



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

Director's Update Mental Health Advisory Board

Erik G. Riera, Behavioral Health Director

October 19, 2017



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

• Legislative Updates

• AB 74: “Housing for a Healthy California”

- Will allow Counties participating in a Whole Person Care project to use funds to support rental assistance to participants in the program

• AB 727

- Allows Counties more flexibility around the use of MHPSA funding to support rental assistance

• SB 323

- Allows Counties to work with local FQHC’s to contract for Drug Medi-Cal services
 - They would likely need to become a certified provider

• AB 1250

- Has been sent back to a study committee
 - This legislation would have made it very difficult for the County to continue contracting with local non-profits for services



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

- Legislative Updates, continued
 - AB 1299
 - For children in foster care placed in another County, the services needed by those children will now become the responsibility of the County they are placed into.
 - Has significant limitations for Counties with large numbers of children placed
 - Impact on Santa Cruz County is \$400,000+ in new services we will be responsible for



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

- **New Alliance Grant**

- We were notified yesterday that we are being awarded a new Alliance Grant in Behavioral Health to upgrade our technology in our conference rooms at Building K and in Watsonville
 - Monitors for presentations, client educational programs, and videoconferencing capacity



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building Update

- Contract with the building company is going to the Board on October 24
- Construction expected to begin in January



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

Psychiatry Recruitment

- We have made 3 job offers for Psychiatrists who will start with us next summer



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building

- The contractor for the building has been selected, and the contract is going to the Board of Supervisors for approval on September 26th.
- The site work contract will go before the Board for approval in October.
- Construction will commence soon after



County of Santa Cruz

Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future

California

My Contact Information:

Erik.Riera@santacruzcounty.us