



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## NEWS RELEASE



**Date:** July 31, 2025

**Contact:** Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcountyca.gov

### **MORENO-PERAZA NAMED NEW HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR**

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce Connie Moreno-Peraza, MSW, LCSW, as the new Director of the County's Health Services Agency (HSA), bringing decades of experience delivering county services across California and a deep background in mental health and substance use disorder leadership. She will begin September 1, 2025.

Most recently, Moreno-Peraza served as Ventura County's Health Care Agency Assistant Director for Behavioral Health. Previously, she served as Director of Madera County's Department of Behavioral Health Services where she led a diverse team for system transformation. She has held senior executive leadership positions in Marin, Napa, San Diego, and Stanislaus counties, overseeing large, complex systems of care and multi-million-dollar budgets. Her career includes extensive collaboration with community-based organizations, hospitals, and State and federal agencies to improve health outcomes.

"Connie brings exceptional experience leading health care systems throughout California and a strong commitment to equity and community-centered care," County Executive Officer Carlos Palacios said. "Her leadership will be vital as we continue to strengthen health services for all Santa Cruz County residents."

"It's an honor to serve the people of Santa Cruz County," Moreno-Peraza said. "I look forward to building on the work already being done and partnering with staff and stakeholders to strengthen our systems of care and create an integrated Health Services Agency."

A licensed clinical social worker and bilingual Spanish speaker, Moreno-Peraza has dedicated her career to expanding access to equitable, culturally competent services. Her work includes advancing mental health and substance use disorder care, integrating public health and behavioral health systems, and championing equity initiatives to reduce disparities in underserved communities.

Moreno-Peraza holds a Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Fresno, and is credentialed as a California County Senior Executive through the CSAC Institute for Excellence in County Government. She has been recognized for her contributions to cultural competence and community engagement.