

60. Accept and file County's Youth Crisis Programs Update and adopt resolution designating Santa Cruz County's Youth Crisis Stabilization Program at 5300 Soquel Avenue as the Acute Mental Health Facility for Youth up to Age 17 ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Health Services Agency

Subject: Youth Crisis Programs Update and Resolution Designating the Youth Crisis Stabilization Program as Acute Mental Health Facility

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Formal Title: Accept and file County's Youth Crisis Programs Update and adopt resolution designating Santa Cruz County's Youth Crisis Stabilization Program at 5300 Soquel Avenue as the Acute Mental Health Facility for Youth up to Age 17

Recommended Actions

1. Accept and file report on the County's Youth Crisis Programs, located in a new facility at 5300 Soquel Avenue in Santa Cruz; and
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing and designating the Youth Crisis Stabilization Program Facility and eligible personnel as the designated facility that will provide psychiatric assessment, evaluation, treatment, crisis intervention, discharge planning, and referral for further treatment for children and youth age seventeen and under, under the Children's Civil Commitment and Mental Health Act, and the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, as amended.

Executive Summary

The County's Youth Crisis Stabilization and Youth Crisis Residential Programs (Youth Crisis Programs) Facility, located at 5300 Soquel Avenue in Santa Cruz, adjacent to the County Sheriff's Office is scheduled for a construction completion date of no later than July 1, 2025. In preparation for opening the new facility, currently targeted for a timeframe between August 1, 2025 through September 1, 2025, the Board, on April 29, 2025, authorized the Health Services Agency Behavioral Health Division (BHD) to negotiate a contract with Aspiranet for program start-up during the months of May through June 2025, in preparation for operating the County's Youth Crisis Programs.

It is now time to adopt a resolution to designate the Youth Crisis Stabilization Program Facility and its professional staff as the location that will provide psychiatric assessment, evaluation, treatment, crisis intervention, discharge planning, and referral for further treatment for youth seventeen and under per the Children's Civil Commitment and Mental Health Act, and the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, as amended. This designation process, as provided in Section 5404 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, is the initial step in the licensing and certification process with the Departments of Health and Community Services and Social Services.

Discussion

Under the Board's leadership and support, the acquisition and renovation of the building located at 5300 Soquel Avenue to serve as the County's Youth Crisis Stabilization and Crisis Residential Programs (Youth Crisis Programs) Facility is nearly completed. While there are a few minor adjustments proposed by the program's operator that will be made after the contract with Bogard Construction Inc. is deemed complete, the Youth Crisis Programs expect to open for clients in the August-September 2025 timeframe. BHD staff will work with the County Executive Office (CEO) and the County's Mental Health Advisory Board to invite mental health partners, elected representatives, and the

community at large to celebrate this milestone and to let medical providers, especially those in pediatric medicine, local schools, and public safety partners know that the Youth Crisis Programs Facility is open to serve the children and youth in the community. The design of the facility by 19Six Architects is exceptional and conforms with all current practices to keep clients and the staff engaged and safe. The public artist, Joey Rose, has delivered paintings and murals that greatly enhance both the building exterior and the interior spaces.

Staff look forward to a rich menu of programming from the proposed operator, Aspiranet, and as planned, it is expected to have the capacity to offer beds in the sixteen-bed Youth Crisis Residential Program to serve the behavioral health needs of youth in the central coast and Bay Area regions.

Since July 1, 2023, when the County's operator for the County's Crisis Stabilization Program stopped serving as a receiving facility for minors, citing the risks of having adults and youth in the same facility, BHD has partnered with the Dominican Hospital and Watsonville Community Hospital (WCH) emergency departments to accept youth who met criteria for a hold per WIC Section 5585.

As of January 1, 2024, BHD executed a contract with Pacific Clinics and funded behavioral health staff on duty 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. daily to provide interim crisis intervention and stabilization support to youth and their families at the WCH emergency department. The contract for services with Pacific Clinics will expire as of June 30, 2025, and the interim services at WCH will end on that date, which will require a return to a dependence on local hospitals' emergency departments to accept youth in crisis until the new facility is ready to accept clients. It was intended to have a seamless transition from the interim services at WCH to the new youth Crisis Stabilization Unit. Due to difficulties related to securing a contractor who would staff both the Crisis Stabilization Unit and Crisis Residential Program the time frames for opening the new programs have been delayed. Pacific Clinics has notified BHD that they will only be able to staff WCH with crisis intervention staff until June 30, 2025. BHD staff will be working with the hospital emergency departments on a smooth transition, and with the new proposed operator, Aspiranet, to quickly and efficiently put policies, procedures, and staff in place to serve children and youth in the new facility.

Board adoption of the proposed resolution is required by the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to begin the certification and licensing process for Mental Health programming for the Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit, the eight-chair program planned for the first floor of the facility. The State Department of Social Services (DHSS) licenses the Children's Crisis Programs for Medi-Cal.

Financial Impact

To fund the acquisition and the renovation of the County's Youth Crisis Programs facility, BHD secured grants and allocated local funding totaling about \$26.1 million as detailed below:

Financial Resources – Acquisition, Design, Renovation

CA Health Facilities Finance Authority (CHFFA) Grant-Round 3	\$7,597,706
CA Health Facilities Finance Authority (CHFFA) Grant-Round 4	\$2,125,000
FY22/23 Mental Health Services Act Capital Facilities Funding	\$2,083,252
Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Grant	\$11,793,455
Inter-Governmental Transfer Funds (IGT)	\$2,500,000

Through careful oversight, the acquisition, permitting, and renovation phases, including design, construction, and staff costs associated with the Youth Crisis Programs Facility will be completed within the financial resources available.

California Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) Innovations funding will be utilized to support the program startup costs agreement with Aspiranet. The California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), enacted through Proposition 63 in 2004, imposes a 1% tax on personal incomes exceeding \$1 million to fund mental health services, allocating 5% of these funds to counties specifically for innovation projects aimed at developing and evaluating new or adapted mental health practices. The stability of this funding is tied to the incomes of high earners, making it susceptible to economic fluctuations, which necessitates prudent fiscal planning.

These services are allowable under the Crisis Now Innovation Plan commitment to provide “somewhere to go,” an integral pillar of the Crisis Now model. The use of these funds for program startup costs for staff is a one-time use that manages the potential for future funding volatility. Sufficient appropriations for these start-up costs in the estimated amount of \$1,003,616 are included in HSA BHD’s FY 2024-25 Approved Budget under GL Key 363110.

BHD staff will be returning to the Board of Supervisors on or before August 5, 2025 to ratify the start-up contract with Aspiranet, as well as to present a contract amendment to include ongoing operations. Staff anticipate a soft start when the facility opens, with Aspiranet scaling their staffing model to less than full capacity, to reflect the census of services at WCH. BHD will provide an overview of the staffing approach and funding model for ongoing operations at that time.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Jennifer Herrera, Interim Director of Health Services

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor:
duly seconded by Supervisor:

the following Resolution is adopted.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ YOUTH
CRISIS STABILIZATION PROGRAM FACILITY AND ELIGIBLE PERSONNEL
TO PROVIDE PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION, TREATMENT, CRISIS
INTERVENTION, DISCHARGE PLANNING AND REFERRAL FOR FURTHER TREATMENT
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGE SEVENTEEN AND UNDER, UNDER THE
CHILDREN'S CIVIL COMMITMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACT AND
THE LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT ACT, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2023, the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency requested the Department of Health Care Services, Licensing and Certification Division's approval to rescind the designation of Telecare Corporation of Santa Cruz Crisis Stabilization Program as a Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5585 designated acute psychiatric evaluation and treatment facility for minors so that the program would no longer accept minor clients age seventeen and younger, citing the risk of having both adults and minors in the same facility; and

WHEREAS, County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Behavioral Health Division secured grant funding and local financial resources totaling approximately \$26.1 million to acquire a permanent location for the County's Youth Crisis Stabilization and Youth Crisis Residential Programs, and with the Board of Supervisors' approval purchased and renovated a building at 5300 Soquel Avenue in mid-county Santa Cruz to site an eight-chair Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit and a sixteen-bed Youth Crisis Residential Unit; and

WHEREAS, that facility is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, as amended, codified in Section 5000 et seq. of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, specifically Section 5404, provides that the Board of Supervisors of each county may designate facilities, which are not hospitals or clinics, as 72-hour evaluation and treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of each county may also designate professional personnel authorized to provide assessment, evaluation, treatment, crisis intervention, discharge planning, and referral for further treatment for children and youth aged seventeen (17) and younger who are subject to the Children's Civil Commitment and Mental Health Treatment Act and the LPS Act; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2025, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Behavioral Health Division to negotiate a contract with Aspiranet for program start-up costs and to develop procedures in preparation for opening and operating the Youth Crisis Stabilization Programs that will be located at the new facility; and

WHEREAS, in summary, the Santa Cruz County Youth Crisis Stabilization Programs will be located at 5300 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California, 95062, in a building purchased with the Board of Supervisors approval for that purpose, and designed and renovated with State grant funds and local funds to meet certain criteria established by the State Departments of Health Care and Social Services; and

WHEREAS, when complete, the Youth Crisis Stabilization Program Facility has been designed and constructed to meet the necessary criteria to be designated by the Board of Supervisors as a facility for the assessment, evaluation, treatment, crisis intervention, discharge planning and referral for further treatment of children and youth aged seventeen (17) and younger pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 5150, 5585.5 and 5585.55, for minors, as of the day it is open, currently estimated to be within the timeframe of August 1, 2025- September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board agrees that the Santa Cruz County Youth Crisis Stabilization Facility and the Crisis Evaluation and Stabilization Unit meet the necessary criteria to be designated by the Board as psychiatric facilities for the evaluation and treatment of persons under the above-referenced code sections as of the first day the facility is open; and

WHEREAS, the facility so designated will possess the necessary professional staff and equipment to provide the evaluation and treatment required by the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Santa Cruz County Youth Crisis Stabilization Program Facility, located at 5300 Soquel Avenue in Santa Cruz, California is hereby authorized and designated as a children's evaluation and treatment facility under Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 5000 et seq. and California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 821, and that the professional persons identified in Attachment A are hereby authorized and designated, with approval by the State Department of Health Care Services and the State Department of Social Services, as of the first day the facility is open; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that this designation shall remain in effect until rescinded by further action of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 10th day of June, 2025 by the following vote.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:


ABSTAIN:

Felipe Hernandez, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Juliette Rezzatto
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:


5/12/2025

John B. Nguyen
Office of the County Counsel

Attachment A: Authorized Personnel

Attachment A

Personnel Authorized to Initiate 72-Hour Holds of Minors in Santa Cruz County

Peace Officers

County Behavioral Health Staff:

- Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists
- Supervising Mental Health Client Specialists
- Behavioral Health Managers
- Sr. and Mental Health Client Specialists I and II
- Chief of Psychiatry
- Director, Behavioral Health Division
- Director, Mental Health Services
- Mental Health Nurse Clinician
- Mental Health Counselor I, II
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health and Behavioral Health Staff
- Licensed Mobile Crisis Team Members

Youth Crisis Stabilization Programs Facility/Crisis Stabilization Unit

- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists and waived eligible clinical staff
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers and waived eligible clinical staff
- Licensed Family Therapists and waived eligible clinical staff
- Registered Nurses with behavioral/mental health experience

Dominican and Watsonville Community Hospitals

- Medical Directors
- Psychiatrists (who provide formal consultation)
- Psychologists (who are on staff)
- Emergency Room Physicians
- Licensed Social Workers
- Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners with behavioral/mental health experience

University of California, Santa Cruz

- Clinical Director of Counseling Center
- Chief Psychiatrist
- Peace Officers

Other Professionals

- Encompass Community Services – Executive and Program Directors, licensed clinical staff
- Homeless Persons Health Project – Licensed Sr. Mental Health Specialists, Program Managers and Supervisors

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: AA93676D-9F16-4A7C-A92C-5F5D4E3BCE56

Status: Completed

Subject: Resolution (25-1754) 6/10/2025 BOS

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 4

Signatures: 1

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 4

Initials: 0

HSA Admin Processing

AutoNav: Enabled

701 Ocean Street

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

hsa.adminprocessing@santacruzcountyca.gov

IP Address: 63.194.190.170

Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: HSA Admin Processing

Location: DocuSign

5/12/2025 12:16:24 PM

hsa.adminprocessing@santacruzcountyca.gov

Security Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: FedRamp

Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: County of Santa Cruz

Location: Docusign

Signer Events

John Nguyen

John.Nguyen@santacruzcountyca.gov

Lead Assistant County County Counsel

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

DocuSigned by:

F0F6FD189D784BF...

Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image

Using IP Address: 76.126.28.101

Timestamp

Sent: 5/12/2025 12:27:08 PM

Viewed: 5/12/2025 3:21:03 PM

Signed: 5/12/2025 3:26:28 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 6/12/2024 8:53:19 AM

ID: cff2bd5b-d3a4-40f2-aa61-cc2de5bbd9e3

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

Witness Events

Signature

Timestamp

Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events

Status

Timestamps

Envelope Sent

Hashed/Encrypted

5/12/2025 12:27:08 PM

Certified Delivered

Security Checked

5/12/2025 3:21:03 PM

Signing Complete

Security Checked

5/12/2025 3:26:28 PM

Completed

Security Checked

5/12/2025 3:26:28 PM

Payment Events

Status

Timestamps

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure