



Health Services
Agency
Administration

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4770 TDD: (831) 454-4123

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Date: 12/13/2013

Contact: Giang Nguyen

Phone: 831-454-4471

Email:

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - Janus of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce the opening of the South County Clinic for medication assisted treatment (MAT). Until now, this service was provided only in Santa Cruz, requiring patients from South County to travel to Santa Cruz daily to receive the benefits of this program. The new Clinic will serve up to 120 patients.

Medication assisted treatment is a program that combines medication, counseling and other support services to assist people who are addicted to opiates in ending their addiction. The program does more than help safely stabilize the opiate user, however. There is a community benefit as well. Research clearly shows that a reduction of injection drug use lowers the incidence of Hepatitis C and HIV, and reduces drug-related crimes such as burglary, shoplifting, theft, etc. Addiction treatment simultaneously increases opportunities for employment, housing, education and healthy family relationships.

According to Cecilia Krebs, Deputy Director of Programs at Janus, "This is not just a program for heroin addicts. We are seeing more clients who have become addicted to prescription opiates as well." Better serving South County clients is a major priority at Janus. "In addition to the South County Clinic, we look forward to opening outpatient counseling services soon in Watsonville, and doing even more community outreach to those who can benefit from our programs. Better health care for individuals and families has always been our goal, but we want to see communities benefit from the lower crime rates and increased public safety that accompany increased treatment opportunities." "Santa Cruz County has been very supportive of expanding this service to South County," states Giang Nguyen, Health Services Agency Director. "This program is an essential part of a full-service drug treatment plan."

Please direct inquiries to Cecilia Krebs at 831-425-0112 or cecilia_krebs@janussc.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.