



MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, May 9, 2024
3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Sheriff's Community Room
5200 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz 95062

- I. Call to Order/Introductions
- II. Approval of Agenda/Meeting Minutes
- III. Oral Communications
- IV. Executive Committee – Discussion/Consent
 - JPA Expiration – Future of CJC
 - Adoption of CJC Budget
 - Final Year of Behavioral Health Report – Ad Hoc Committee
- V. Acceptance of Written Standing Reports
(Brief overview and clarifying questions)

Individual reports include updates from:

 1. Community Corrections Partnership
 2. Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team
 3. North County BASTA
 4. Youth Action Network
- VI. Grant Opportunities and Updates
- VII. Legislative Updates
- VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Calendar of 2024 Council Meetings

The full council meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month from 3:00 to 5:00 pm as follows:

- February 8, 2024
- May 9, 2024
- August 8, 2024
- November 14, 2024

Calendar of 2024 Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee meets quarterly on the third Thursday of the month prior to the full Council meeting from Noon to 1:00 as follows:

- January 18, 2024
- April 18, 2024
- July 18, 2024
- October 17, 2024

Notice regarding Criminal Justice Council: The Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on a schedule determined by the Council. The meetings are held at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Community Room, 5200 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Criminal Justice Council Agenda and the complete agenda packet are available online at <https://santacruzajc.org/> the Monday prior to the Thursday meeting. Need more information? Contact the CJC Administrative Assistant at cjcsantacruzcounty@gmail.com.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting locations. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the Administrative Assistant at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting at cjcsantacruzcounty@gmail.com. To accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 8, 2024

3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Sheriff's Community Room

5200 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz 95062

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair, Donna Lind called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Members in Attendance: Donna Lind, **Scotts Valley City Council**; Nicole Coburn, **CAO**; Sven Stafford, **CAO**; Jeff Rosell, **District Attorney**; Ed Delfin, **SCCACT**; Bernie Escalante, **Santa Cruz PD**; Scott Garcia, **Scotts Valley PD**; Andrew Dally, **Capitola PD**; Jorge Zamora, **Watsonville PD**; Sasha Morgan, **Superior Court**; John Salazar, **Superior Court**; Heather Rogers, **Public Defender**; Fernando Giraldo, **Probation**; Jasmine Najera, **PVPSA**; Brenda Campbell, **HSA Behavioral Health**; Eli Chance, **Cabrillo**; Mike Beebe, **NAMI**; Marilu Martinez, **District Attorney**

II. Approval of Agenda/Meeting Minutes

Action: Public Defender Heather Rogers motioned to approve December 2023 minutes and February 2024 agenda, seconded by DA Jeff Rosell; approved unanimously

III. Oral Communications – Chair Donna Lind mentioned the Fallen Officers Ball to be held at the Coconut Grove Saturday, February 10. Also mentioned was that the 2023 CJC Report was posted on the CJC website.

IV. Executive Committee – Discussion/Action Items

- Creation and Selection of Ad Hoc Committee for next report –
The next report will be about the services available for behavioral health in relation to the health care system. The first report was about law enforcement's response to behavioral health, last year was the courts/jail, this year is the health care system. Jasmine Najera (PVPSA), Sven Stafford (CAO), and County Behavioral Health volunteered to be part of the Ad Hoc Committee for this year's report.
- Authorization for the Chair to solicit RFP from ASR for this year's report –
ASR will be requested for the next CJC report. Budget report to be presented at the next meeting.

V. Acceptance of Written Standing Reports (Clarifying questions only)

Individual reports include updates from:

1. Community Corrections Partnership – Fernando Giraldo provided an oral report.

2. Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team – Ed Delfin provided an oral report.
3. North County BASTA – No oral report provided.
4. Youth Action Network – No oral report provided.

No action needed on reports.

VI. Grant Opportunities and Updates –

Fernando Giraldo mentioned the AB109 RFP is coming soon.

Jasmine Najera mentioned funding is coming into the county through the schools and more services will be provided on campus.

Community Health Trust will be applying for a behavioral health grant and will be working collaboratively with other organizations in South County.

Eli Chance mentioned there is a movement throughout all California colleges for incarcerated individuals. Cabrillo College received a 5-year grant to hire program coordinators to encourage and provide mentorship to fellows who have fallen through the cracks. Sixty students are currently in the program. He invites anyone who wants to learn more.

VII. Legislative Updates

No updates were provided.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm – The next regular meeting will be on May 9, 2024, in person at the Sheriff's Office Community Room.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Proposed Budget 2024-25

CATEGORY/DESCRIPTION	FY 2024-25
	Proposed Budget
Revenues:	
Interest	1,000
Contributions from Agencies	24,000

Total Revenues:	25,000
Expenditures:	
Professional Services	54,000

Total Expenditures:	54,000
Use of Fund Balance:	29,000
Estimated Fund Balance as of 6/30/24	39,042
Estimated Fund Balance as of 6/30/25	10,042

Revenue Detail

Contributions from Agencies:	
Board of Supervisors	2,000
County Administrative Office	1,000
Sheriff	1,000
Probation	1,000
District Attorney	1,000
Public Defender	1,000
Mental Health Services	1,000
Courts	2,000
City of Santa Cruz Police Dept.	1,000
City of Santa Cruz	2,000
City of Capitola Police Dept.	1,000
City of Capitola	2,000
City of Scotts Valley Police Dept.	1,000
City of Scotts Valley	2,000
City of Watsonville Police Dept.	1,000
City of Watsonville	2,000
County Office of Education	1,000
Cabrillo College	1,000

Total:	24,000

Expenditure Detail

Professional Services:	
2024 Annual Report	40,000
Summary of 2021-2024 Annual Reports	14,000

Total:	54,000



Written Report from Standing Committees and Taskforces
Report Date: 2/8/2024

Committee/Taskforce Name: Community Corrections Partnership Meeting (CCP)

Activities since last CJC Meeting aligned with CJC Purpose (provide a more effective and efficient criminal justice system for the citizens of the Cities and County of Santa Cruz; promote cooperation and coordination within the criminal justice system; provide long-range planning for the criminal justice system in Santa Cruz County; create a forum for discussion of and recommendations for programs and plans for solutions to criminal justice issues; provide timely information on criminal justice matters, act as an advisory body to governmental entities in Santa Cruz County, and monitor and evaluate projects; promote more efficient use of local resources to enhance capacity of criminal justice agencies and assist in obtaining new or additional revenues from outside the community; and promote the health and safety of the community):

There have been no CCP meetings since the last CJC Meeting 2.8.24.

Next CCP meeting: TBD

Funding updates, if any:

Request of CJC, if appropriate:

Anything else you would like to share with the CJC



Written Report from Standing Committees and Taskforces
Report Date: April 25, 2024

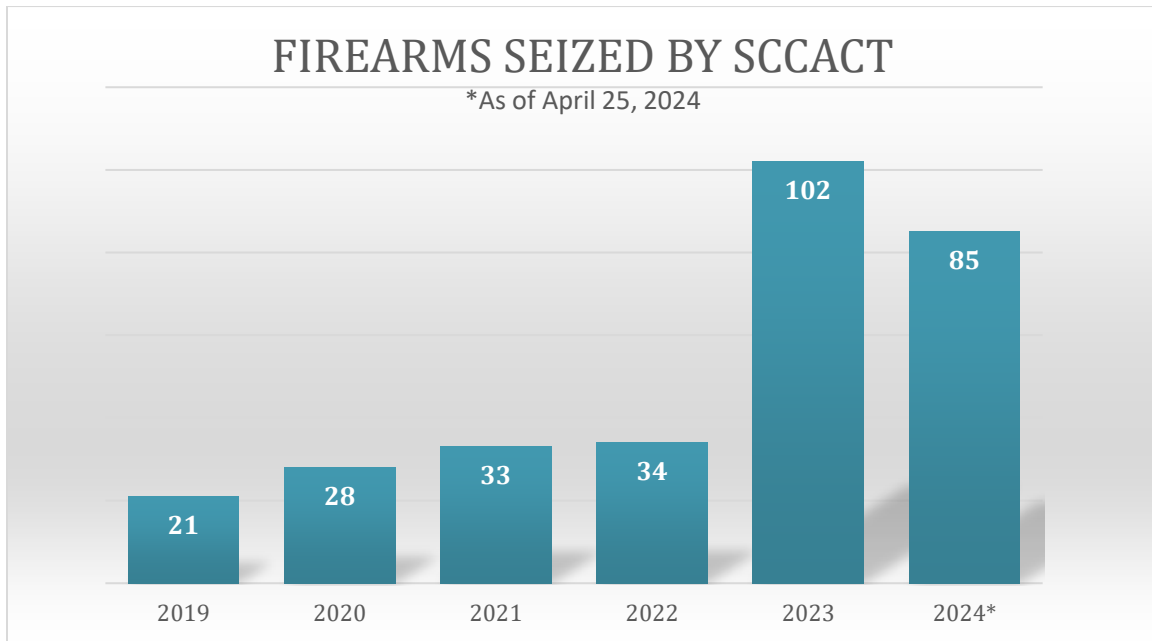
Committee/Taskforce Name: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANTI-CRIME TEAM

Activities since last CJC Meeting aligned with CJC Purpose:

SCCACT continues to conduct pro-active investigations to prevent gang-related crimes and reduce narcotic trafficking in the County of Santa Cruz. SCCACT agents patrol areas identified with high potential for gang and narcotic sales activity often associated with violent crimes. When appropriate and necessary, SCCACT agents initiate investigations based upon credible intelligence obtained through local, state, federal law enforcement sources. When appropriate, agents lawfully obtain and serve search warrants to effectively mitigate violent crimes in Santa Cruz County.

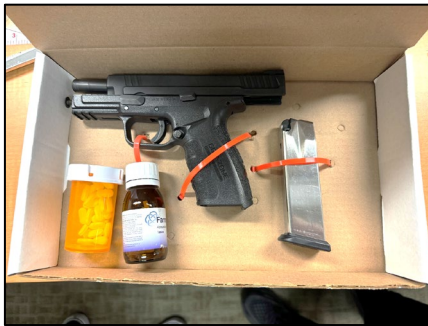
UNPRECEDENTED SEIZURES:

As a result of these investigations, in the first four months of 2024, SCCACT has seized **85 firearms** from persons associated to Criminal Street Gangs and/or Narcotic traffickers. Historically, the team seized 29 firearms per year (2018-2022) and 2023 ended with a record 102 firearms seized by the team.



INTELLIGENCE-BASED APPROACH:

Since early 2024, members of SCCACT learned that different subsets of Sureño gangs in the County of Santa Cruz have been working together to transport narcotics and firearms. Based on this trend, the team has been closely monitoring members of these subsets for any actionable intelligence and has focused enforcement efforts towards this group. As a result, SCCACT along with deputies from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office served warrants on 6 different homes. During the service of these warrants, the teams seized 10 firearms.



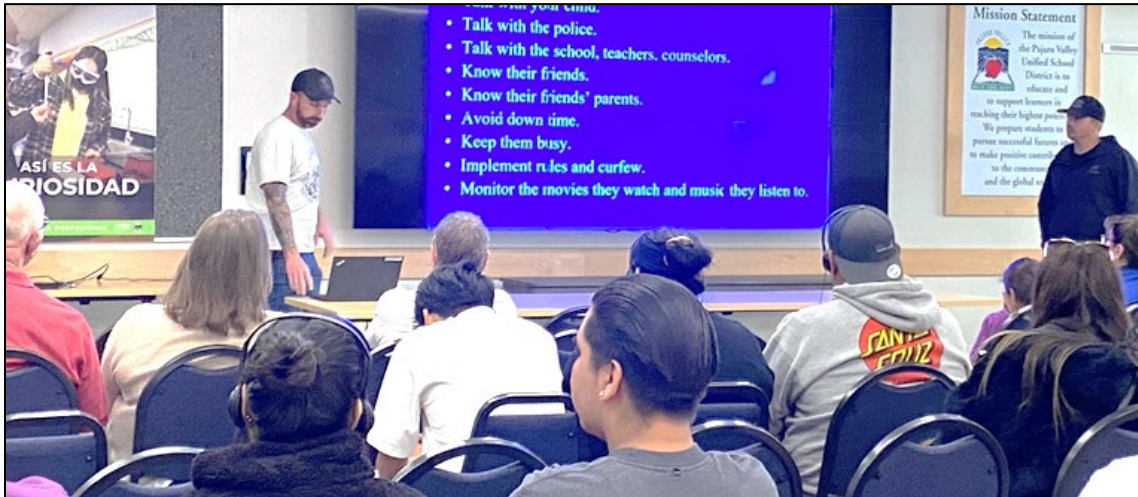
MULTI-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP:

The team received information from an allied agency that a male adult was assembling firearms in the Aptos area and offering to sell them illegally. The team wrote and served a warrant at the suspect's residence in Aptos and located firearms, methamphetamine, parts, and templates for building/assembling firearms.



PREVENTION STRATEGIES:

Members of SCCACT also participate in gang violence preventative outreaches for members of the community. Working alongside members of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD), the team conducted a gang awareness presentation to students and parents in the school district.



REQUEST OF CJC, IF APPROPRIATE:

Continual support for the Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team by supporting local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to maintain adequate staffing so they, in turn, can fulfill their commitment to appropriately staff SCCACT, whereby meeting the expectations of our community to provide preventative measures to minimize violent crime in our County and when necessary, safely apprehend violent individuals.

Respectfully,

Ed Delfin

Ed Delfin
Commander
Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team



Written Reports from Standing Committees and Task Forces

Report Date: 4/26/24

Committee/Task Force Name: North County BASTA

Activities since the last CJC Meeting aligned with CJC Purpose (provide a more effective and efficient criminal justice system for the citizens of the Cities and County of Santa Cruz; promote cooperation and coordination within the criminal justice system; provide long-range planning for the criminal justice system in Santa Cruz County; create a forum for discussion of and recommendations for programs and plans for solutions to criminal justice issues; provide timely information on criminal justice matters, act as an advisory body to governmental entities in Santa Cruz County, and monitor and evaluate projects; promote more efficient use of local resources to enhance the capacity of criminal justice agencies and assist in obtaining new or additional revenues from outside the community, and promote the health and safety of the community):

Photo: Healing our Communities: Restorative Practices in Santa Cruz County



BASTA Operations Team:

- Conducted monthly collaborative meetings throughout the school year.
- Organized student and staff presentations to enhance awareness and education about gangs and drugs.
- Facilitated a Community Meeting in the Beach Flats area with the SCPD and Mercy Housing.
- Completed training in the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines, a research-backed threat assessment framework.
- Participated as a keynote speaker at a community forum addressing Restorative Practices and their benefits related to prevention and intervention



BASTA Intervention Group (BIG)

- Offered comprehensive case management services and mentorship to youth, their peers, siblings, and family members as deemed appropriate.
- Implemented prevention and early intervention initiatives tailored to youth facing various challenges, including substance abuse, mental health issues, academic deficiencies, and truancy concerns.
- Engaged in proactive measures to deter youth from involvement in gangs, crime, and other high-risk activities.
- Facilitated diversion and intervention programs, collaborating with formal probation systems to ensure successful completion of probationary or diversionary terms.
- Conducted meetings with students to enhance attendance, academic progress, and engagement in pro-social activities while focusing on academic goals.
- Organized sessions involving counselors, teachers, administrators, and social workers to ensure holistic support and coordinated care for youth.
- Provided youth with personalized case management services, equipping them with information on employment opportunities, community resources, and short- and long-term career and educational planning.
- Collaborated with community stakeholders, educational institutions, and law enforcement agencies to address the holistic well-being of youth, emphasizing family support and strategies to meet their educational and socio-emotional needs.
- Assisted youth in resume building, preparation for job interviews, and identifying opportunities for community service hours, fostering ongoing engagement with BASTA and school personnel for continued support.

Funding updates, if any: None at this time

Request of CJC, if appropriate: None at this time

Anything else you would like to share with the CJC:



Santa Cruz High School Senior meets with Academic Counselor

The BASTA team proudly welcomes Rishi Lal as the new Director of Student Safety, marking an exciting expansion. With Bryan Wall's steadfast support, we've achieved significant progress in delivering top-tier services to our students and partners, focusing on education, prevention, and intervention where needed.

Our meetings serve as dynamic think tanks, fostering collaborative solutions to campus challenges and ensuring that students in need receive tailored support. BASTA remains committed to empowering, educating, and advocating for our clients' social and emotional well-being.

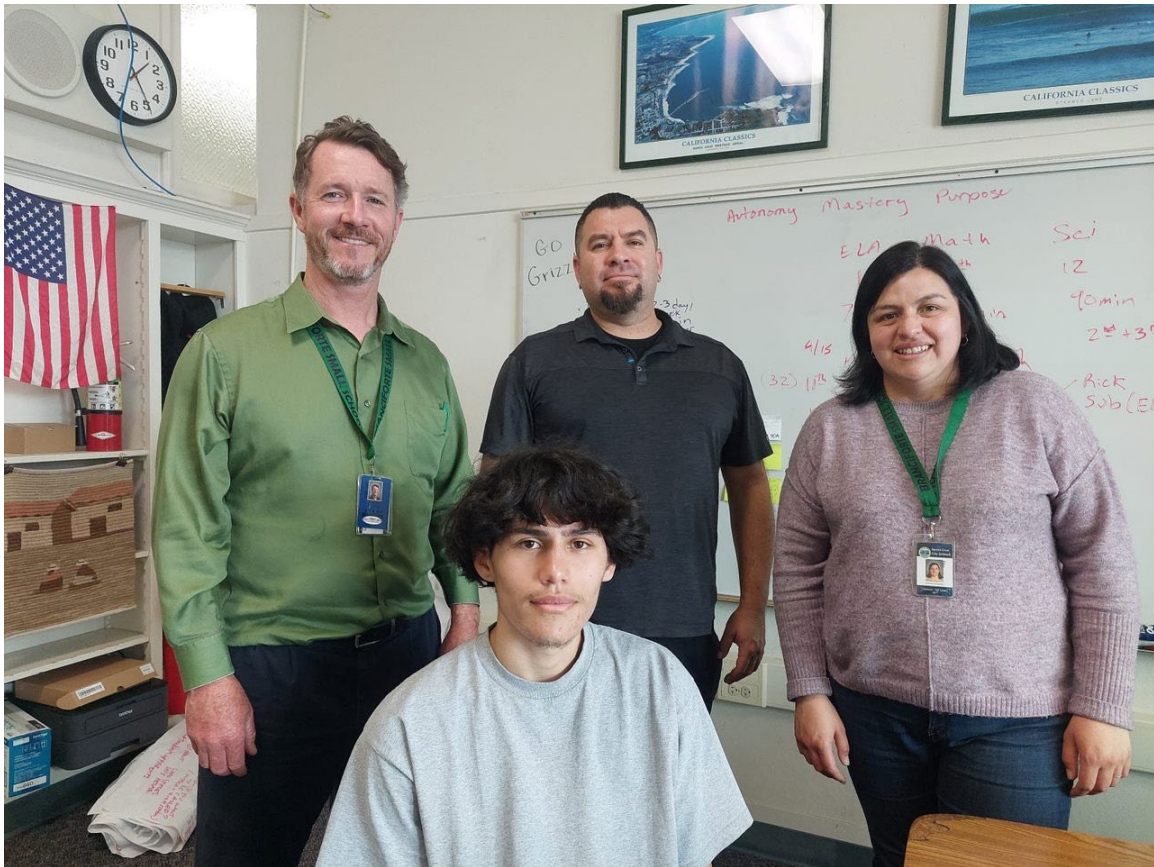
Moreover, our dedicated staff has actively intervened to steer students away from suspension and expulsion, guiding them to contemplate the consequences of their actions on their lives and education. As a program, we're dedicated to tracking outcomes and shifts in the lives of our participants, as well as the broader impact on schools, communities, and the justice system.

This year, a significant milestone has been the establishment of a middle school cohort aimed at early prevention and fostering academic engagement among teenagers. The progress we've witnessed thus far fills us with pride, particularly as we support transitioning students and celebrate high school graduations.

As our seniors gear up for their final push, we're ensuring they receive comprehensive support, including assistance with FAFSA applications and guidance on post-high school pathways, whether it's college, a trade, or

employment. Additionally, we're encouraging all continuing students to consider summer school options and providing support for employment and driver's license acquisition.

Looking ahead, we're excited to keep our students connected through positive, pro-social summer activities that promote safety, connection, and constructive behavior. Together, we're fostering a community where everyone feels supported and empowered to thrive.



Restorative Justice in Santa Cruz County



Restorative Justice

A process that engages those who have been directly impacted by crime and wrongdoing to have a voice and choice in how the harm is addressed and repaired. It focuses on healing, accountability and meaningful repair.



Restorative justice (RJ) centers the needs of people who have been harmed and brings the impacted community together with the person(s) who caused harm to facilitate true accountability, acknowledgment, repair, and change that works to ensure that harm will not happen again.

Restorative justice requires that:

- Person(s) harmed are involved in the process and come out satisfied
- People who caused harm understand how their actions affected other people, take accountability for those actions and work to repair the harm
- Outcomes help to repair the harm done and address any underlying causes for the harm or wrongdoing
- Person(s) harmed and person who caused the harm gain a sense of closure and are reintegrated into the community

RJ is a relationship based form of justice that shifts seeing crime as a violation of the law to seeing crime and wrongdoing as harmful to people and relationships. RJ requires active accountability as opposed to passive punishment.

Who offers Restorative Justice services in Santa Cruz County?



Conflict Resolution Center

Victim-Offender Dialogues, circle processes for harmed and harming parties, accountability processes, surrogate dialogues, training. www.crcsantacruz.org, 831-475-9733, alaya@crcsantacruz.org ★★◆



Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center

Space for Change program offers healing circles and accountability processes for people experiencing interpersonal violence. www.wafwc.org/spaceforchange, 831-426-3062, mcoffey@wafwc.org ★★◆



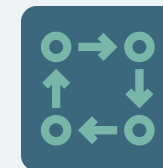
Neighborhood Courts - DAO

Adult diversion program with conferences held by volunteer community members. www.santacruzdistrictattorney.us, 831-454-3588, danitza.torres@santacruzcountyca.gov ★◆



County Office of Education

Provides support to students in conflict. Student Support Services: Ben Alamillo balamillo@santacruzcoe.org ★★◆



Volunteer Center

Utilizes a restorative lens to inform their Court Community Service Program, www.scvolunteercenter.org Lisett Martinez, liz@scvolunteercenter.org ★

Who can access these services?

- ◆ People who have been harmed, youth and/or adults
- ★ People who have caused harm, youth and/or adults
- ◆ Friends and Family of harmed or harming parties

Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County

614 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 www.crcsantacruz.org 831-475-6117 info@crcsantacruz.org

Justicia Restaurativa en el Condado de Santa Cruz



Justicia Restaurativa

Un proceso que involucra a aquellas personas que han sido directamente afectadas por el crimen y las malas acciones de otros para que puedan tener voz y elección sobre cómo se aborda y repara el daño. Esta justicia se centra en la sanación, la responsabilidad y la reparación significativa.



La justicia restaurativa (JR) se centra en las necesidades de las personas que han sido perjudicadas por el crimen y reúne a la comunidad afectada con las personas que causaron el daño para poder abordar una verdadera responsabilidad, reconocimiento, reparación y cambio que funcione para garantizar que el daño no vuelva a suceder.

La justicia restaurativa requiere que:

- La(s) persona(s) perjudicada(s) participan en el proceso y salen satisfechas.
- La(s) persona(s) que causaron daño comprendan cómo sus acciones afectaron a otras personas, asuman la responsabilidad por sus acciones y trabajen para poder reparar el daño.
- Los resultados ayuden a reparar el daño causado y así poder abordar cualquier causa subyacente del daño o de las malas acciones.
- La(s) persona(s) perjudicadas y la(s) persona(s) que causó el daño obtengan una sensación de cierre y se reintegren a la comunidad.

JR es una forma de justicia que cambia la percepción de ver el crimen como solo una violación de la ley para poder llegar a ver el crimen y malas acciones como algo dañino para las personas y las relaciones. La justicia reconstituyente requiere una rendición de cuentas activa en lugar de un castigo pasivo.

¿Quién ofrece servicios de Justicia Restaurativa en el condado de Santa Cruz?



Centro de Resolución de Conflictos

Diálogos entre víctima y ofensor son procesos circulares para las personas perjudicadas y perdedoras, procesos de rendición de cuentas, sustitutos de diálogos, y capacitaciones. www.crcsantacruz.org, 831-475-9733, alaya@crcsantacruz.org ★★◆



Centro familiar y de mujeres de Walnut Avenue

El programa Espacio para el Cambio (Space for Change program) ofrece círculos de sanación y procesos de rendición de cuentas para personas que sufren violencia interpersonal. www.wafwc.org/spaceforchange, 831-426-3062, mcoffey@wafwc.org ★★◆



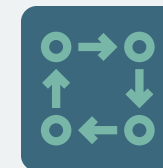
Tribunales Vecinales - DAO

Programa de desviación para adultos con conferencias realizadas por miembros voluntarios de la comunidad. www.santacruzdistrictattorney.us, 831-454-3588, [danitza.torres@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:dانيتa.torres@santacruzcountyca.gov) ★◆



Oficina de Educación del Condado

Proporciona apoyo a los estudiantes en conflicto. Servicios de apoyo estudiantil: Ben Alamillo balamillo@santacruzcoe.org ★★◆



Centro de Voluntariado

Utiliza una lente restaurativa para informar su Programa de Servicio Comunitario del Tribunal. www.scvolunteercenter.org Lisett Martinez, liz@scvolunteercenter.org ★

¿Quién puede acceder a estos servicios?

- ◆ Personas que han sido perjudicadas, jóvenes y/o adultos.
- ★ personas que han causado daño, jóvenes y/o adultos.
- ◆ Amigos/as y familiares de personas que causaron daño o que fueron dañadas.

Centro de Resolución de Conflictos de Condado de Santa Cruz

614 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 www.crcsantacruz.org 831-475-6117 info@crcsantacruz.org

Community Corrections Partnership Shared Safety Workgroup Presents

HEALING OUR COMMUNITIES

Restorative Practices in Santa Cruz County

“Healing should be at the center of any response to harm and wrongdoing. Restorative justice is a vision of justice that invites accountability, choice, agency, meeting the needs of the people who have been harmed and facilitating meaningful repair which can lead to true healing: the healing of the persons who have been harmed, the healing of the persons who caused harm and the healing of the greater community.”

Alaya Vautier, Conflict Resolution Center

What is restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a process that engages those who have been directly impacted by a crime and wrongdoing to have a voice and a choice in how the harm is addressed and repaired. It focuses on healing, accountability, and meaningful repair.

April 25, 2024
5:45 PM - 8:00 PM
Cabrillo College Horticulture Center,
Aptos, CA

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

“Restorative practices offer a space for healing, accountability, empowerment, and relationship building, leading to positive outcomes for individuals and communities.”

Maria Rodriguez, Programs Director, Community Action Board

OBJECTIVES

This program seeks to:

- 1. clarify the distinction between restorative justice programs and restorative practices, emphasizing their significance*
- 2. showcase existing restorative justice and practice models*
- 3. provide a platform for lived experience experts to share their experiences with restorative justice*
- 4. foster community dialogues about opportunities to enhance restorative justice in the community*



AGENDA

Resource Fair & Refreshments

Spoken Word: Veronica Garcia

Opening: Sarah Emmert & Sonja Brummer

Land Acknowledgement: Mace Crowbear

Restorative Practices Overview: Benjamin Alamillo

Restorative Justice Overview: Alaya Vautier

AB60: Dawn Addis

Restorative Justice Panel

Spoken Word: Alwa Gordon

Community Conversations

Closing

Resource Fair Continues



MEET OUR SPEAKERS

*"The conference made me feel heard and respected. Up until the conference I was afraid of being treated like a criminal over a mistake."
Neighborhood Courts participant*



ABI MUSTAPHA, ARTIST & ACTIVIST

Abi Mustapha is a Sierra Leonean/American Contemporary Artist and a dedicated community activator. She earned her BA in Political Science with a focus on sustainability from Indiana University before embarking on a career in sustainable agriculture and permaculture. In 2013, she made the conscious decision to relocate from Indiana to the Bay Area to pursue her passion for art. Her artistic journey has led to exhibitions in galleries and museums across the Midwest and Bay Area, including notable venues such as the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Garret Museum of Art, The Richmond

Art Center, and Joyce Gordon Gallery. Currently, Abi is an artist in residence at Housing Matters in Santa Cruz.

Beyond her artistry, Abi actively engages with the Santa Cruz community. She has played a pivotal role in founding and participating in racial justice initiatives in Santa Cruz over the past several years. Her creative expression is deeply rooted in the themes of human connection and nature, and her artistic repertoire encompasses murals, illustration, digital art, and portraiture. She is currently the Artist In Residence at Housing Matters. For more information about Abi and her work, please visit Abimustapha.com.

ALAYA VAUTIER, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER

Alaya directs the Restorative Justice Programs at the CRC. She earned a Master's Degree in International Policy Studies with a specialization in Conflict Resolution and Negotiation in 2005. Trained as a mediator in 2009, she began volunteering with the Parent Teen Mediation Program, Victim Offender Dialogue Program and the Family Affordable Mediation Program. She continues to design and lead trainings, facilitate restorative justice dialogues, and mediate conflicts for organizations, schools, youth, families and community members.



"I liked the open dialogue that we had throughout the meeting. The volunteers were genuine and had the community's best interest at heart."

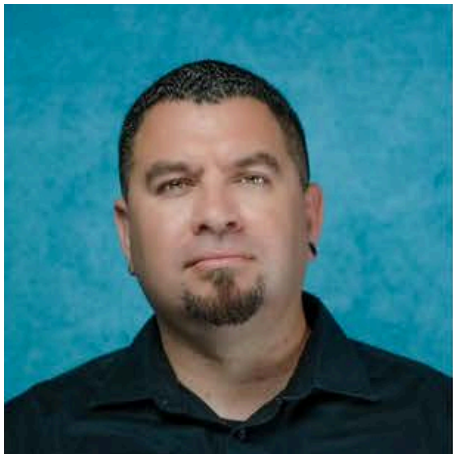
MEET OUR SPEAKERS

ALWA GORDON, OWNER, 88 OVER EVERYTHING RECORD LABEL

Inspired by Tupac's lyricism and Mac Dre's "hyphy" party music influence at a young age, Alwa Gordon's sound combines melodic rap flows and catchy melodies with beats that make you want to bounce and move. With deep roots in Santa Cruz county as a born and raised Santa Cruz local, his style has been shaped by the area's music scene and presence as a counterculture golden coast hub, reflecting that "Santa Cruz is a contrarian town, where on the surface it's liberal and accepting but underneath it's exclusive and racist."



BENJAMÍN ALAMILLO, PROJECT COORDINATOR, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Benjamin Alamillo was born in Santa Cruz, California, and lives in Watsonville, California. He is a father of 3 and a grandfather to one. Ben's commitment to social justice spans over two decades. He cares deeply about racial equity, community development, family engagement, environmental advocacy, and cultivating youth potential. Ben is a community service agent, juvenile justice advocate, and steward. Ben values collaborating with community partners and connecting with his colleagues.

Ben currently works for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and has been a program specialist for the Student Success Project, Mental Health Counselor for the Companion Project and he currently serves as a project coordinator for North County BASTA project where he creates collaborative partnerships to promote student and family engagement and well-being. Ben believes all youth and families can fulfill their inner potential and achieve greatness.

Ben has worked on youth violence prevention and intervention, positive youth development, culturally-based healing models, restorative practices, restorative justice and workforce development. Before his current position, Ben worked for the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County and Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos. He has also volunteered for the Watsonville Brown Berets, the White Hawk, Aztec Dancers and has sat on various panels, committees, and boards of directors. Ben is currently on the board of directors for the Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

"I really like to know that there is help and accepting that I am not alone."



DAWN ADDIS, CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Assemblymember Dawn Addis was elected to the California State Assembly in 2022 to represent the coastal 30th Assembly District, which includes large portions of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties and the Southeastern area of Santa Cruz County.

Dawn is currently the Assistant Majority Leader for Policy and Research, the Assembly appointee to the Ocean Protection Council, the inaugural chair of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus, and the President of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus.

Dawn's long record of community involvement includes co-founding the Women's March in San Luis Obispo and being a Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund Board member. In 2018, she won her first elected office to the Morro Bay City Council, and served from 2018-2022.



JACK BROWN

Jack Brown and his spouse are 13 year residents of Aptos where he works in the transportation industry as an IT Program Manager and is also involved as a volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where he is a shift captain managing 40 volunteers on weekends and frequently volunteers with Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County and Save Our Shores beach cleanups. Jack is also an avid bike commuter and was the former spokesperson for the 'Yes Greenway' campaign in 2022 advocating for better active and public transportation in our county.

"I like the fact that I felt heard. I felt like everyone was understanding and willing to hear what I had to say. They also asked me questions that got me to think deeper about what I truly thought about the situation and what I learned from it"
Neighborhood Courts Participant

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



MACE CROWBEAR

Mace Crowbear was raised in Boulder Creek in a small indigenous community and came from a family of wood cutters. She is a proud parent of five children, all born and raised in Santa Cruz, two of them have autism. She has worked with Native American father and families association. Mace studied criminal justice and interned in the probation department of Inyo county. She teaches cultural dance and crafting in the Santa Cruz community and works with schools teaching kids correct history of indigenous people. Mace is working on changing school policy for the mission project for 5th graders. She believes it is not how high you rise, it is how many you bring with you.



RUSSELL BRYAN LOVE, EDUCATOR, NEW SCHOOL COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Mr. Love has been teaching and coaching at New School Community Day School in Watsonville since the Spring of 2010. He teaches Science, Biology, PE and coaches the New School Aztecs in Beach Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer and now Flag Football in the Monterey Bay Alternative Schools Athletics League. Mr. Love also founded New School's Outdoor School & Character Development program which is now in its seventh year and 12th program. Mr. Love

implements Restorative Practices learned from New School founders, Don Eggleston and Albino Garcia, from Restorative Justice Education, RJ Ed, and Kelvin Oliver's Leaving the Village seminars. Community Day Schools serve expelled students, students referred by a School Attendance Review Board for excessive truanancies with some students attending by condition of their probation. In addition to credit recovery, Community Day Schools focus on the development of pro-social skills, self-esteem and resiliency. New School is Santa Cruz County's only Community Day School.

*"The whole conference experience was very professional and friendly, and felt like a conversation with friends doesn't understand and suggest the right way. The volunteers were extremely friendly, and they even offered to talk to my family if needed just to make him feel better about the incident happened, which I believe was beyond any above."
Neighborhood Courts Participant*

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

“All the panelists were extremely kind and compassionate, they never once made me feel judged or uncomfortable”



SARAH EMMERT, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY IMPACT, UNITED WAY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Born and raised in Santa Cruz County, since 2007 Sarah has been dedicated to addressing social justice issues in her community. Her advocacy spans a spectrum of causes, including educational equity, racial justice, and support for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. Sarah has come to value the importance of collaboration and building relationships with community and stakeholders, especially when working on complex social issues and systems change.

In 2014, Sarah joined the United Way of Santa Cruz County team to coordinate the Youth Violence Prevention Network, its strategic planning process and implementation. Sarah's commitment and impact were further recognized in 2016 when she was promoted to the role of Director of Community Impact. Prior to working with United Way, Sarah served as the Public Policy Manager with Homeless Services Center and worked with Barrios Unidos Coordinating the Prison Project. Sarah also contributed her expertise as a member of the Santa Cruz County's Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Sarah holds a B.A. in Psychology from UC Santa Cruz and an M.A.S. in Criminology, Law, and Society from UC Irvine.



VERONICA GARCIA

Home is where the heart is, and Veronica Garcia's heart has found ways to be in multiple places at once. Being from a border city, she finds homes in both San Diego and Tijuana and now is finding a new home in magical Santa Cruz county. She is a first-generation undergraduate from the University of California, Santa Cruz majoring in Psychology and Spanish Literature. Veronica has continued her education endeavors pursuing a master's in Social Work at Simmons University to further her career in providing holistic services to all walks of life.

She works at Monarch Services supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. In her free time, Veronica enjoys reading, writing poetry and short stories, hiking, learning about various topics, and having deep meaningful conversations with others.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



SONJA BRUNNER

Sonja is a current Councilmember of the City of Santa Cruz, elected in 2020, who served as Vice Mayor in 2021 and Mayor in 2022. In March 2024, Sonja was re-elected to serve a second term on Santa Cruz City Council through 2028.

Sonja grew up multicultural and bilingual in English and German, and lived in Berkeley, California, and the Frankfurt area of Germany before moving to Santa Cruz in 1992. Sonja raised her daughter in Santa Cruz as a single parent.

Sonja has worked in Downtown Santa Cruz for over thirty years, and currently works full time as Director of Operations at the Downtown Association of Santa Cruz overseeing programs such as the Information Kiosk and the Downtown Hospitality Ambassador team.

She also has a long history of community engagement, volunteering and serving on numerous Boards and Committees over the past twenty years, such as: Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County, City of Santa Cruz Arts Master Plan steering committee, Santa Cruz Chamber Women In Business steering committee, and is currently appointed to serve on the following committees: Health In All Policies Committee, Public Safety Committee, Outdoor Dining Subcommittee, Library Financing Authority, and Visit Santa Cruz County Board.

Throughout her time in Santa Cruz, Sonja has supported community and invested back in a wide variety of tangible ways, including housing, equity initiatives, climate action, public safety and the arts. Sonja's most recent introduction to restorative justice was as a participant in the group dialogues with the two people who vandalized a Black Lives Matter mural in front of Santa Cruz City Hall. Her leadership, passion for serving humanity, and determination to cultivate more hope and love in the world is an inspiration to us all.

More info here: sonjabrunner.org.

*“For the past 7 years, the Shared Safety Workgroup has been working to better meet the needs of survivors of crime. Restorative justice is a transformative process fosters resolution, accountability, and, importantly, facilitates healing.”
~ Sarah Emmert, Director of Community Impact, United Way*

*“The collective attention to my resolve and an affirmation of a local support system that provided tools to avoid the potential detriment of the legal system.”
Neighborhood Courts Participant*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHARED SAFETY WORKGROUP MEMBERS & ALL OF THEIR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS!

Event Organizers

- Barrios Unidos
- Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County
- Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County
- Mayeda Consulting
- Monarch Services
- Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office
- Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Santa Cruz County Probation Dept.
- Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender
- Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
- United Way of Santa Cruz County
- Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County
- Walnut Ave. Family & Women's Center

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE & THANK THE FUNDERS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!



United Way of Santa Cruz County



For any questions, contact Sarah Emmert
semmert@unitedwaysc.org



Written Report from Standing Committees and Task Force

Report Date: May 2024

Committee/Task Force Name: Youth Action Network (formerly Youth Violence Prevention Network)

Activities since the last CJC Meeting aligned with CJC Purpose:

Scotts Valley Children & Youth Bill of Rights

On March 20th, the City of Scotts Valley passed the Children & Youth Bill of Rights. Community Impact Director Sarah Emmert presented in support of the bill. Alongside her were two of Scotts Valley YAN's Steering Committee members Prathik Kurella & Brent Kong. These two youth leaders spoke in support of the Bill of Rights, paving the way for youth empowerment in Scotts Valley and exemplifying United Way of Santa Cruz County's initiatives to increase youth voice in the county.

Leaders Unite 4 Youth - Workshop on Policy and Decision Making

On March 23rd, 18 youth convened for Leaders Unite 4 Youth, a county workshop on policy and decision-making. They engaged in table rotations with representatives from various offices, including the Board of Supervisors, County Clerk's office, City Councils, and more. Feedback showed high ratings for increased connections with adult leaders and understanding of decision-making processes. There's a growing interest among youth in exploring the Children and Youth Bill of Rights, particularly focusing on Employment Opportunities, Fair Treatment, and developing Leadership Skills. Importantly, youth expressed a desire for more opportunities to engage with adult decision-makers.



Youth Activities Calendar

In April, the Youth Action Network achieved a significant milestone by launching a community calendar. This innovative platform enables various agencies to submit their events, fostering a centralized hub for youth to access a diverse range of activities. With the dedicated support of interns, flyers and event details are efficiently uploaded onto the calendar, ensuring comprehensive coverage. The initiative aims to enhance youth awareness of community events, fostering greater engagement and participation among the younger demographic.

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Our youth community calendar is your go-to resource for youth events throughout Santa Cruz County. Simply click on the events to access more information, including registration links.

Watsonville Passing the 41 Developmental Assets Resolution



The Youth Action Network—in collaboration with Teen Action Council, Jóvenes SANOS, Empower Watsonville, and CAB: Luna y Sol—is taking proactive steps to enhance youth development in Watsonville by proposing a proclamation to establish the 41 developmental assets framework for all youth organizations in the city. Collaborating with Nick Merolla, youth have crafted a compelling presentation to be delivered at the Watsonville City Council Meeting on March 26th. With a shared vision of empowering local youth, this initiative aims to secure approval for the proclamation and foster ongoing collaboration, establishing holistic growth and resilience among Watsonville community's youth and adult allies.

YAP Summit - Save the Date!

We are proud to share that our Youth and Adult Partnerships (YAP) survey has launched successfully, drawing an impressive number of responses from our community. As we gear up for our event on June 12th, we eagerly anticipate sharing these insights with community members. This gathering will not only showcase best practices for youth and adult partnerships but also provide a platform for learning from the incredible work already being done in our community. We look forward to coming together to foster collaboration and drive positive change.

YOUTH & ADULT Partnerships

Register Now

Youth Action Network invites you to a Network Capacity Building Session!

Join us as we deepen our understanding of effective youth-adult partnerships!

- Share best practices
- Highlight survey findings
- Foster alignment within organizations.

CABRILLO HORTICULTURE CENTER
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

6.12.24

OPEN TO ALL SANTA CRUZ COUNTY YOUTH ACTION NETWORK PARTNERS



A request of CJC, if appropriate:

- **Please register for the June 12th Youth Adult Partnership Summit** if you are or are interested in having youth inform policy & decision-making: <https://forms.gle/LWf9bHoTwyADB4gb6>
- Spread the word about the **Youth Activities Calendar**: <https://tinyurl.com/youthcommunitycalendar>
- **Sign Up For Our Newsletter**: Stay up to date with Youth Action Network programming, events, and surveys by [signing up for our newsletter!](#)