



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

For Release: Immediately

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Opioid Settlement Fund Town Halls in English and Spanish

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – The Health Services Agency's Substance Use Disorder Services Program is pleased to offer Opioid Settlement Fund Town Halls in English and Spanish for residents to learn more about the settlement funds and how they will be used to address the opioid crisis in our community. The town halls will include a presentation followed by a moderated question, answer and input period. Dr. David Ghilarducci, Deputy Health Officer; Jason Health, County Counsel; and Casey Swank, Director of Substance Use Disorder Services will present on the following topics:

- The opioid crisis in the County
- Opioid settlement fund litigation
- Results of the Opioid Settlement Fund Community Survey
- The spending plan based on survey results

"I'm excited for the opportunity to speak at the town hall and collaborate with our community to help diminish the impact of the opioid crisis in our County," said Casey Swank, Behavioral Health Services' Director of Substance Use Disorder Services. "Together, we can use these critical funds to save lives and bring people into treatment; and hopefully, help prevent opioid addiction among our youth and future generations."

Everyone is encouraged to attend the town halls, including community members, partners and providers.

"The County is seeking information and collaboration from our entire community throughout the opioid settlement fund program planning process," said Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Santa Cruz

County Health Officer. "We hope to see as many of you as possible at our town halls. We will be receiving about \$26 million over the next 18 years, so we have an opportunity to make a significant improvement in the health and safety of our community over a long period of time."

Event details:

WHAT: English-language Town Hall

WHEN: Wednesday, August 30, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Virtually over Zoom

Register by Sunday, August 27 at <https://bit.ly/SCCtownhallregistration> or scan QR code:



WHAT: Spanish-language Town Hall

WHEN: Wednesday, September 6, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

WHERE: 275 Main Street, fourth floor, Watsonville, 95076

Register by Sunday, September 3 at <https://bit.ly/SCCregistrodelareunion> or scan QR code:



This in-person town hall will provide refreshments and be a family friendly event, with activities available for children.

Participation in the Spanish-language survey has been extended until Thursday, September 7 and will be available at the town hall to complete.

For questions about the town halls and opioid settlement funds, contact:

OSFquestions@santacruzcounty.us.

Recovery resources are available for all Santa Cruz residents. Please call the 24-hour helpline at 2-1-1 or visit <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/RecoveryWave.aspx>.

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