



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



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PROBATION WEEK HONORS STAFF, OFFICERS WHO KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

Probation Chief Commemorates the Work of Probation Professionals

The 2024 Probation Services Week takes place from July 21 to July 27, honoring probation professionals who work to keep communities safe and support the rehabilitative process for justice-involved individuals under their supervision and care.

Throughout the week, the Santa Cruz County Probation Department will be showcasing the work Probation does throughout Santa Cruz County to provide accountability, opportunity, and hope for justice-involved individuals -- making a difference in the lives of people by using evidence-based rehabilitation that helps people achieve long-term success and sustainable community safety.

"Probation professionals play a unique and essential role in our justice system and our state keeping us all safe by providing justice involved individuals with the supports, services, and tools necessary to successfully reenter our communities," Probation Chief Fernando Giraldo said.

Modern probation officers operate in realms beyond traditional probation work, which includes training in trauma-informed care, cognitive behavioral therapy, therapeutic and strength-based care, as well as training on emotional intelligence. The unwavering dedication and expertise of probation officers enables them to guide and support justice-involved individuals, assisting them in a successful re-entry into their communities through a balance of enforceable accountability and opportunities for change through transformative rehabilitation programs.

Probation services are administered at the county level, allowing for tailored services that address the unique needs of local communities and connecting those in the justice system with comprehensive services addressing their unique needs, including workforce development, substance use treatment, mental health services, family engagement, education and more.

Equipped with extensive education and specialized training, probation officers possess the expertise to skillfully manage the complex needs of justice-involved individuals while upholding the utmost commitment to community well-being. During Probation Service Week, it is essential to recognize probation officers and staff for their dedication to the people they work with and our community.