



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## NEWS RELEASE



**Date:** April 18, 2024

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY: APRIL 25 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FORUM**

Members of the media are invited to join the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) for a special community forum aimed at exploring how restorative justice helps victims while reducing recidivism in the community.

To be held April 25 at the Cabrillo College Horticultural Center, the forum will include panel discussions, community conversations and artistic expressions on the topic of restorative justice. Presented by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, the event will be emceed by Santa Cruz City Councilmember Sonja Brunner and include Assemblymember Dawn Addis among other speakers.

“Restorative justice is a transformative process fosters resolution, accountability and healing,” said Sarah Emmert, director of Community Impact for the United Way of Santa Cruz County. “We welcome all who are interested in a holistic approach to justice that makes a lasting impact on the community.”

Participants include poets Veronica Garcia and Alwa Gordon, representatives of the Conflict Resolution Center and other organizations focused on justice, a participant in Santa Cruz County’s Neighborhood Courts program, and muralist Abi Mustapha, whose Black Lives Matter mural in downtown Santa Cruz was vandalized.

Event organizers include 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, Santa Cruz County Public Defender, Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, United Way of Santa Cruz County, Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County and the Walnut Avenue Family & Women’s Center.

**WHAT:** Healing our Communities: Restorative Practices in Santa Cruz County

**WHERE:** Cabrillo College Horticulture Center, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 25, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.