.



The MDT includes the collaboration from diverse sectors including health, education, social services, and justice.

The Watsonville Police Department is the lead in the MDT and the direct services are provided by the following agencies: Community Action Board (CAB), Monarch Services, and Pajaro Valley Prevention Student Assistance (PVPSA).



WHAT WE DO

- Deliver trauma-informed and health-centered approaches to individuals after a traumatic event
- Support, Screen, and Refer to the
- appropriate partner agency.
- Provide coordination and
- follow-up support.

WHO WE SERVE

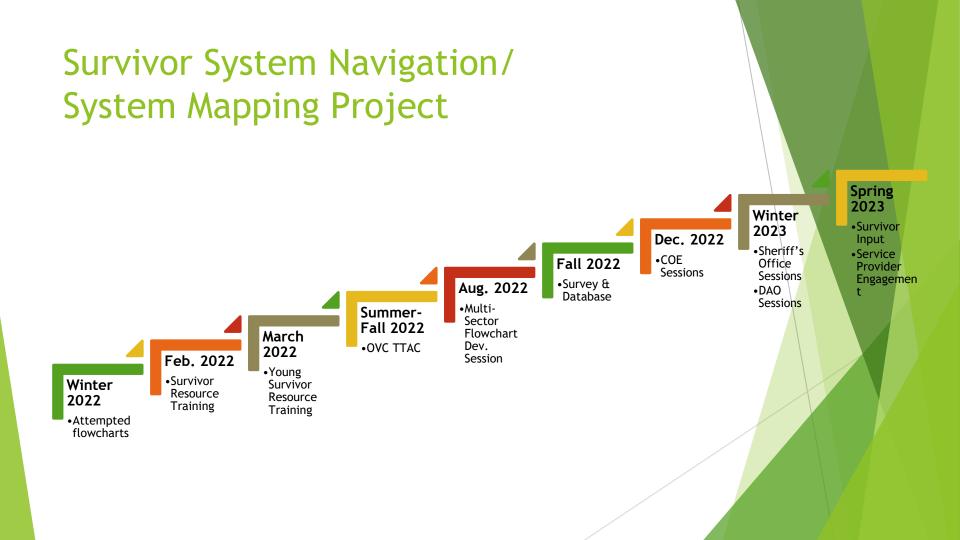
traumatic event in the community.



Survivor System Navigation/ System Mapping Project

Goals

- Increase provider & survivor knowledge of resources available & how to navigate the survivor serving system (justice & nonjustice
- Increase connections to services & resources for survivors to support restoration & healing
- Increase survivor wellbeing



Survivor System Navigation/ System Mapping Project

Working with

- COE
- DAO
- Sheriff's Office

Tech Platform



Trauma Recovery Center Planning

Goals

- Increase connections to services & resources for survivors to support restoration & healing
- Decrease trauma-responses & future unhealthy behaviors (mental health, SUD, poor physical health, criminogenic behavior, etc.)
- National Alliance for Trauma Recovery Centers
- Site Visits across Nation

Discussion & Questions

Sarah Emmert Director of Community Impact United Way of Santa Cruz County <u>semmert@unitedwaysc.org</u>



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner's Office Inter-Department Correspondence

February 1, 2023
Fernando Giraldo, Chair Community Corrections Partnership
Jim Hart, Sheriff-Coroner
AB109 Trust Funding for Construction Phase of the Forensic DNA Laboratory

Summary

The Sheriff's Office seeks to use \$2.8 million of one-time AB109 surplus trust funds to support the construction of the County's own Forensic DNA Laboratory. The DNA Lab will be located at the available 1,700 (+/) space within the sciences building at the Sheriff's Headquarters at 5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz. This plan is in response to the utility of DNA to forensic investigations and subject identification, and the need to produce results in a timely manner to maximize public safety.

The allocation of AB109 trust funds is key to supporting the construction phase of the DNA Lab. Available trust funds to construct and purchase equipment for the DNA Lab is \$2.8 million. The estimated cost for the construction phase is \$2,343,199 and for the purchase of essential equipment is \$878,863. The gap of \$372,191 for construction and equipment is anticipated to come from other trust accounts the Sheriff holds. The total project estimated cost is \$3.2 million including design, construction, and purchase of forensic lab equipment and materials.

This Forensic DNA Lab project is a priority goal for the Sheriff's Office and is an operational objective outlined in the County's Strategic Plan. On May 11, 2021, the Board approved the use of DNA trust funds in the amount of \$404,240 to contract with HED Design to develop all the necessary DNA Lab schematic designs and construction drawings and documents. This work has been completed and the Sheriff's Office is now positioned to begin the construction phase of the County's DNA Lab.

The establishment of the DNA Lab has a direct correlation to supporting the work of the Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) as the timely

analysis of forensic evidence collected from victims, survivors and suspects alike is an important and needed service of the criminal justice system.

With the potential of 48-hour turnaround times and the ability to prioritize our own evidence, having a regional laboratory in Santa Cruz County will significantly aid local investigations and improve public safety by identifying suspects or excluding a person of interest quickly and efficiently. The State's turnaround time for rush cases, such as sexual assaults and homicides, typically ranges from one to six months, sometimes even longer. For comparatively routine work, like property crimes, the State's turnaround times range between one to three years.

Locally, the full potential of DNA testing as an investigative tool has not been reached, not because of technology, but because of the limited number of laboratories, the capacity of individual laboratories, and available qualified scientific staff. Our plan is structured to provide the Sheriff's Office with adequate facilities, staff and equipment to meet the expectation of expedited rush casework (2-5 working days) and reasonable turnaround times for routine casework (6-8 weeks). In addition, our agency will have more control over evidence examination and the selection of DNA samples, which is critical for improving the relevance and investigative value of our forensic results and increasing community safety.