



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



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BOARD VOTES TO REESTABLISH RECOVERY CENTER

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday authorized the re-establishment of a Recovery Center to provide substance use interventions to residents while freeing up important public safety resources.

The Recovery Center played a crucial role in supporting both law enforcement and the community in previous years. Operating from 2015 until its closure in the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Recovery Center successfully redirected nearly 1,400 individuals away from jail during its last year of operation. This led to a 94 percent reduction in the time local law enforcement officers spent on processing intoxicated individuals and facilitated access to treatment and valuable resources, aimed at lowering the likelihood of reoffending.

"I am very pleased the Board of Supervisors approved the Recovery Center contract with Janus of Santa Cruz." Santa Cruz County Sheriff Jim Hart said. "This program will help shift alcohol and drug dependency to a health care issue rather than a criminal justice issue. I want to thank the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer, Carlos Palacios, for funding this important program. I look forward to partnering with Janus of Santa Cruz and helping our community members who are struggling with addiction."

The Board unanimously authorized a contract with Janus of Santa Cruz for \$1.08 million. The Recovery Center is expected to open January 2, 2024 within a new modular building at 265 Water St. Construction on the new center is underway.

The center will operate continuously and provide space for up to ten eligible adults who can be diverted for additional services. Janus-trained personnel will triage and monitor intoxicated individuals, including screening for medical and behavioral health issues. Staff members will have expertise in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, trauma-informed care, harm reduction and drug/alcohol symptomology assessments.