



SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF  
SANTA CRUZ  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 420-2200  
[www.santacruzcourt.org](http://www.santacruzcourt.org)

## FACT SHEET

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### Collaborative Justice System

The *Collaborative Justice System* (CJS) is the name given locally to the collection of collaborative court programs that operate at the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County. The Court received a Judicial Council Innovation Grant in 2017 that provided financial support to align the Court's various collaborative court programs into one system. This unified approach promotes consistency in the operation of programs and the sharing proven practices and methods that foster positive participant outcomes.

#### **Collaborative Justice System Programs**

##### **Behavioral Health Court (BHC)**

Is a supportive post-adjudication review court in partnership with Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Services designed to address the complex needs of participants with severe mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders. An integrated multidisciplinary team collaborates to provide participants intensive wraparound services that support successful completion of probation and long-term stability

##### **Re-entry Court (State Parole)(RC)**

Is a supportive review court designed to address the complex needs of people on parole who have mental health and/or substance use disorders through intensive case management that focuses on reentry services for long-term stability

##### **PACT**

Is a supportive pre-adjudication review court that partners with the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency and the County of Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office to address the complex needs of participants who struggle with chronic homelessness, mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders. Participants are people with high needs who are low risk to the community but

who use significant community resources. PACT provides a holistic approach through intensive case management to support participants in addressing their health and safety needs

### **Veteran's Court (VC)**

Is a peer-support based collaborative court program which provides alternative sentencing for veterans with service-related mental health and substance use issues. The mission of VC is to connect justice-involved veterans and their families with opportunities to improve the quality of life and to access treatment that addresses health concerns through an integrated peer-based model

### **Family Preservation Court (FPC)**

Is a voluntary, three-phased program for parents who have children involved in the dependency system. Some of the FPC team offer a program called Leaps & Bounds (L&B), which is an expansion of FPC that focuses on providing services for children. Participation in FPC and L&B provides a real opportunity to change the quality of life for participants and their children.

### **Collaborative Justice System Team**

Since 2014, several grants from the California Judicial Council provided financial support that allowed Santa Cruz to construct a highly qualified court-based team to support the program and its participants. The approach for Santa Cruz was to build a team with extensive clinical and case management expertise to operate in a courtroom setting. Placing positions in the courtroom provides judicial officers and attorneys immediate access to mental health and substance use resources. The team currently consists of the following positions:

- Collaborative Court Manager;
- Court Clinician; and
- Court Case Managers.

Using a court-based team to provide direct support to participants is a uniquely innovative approach that provides greater efficiency and flexibility than approaches often used in other counties where these positions might be provided, if at all, by County Probation or County Public Health.

## **Program Funding**

At the present time, no CJS positions are funded by the Court's General Fund and all positions are supported by state and federal grants either run by the Court or by other justice partner organizations. For example, the Court Manager position is fully funded through a 3-year Proposition 47 Grant that provides funding through County Probation. In another instance, one of the case manager positions is funding through a grant with Goodwill Industries. Goodwill employs the case manager who provides direct service to the CJS programs and whose position is overseen by the Collaborative Court Manager. Here are some of the other grants that have been used to support the program:

- Judicial Council Substance Abuse Focus Grant;
- Judicial Council Recidivism Reduction Grant;
- Judicial Council Re-Entry Interagency Agreement with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Family Drug Court Grant (DOJ)
- Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant (DOJ)

## **Accomplishments**

- Court-Based Clinician and Case Management
- Streamline Referral Process
- Court-Based SUD Screening Process
- Established a Public Health Model
- Sustained Programs Through Collaboration
- Expanded Family and Natural Support Network
- Removed Barriers to Reentry
- Training and Video Series
- Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Workshop
- Expanded Peer Mentor Program for VC
- Trauma Informed Approach
- Integration of Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury
- Direct Service for Treatment and Housing Support
- Support for Mental Health Diversion Case Coordination