



# County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## PRESS RELEASE

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The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce it is one of a handful of multiple award-winners to be acknowledged for innovation and leadership by the California State Association of Counties.

In receiving two Challenge Awards, the County was honored for two programs that demonstrated collaboration in serving critical community needs. The Bob Lee Community Partnership for Accountability, Connection and Treatment (PACT) was honored with a Challenge Award for its focused approach to reducing recidivism among offenders in the downtown area.

“I am grateful to see Bob Lee’s vision recognized as a model statewide. He believed partnerships could make a real difference in changing lives, and we’re seeing the benefits of his hard work and commitment every day,” District Attorney Jeff Rosell said.

Also known as the Downtown Accountability Program and coordinated by program manager Susie O’Hara, the program brings together county District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender and Health Services staff, along with Santa Cruz police officers and city attorney staff. In the first 12 months of the program, 70 clients saw their arrests drop by 70 percent and their ambulance runs drop 80 percent.

“I am proud of this award and the PACT team for working across jurisdictions on this challenging problem,” Supervisor Bruce McPherson said.

“PACT proves that with targeted accountability and treatment we can change behaviors and make our community safer. This is a model of how cities and counties can partner to deliver results for our citizens,” Supervisor Ryan Coonerty said.



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The County was also given a Merit Award for its Maintaining Ongoing Stability through Treatment (MOST) program, which brings together Probation, Behavioral Health, courts and law enforcement staff to provide intensive services to individuals with psychiatric disabilities. Program clients have seen a 75 percent decrease in days of incarceration, an 88 percent reduction in locked inpatient psychiatric care and 50 percent decrease in homelessness.

The program is overseen by adult behavioral health services manager Pam Rogers-Wyman, and was also recently honored with a \$950,000 grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections to expand the program.

“The MOST team represents the best of County collaboration to solve the challenge of individuals with psychiatric disabilities in the criminal justice system. By developing innovative outreach, diversion and intensive therapeutic services, these individuals can receive the treatment and care they need to develop and maintain stable productive lives,” Health Services Agency Director Giang Nguyen said.

The California State Association of Counties is the leading voice for California’s 58 counties at the state and federal level. Santa Cruz County and other awardees were selected from among more than 250 entrants.