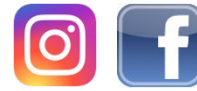




SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

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RANDY MORRIS, DIRECTOR



News Release

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APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

Community invited to attend Children's Memorial Flag Raising April 26, 2024

The community is invited to help recognize April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April since its first presidential proclamation in 1983. Since that time, individuals, organizations, and communities across the nation have participated in this critical campaign to increase awareness of child maltreatment, and the importance of prevention.

Last fiscal year, 2,314 reports of child abuse, neglect or harm were made in Santa Cruz County, with 945 of these reported cases warranting screening and investigation by a County Human Services Department Family & Children's Services (FCS) social worker. To promote child abuse prevention this month, a four-episode [video](#) conversation will be hosted by the Children's Network of Santa Cruz County to demystify child abuse and destigmatize seeking and sharing prevention resources. Also planned is a Children's Memorial Flag Raising with Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chair Justin Cummings raising the flag. The ceremony will begin at 12:00 pm on April 26, on the courthouse steps at 701 Ocean Street in Santa Cruz. The flag raising event will include guest speakers, a moment of silence and distribution of child abuse prevention information.

"The County of Santa Cruz is committed to advancing policies and practices that prioritize the well-being of all our county's children and families," said Gloria Carroll, Director of the Human Services Department's FCS Division. "Every family and child deserve supports to help them thrive, feel purposeful and have hope for the future. I encourage our community to join in our efforts this month and become partners in child abuse prevention."

About the Human Services Department Family & Children's Services Division

FCS provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, or who are at risk of abuse or neglect. Staff screens and investigates reports of abuse, neglect, or harm, provides supportive services to children and families in their homes, oversees foster care and adoption services, and provides services that help youth in foster care transition to adulthood. FCS works collaboratively with local agencies and community partners to support and strengthen families and keep children safely in their families' homes whenever possible.

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