

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: My final note for the day
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 5:20:58 PM

From: Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:58 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: My final note for the day

******CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Dear Supervisors,

I just want to emphasize how disappointed I am with Santa Cruz Social Services and their social workers. I grew up visiting Santa Cruz, both of my grandparents lived there and one grandmother still owns a home in Santa Cruz. I have many, many friends who live there and visit often.

My one brother teaches at UC Santa Cruz and my other brother (who has the schizo-affective disorder and anosognosia) lives in Felton with my step-dad.

I am mentioning all of this so you will know that I have many Santa Cruz tax payers and voters in my immediate circle.

It was so disturbing when I called to try and get my mentally ill brother help to be treated like an annoyance by the social workers and to have absolutely no recommendations of how to move forward and no compassion or understanding, but rather impatience and no help.

I hope you will do something to improve mental health concerns in Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

Heather Vuchinich

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Care Act Email from County Website does not work
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 5:17:58 PM

From: Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:45 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Care Act Email from County Website does not work

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I tried to get more info on the Care Act via the email listed at the County Website
<https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/general-information/care-act>

CareAct@santacruzcountyca.gov

And got the attached error message-I tried to call the county number **Call us at 831-454-2000**

and could not get through.

It would be helpful to have this program made more accessible to those who need it.

**Sincerely,
Heather**

Flowers, stars and more

Sign up for my Wisestars Newsletter for New Moon Musings and Flower Magic

[HERE](#)

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Care Court Info
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 5:17:31 PM

From: Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Care Court Info

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I understand that Care Court begin in Santa Cruz on 12/2/24. I wonder why my brother can't be enrolled in Care Court? The people at BHS never even mentioned this as an option. Note that the LEAP program is being utilized as an assist to Care Court in Southern California-yet BHS social workers had never even heard about it.

Please read this article <https://calmatters.org/housing/2023/08/care-court-california-start/>

and note this passage:

"

Kelley's department is training its workers and peer supporters — people who also have mental illness or have recovered who can help guide a respondent through CARE Court — in a well-regarded communication method [called LEAP](#) to persuade respondents to accept care. It will offer services to those in CARE Court under a "whatever it takes" approach, whether it's a ride to the doctor's office, help enrolling in food stamps, addiction treatment or temporary housing.

The task will take time.

At the community meetings, Kelley and her colleagues repeatedly described a pilot program she ran as behavioral health director in San Bernardino County. The program took referrals from family, police or other community members who wanted to prod those who were resistant into mental health treatment.

The time it took for county workers using the LEAP method to persuade respondents to enter treatment varied, Kelley said. But on average, she said it took 20 visits if a respondent was housed — and 40 visits if they were unhoused. Visit times varied, from a few minutes to a whole day, so the whole process could take weeks or months, Kelley said."

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Mental Health in Santa Cruz County
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 5:15:14 PM

From: Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 1:15 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: Mental Health in Santa Cruz County

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Dear Supervisors,

I spent a long time on the phone today with social workers from the Santa Cruz County Access Team, first Max and then a woman whose name I did not get.

I was trying to help my 37 year old brother who has schizo-affective disorder and also Anisognosia. Because he lives at home with my stepfather and receives food and shelter and has not been hospitalized since his initial psychotic break 17 years ago, it was determined that the Access Team could not help him.

I was very disappointed to hear this, because recently, a friend who works in Social Services in San Bernardino county described a program that county runs where they have outreach teams who will go into the home and build trust to try and convince clients to try medication.

I don't know if it is a funding or policy issue-but I hope at some point Santa Cruz County will consider a training like the ones they do in San Bernardino

County <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LEAP-Training.pdf>

I hear that they are having great results with it and the outreach team.

In the meantime my brother is slowly wasting away in his room, refusing to talk to anyone or leave the house. I fear for what will happen to him when my stepfather dies and he has gone this long without medication or treatment.

I'm sorry that Santa Cruz County doesn't have resources for mental health patients like him and that it has to be a violent or crisis situation before he can get help.

Sincerely,

Heather