



County of Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership
MINUTES

(Agenda revised on 9/17/25 at 1:20p.m.)

September 23, 2025
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Santa Cruz County Probation Offices – Training Room
303 Water Street, Suite. 9, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The three goals of the Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership are:

- I. Establish an array of **effective alternatives to incarceration** to address the impacts that the realigned population will have on the county jail in order to avert crowding and poor conditions of confinement without jeopardizing public safety outcomes;
- II. Implement **Evidence-Based Probation Supervision** that properly assesses risk factors associated with recidivism and provides effective probation interviewing, case planning, and community supervision to ensure public safety and reduce recidivism; and
- III. Develop community partnerships for **effective intervention services** that adhere to the principles of evidence-based practices for maximum recidivism reduction.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.

District Attorney's Office
Health Services Agency
Sheriff's Office
Probation Department
Public Defender
Superior Court of Santa Cruz
Capitola Police Department
County Office of Education
Health Services Agency

Tara George, Chief Deputy District Attorney *
Jennifer Herrera, Assistant Director of Health Services Agency *
Chris Clark, Sheriff- Coroner *
Valerie Thompson, Interim Chief Probation Officer *
Athena Reis, Chief Deputy Public Defender *
Tara Acevedo, Assistant Court Executive Officer *
Sarah Ryan, Chief of Police *
Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools (absent)
Casey Swank, Director of Substance Use Disorders Programs (absent)

District Attorney's Office

Laura Espindola, Manager of Victim Witness Assistance Program (absent)

Human Services Department
County Administrator's Office
Human Services Department
Santa Cruz Volunteer Center

Kimberly Petersen, Asst. Director of Human Services Department
Nicole Coburn, Assistant CAO
Andrew Stone, Director of Workforce Investment Board (absent)
Karen Delaney, Executive Director

*Denotes voting member

Proxy: Tara Geore is proxy for District Attorney Jeff Rosell, Jennifer Herrera is proxy for HSA Director Connie Moreno-Peraza, Athena Reis is proxy for Public Defender Heather Rogers, and Tara Acevedo is proxy for Court Executive Officer Sasha Morgan

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the CCP meeting held May 5, 2025

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) 454-2105 (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) 454-2105.

Motion: Sheriff Clark **Second:** George
Comments: None **Public Comments:** None
Yes: Reis, Thompson, Herrera, Sheriff Clark, Chief Ryan, George
No: None
Abstain: Acevedo

Motion Passed

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Adult Division Director Sarah Fletcher announced Sr. Dept. Admin. Analyst Andrew Davis' retirement.

Julia Feldman shared information and a handout regarding AB60.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Report from the Chair, including update on Chief Probation Officer transition, Mobile Probation Services, Probation Coaching Model Training:

Interim Chief Probation Officer Valerie Thompson shared that Fernando Giraldo retired in July 2025 and that she will serve as interim Chief until a new Chief is selected. The recruitment for Chief Probation Officer closed on September 22, 2025. The department remains committed to evidence-based and culturally driven practice, as well as collaborative system reform efforts, and looks forward to leadership that will continue to champion these values into the future.

Mobile Probation Success Center van outfitting is almost complete. Probation has met and will continue to meet with community-based organizations for partnerships and services.

Coaching Model update – Brian Lovins and the Justice System Partners are coming out in early November for an all-staff training. We will bring Brian out again early next year to present to policy leaders. Our community has already accepted the coaching model, so upcoming trainings will focus on real-world implementation, especially for more difficult, impacted cases.

JustSolve consultants continue to support the line staff meetings as well as managers to focus on departmental data outcomes and continuity of the work from the Reducing Revocations Challenge.

2. Report on CAFES Program Implementation (Proposition 47 Cohort III), including report on Cohort V proposal and sustainability planning:

Adult Division Director Sarah Fletcher shared that Probation was not selected for the Prop 47 Cohort V grant.

Probation is continuing Cohort III (CAFES) work with direct client services continuing through the end of February 2026; an evaluation will follow and be completed by June 2026.

As Probation wraps up the last five months of services, we will partner with a consultant for sustainability planning and integration efforts into existing and potential future pathways to continue meeting the needs of this population.

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A draft report from this past year demonstrates positive impacts with lower recidivism in Cohort III, compared to Cohort II. There was a reduction of days in custody for those with early representation by the Public Defender's Office, and more than tripling the number of participants in the District Attorney's Office diversion program Neighborhood Justice Program.

3. Report on the Proposition 47 Cohort IV grant program: Sr. Behavioral Health Manager Casey Swank

Behavioral Health Program Manager, Amanda Crowder shared that Health Services Agency will collaborate in the RENEWPath (Reentry, Engagement, New beginnings, Empowerment, Wellness) program to offer housing and treatment for justice involved individuals with substance use disorder or both substance use and mental health issues through recovery residencies. Outpatient/intensive outpatient care will be included, as well as wraparound services. The referral process will be similar to Prop 47 Cohort III (CAFES), and the Janus Connector team will roll over. Janus to provide services once contract is finalized. A service provider launch meeting will be held for next steps.

3. County Strategic Plan Update:

County Executive Office (CEO) Principal Analyst, Sven Stafford provided an update of the County Strategic Plan and about "What are the things that you learned (CCP) that you want to scale, opportunities challenges in next 5-10 years around public safety".

The CEO in collaboration with county and community partners, are doing surveys and focus groups around what helps create safe communities. These surveys and focus groups look beyond day-to-day challenges and focus on longer term of vision to the community we want to have. The CEO will present its findings to the Board of Supervisors in early November.

5. Report on approved one-time bridge funding for the Gemma Women's Reentry Program: Assistant County Executive Officer Nicole Coburn, and Janus of Santa Cruz CEO Amber Williams

Janus Chief Operating Officer, Jessica Guiver gave an update of where they are in the remodeling process and shared that Gemma will add child safety features which allow mothers in recovery to have their kids with them.

Assistant County Executive Officer, Nicole Coburn thanked New Life for their work with Gemma and welcomed Janus as the new provider overseeing Gemma. The Health Services Agency contract with Janus will add Gemma as one of the recovery residencies throughout Prop 47 Cohort IV. Janus will be remodeling Gemma House and is working with the General Services Department to establish a lease agreement and repairs. The ribbon cutting will be held on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 10:30a, at 530 Capitola Rd. The \$150,000 CCP approved funding is helping to remodel the facility.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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