

CAFES CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

Janus Spotlight Story, Nick Bobeda CAFES Program Supervisor

Meet Vaden Pascal, CAFES Peer Support Specialist

Meet Carmen Hernandez, CAFES Peer Support Specialist

Meet Polina Berkovich, Case Manager I

Meet Maya Goytia, Case Manager I

How to submit CAFES news you would like to share

2024 CAFES Connection Newsletter Spotlight Story Schedule

Janus Spotlight Story

Looking back over the last five months only reinforces how quickly time passes, especially when you are enjoying the time you're spending, and enjoying the people you get to spend time working with. Having an opportunity to represent the organization I started in the field with, in a brand-new program has been great and has given me an opportunity to serve my community in a new way that is incredibly important. I hold a unique position in which I get to lead a team of experienced and dedicated individuals that are able to step in and provide support for people who do not have access to resources they need. We provide a path for people to get help with treating their Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. In my role, I screen referrals to determine eligibility and develop a game plan with our team to connect people to the resources that will meet their unique and specific needs and help them to further their recovery.

Our team is comprised of Case Managers and Peer Support Specialists, in two locations: Watsonville and Santa Cruz. I am responsible for collecting data that is tracked at the state level to monitor the effectiveness of the program and authorize funding to various programs in the community that serve our CAFES clients. I get to work directly with other community-based organizations that work out of the Probation Success Centers and can honestly say that it has been a wonderful experience. I have met some extraordinary individuals, that are determined to make a difference.

In the short time I have been with CAFES I have seen the impact this program has in people's lives. Our program assists incarcerated individuals with seamless transitions into treatment programs and SLE's to reduce the chances of reoffending or further involvement in the legal system. CAFES gives an underserved population the means and financial ability to participate in the treatment and supportive sober housing they need, and access to Case Managers, and Peer Support Specialists, that walk alongside of them on their road to recovery. CAFES provides people the chance to gain stability after residential SUD treatment, to get on their feet and reintegrate back into the community and be connected to the vital resources to begin a new chapter in their lives. Many of the folks enrolled in the CAFES program, I have gotten to know over the years working at Janus of Santa Cruz and have been given the ability to see some of them go on to reach heights that are extremely meaningful and inspiring.

I feel incredibly blessed to be part of such an amazing program and see the change that occurs in the lives of people who are no longer suffering and am inspired to work even harder for those that still are out there needing help. I look forward to all that we can accomplish in the future as a team, that are committed to making a difference in our community.

-Nick Bobeda

**CAFES Connector Team Program Supervisor
Probation Success Center North & South County**

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.

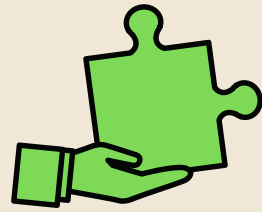
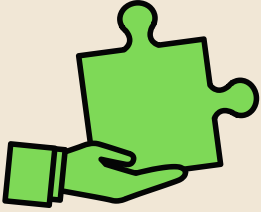
CAFES CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

Meet Peer Support Specialist, Vaden Pascal

As a Peer Support Specialist, I've had the privilege of listening to our clients' stories and building rapport with them. This connection allows clients to feel safe sharing their true needs and expressing their willingness to seek help. Learning about the extensive resources available to assist our clients has been invaluable in guiding them towards meeting their needs and achieving their recovery goals, while also helping them find their voice for self-advocacy. Additionally, it provides me the opportunity to advocate on their behalf in situations like court appearances or placements into treatment programs. One key lesson I've learned is that when clients commit to improving their lives, they find abundant support and resources ready to assist them. Witnessing clients transform from being homeless and unwell to living healthily with others and making positive decisions has been profoundly impactful. For me, the CAFES program represents an opportunity for individuals who have made mistakes to right their wrongs and change their lives, supported by a community eager to see them succeed.

**-Vaden Pascal
Peer Support Specialist**

Meet Peer Support Specialist, Carmen Hernandez

In my role as a Peer Support Specialist, I've helped clients with SLE placements, job searches, and attended court with them to ease their anxiety and overcome language barriers by serving as a translator. Throughout this journey, I've gained extensive knowledge about the justice system and our clients, discovering resources that benefit them. One of my most impactful moments was obtaining my state certification, which has enhanced my ability to assist our clients effectively. The CAFES program, to me, offers our clients a fresh start, providing crucial support such as rent assistance, job placement, and other necessary resources. This support can be life-saving and significantly boost their confidence.

**-Carmen Hernandez
Peer Support Specialist**

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.

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.

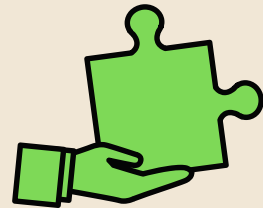
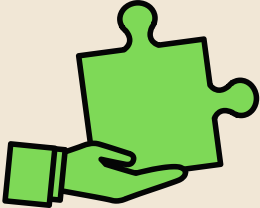
CAFES CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

Meet Case Manager, Polina Berkovich

As a Case Manager, I provide a variety of services for our clients which always start with assessing their needs and future goals, then working within that framework. With the knowledge I've gained from being in the community and surrounded by my team, I help coordinate and facilitate the services that would be of benefit to my clients, all while fostering a sense of autonomy for them so they feel confident to advocate for themselves, but also know that someone has their back if they need the support. Some of my position revolves around purely educating my clients on what is already available to them and the best way to take advantage of it. I see it as bridging a gap between the county, criminal justice system, and the individual trying to navigate it all.

The CAFES Connector Team has shown me the potential of teamwork when each player is working towards a similar goal, which is ultimately the well-being of our clients. Working at the Probation Success Center, I'm surrounded by providers who are consistently aiming to improve the lives of their clients through their work. It has been amazing to see what our clients can achieve when they have that extra bit of support.

**-Polina Berkovich
CAFES Case Manager I**

Meet Case Manager, Maya Goytia

Working with the CAFES Connector Team has allowed me opportunities to meet many of the County providers that support the population of SUD clients or justice involved individuals. It has broadened my awareness of how interconnected these agencies are in their work with clients and I see the efforts being made to bridge the gaps in care. The Probation Success Center is a great example of many providers under one roof, all aiming to improve client outcomes and increase their chance of being successful in meeting their legal and personal goals.

As a case manager for CAFES, we are assigned clients who are referred by Public Defenders office, probation officers or the neighborhood courts to support clients in getting access to MH and SUD treatment as well as support them in obtaining other essential services. Conducting ASAM assessments is a big part of determining what appropriate level of care the client is eligible for. We can advocate and coordinate services for clients while they are in custody and releasable to a program.

This role enables me to learn more about the criminal justice system as we work alongside probation officers and court advocates to coordinate care. It has also given me a chance to help other providers learn about SUD treatment and, specifically, how the Janus program works. What have been some impactful moments? The impactful moments are when client's express gratitude for the support the CAFES program has given them to improve their circumstances. Being able to place clients in treatment or SLEs in a system with limited resources feels rewarding.

CAFES is an avenue for clients with disadvantaged backgrounds to get support in creating a better life and moving away from criminal justice involvement. CAFES Connectors are advocates, mentors, and supportive resources in navigating a complex and ever-changing system.

**-Maya Goytia,
Case Manager I**

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.