

Lead Agency:
Santa Cruz County
Human Services
Department's Family
and Children's
Services Division

**Geographic Area and
Congressional
District Served:**
Santa Cruz County;
Congressional
District 17

Federal Grant:
\$1.48 million/4 years

**Evaluation Design,
Comparison Group
Type and
Treatment Received:**
Pre-post design,
treatment group only

**Proposed Number
Served (4 years):**
Children: 176
Adults: 132

Project Description

The Santa Cruz County Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) Project serves children and families participating in the Family Preservation Court (FPC). Also known as *Leaps and Bounds*, the CAM Project focuses on the developmental and socio-emotional needs of children and employs two full-time Children's Services Coordinators (CSC) to deliver or coordinate the following key service elements:

- ***Promoting First Relationships (PFR)*** – a 10-week training curriculum used during home visits for families with children ages 0–3, it is a prevention program dedicated to promoting attachment, and positive and responsive parent-child relationships;
- ***Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)*** – assess developmental areas of communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving, personal-social, and social and emotional behavior; the Project also offers ASQ learning activities to help the child progress in areas of identified delays;
- ***Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)*** – an evidence-based parent-child treatment program aimed at promoting positive parent-child relationships and interactions while teaching parents effective child management skills for children ages 2–7;
- ***Home Visits*** – CSCs provide home visits with all CAM children, and conducts assessments, including the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), and ASQs. They work with parents using ASQ Learning Activities and PFR curriculum;
- ***Dominican Child Developmental Clinic*** – offers comprehensive neuro-developmental and psycho-social assessments conducted by a multi-disciplinary team.

Target Population

Services are provided to children ages birth to 8 and their families participating in the FPC. Santa Cruz County is located on the California coast south of San Francisco and is semi-rural marked by beaches, redwood forests and farmland. The total population is 262,380.

Major Project Goals

- Provide age-appropriate screening and assessment to FPC children ages birth–8 whose parents are recovering from methamphetamine use;
- Provide evidence-based therapy to children and their parents to promote positive child and parent interaction;
- Deliver services to meet service and treatment plan recommendations
- Improve parents' ability to safely care for their children;
- Improve child well-being and healthy development;
- Program evaluation and project improvement.

CAM Program Description

Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded grant program focused on expanding and/or enhancing services to children and their families who are affected by methamphetamine use and abuse. The Public Health Service Act of 2000 Section 509 provided funding over a four-year period to 12 Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDC) to improve the well-being, permanency, and safety outcomes of children, who are in, or at-risk of out-of-home placement as a result of parental methamphetamine or other substance abuse.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

The Santa Cruz County CAM Project includes the following partners:

Child Welfare

- Santa Cruz County Human Services Department's Family and Children's Services Division

Behavioral Health

- Parents Center
- Santa Cruz County Children's Mental Health Division
- Santa Cruz County Alcohol and Drug Programs

Health

- Dominican Interdisciplinary Child Development Program

Other Evaluation and Training

- UC Davis' Child and Adolescent Abuse, Resource, Evaluation, Parent–Child Interaction Therapy program
- Applied Survey Research
- Children's Research Center

Performance Indicators

CAM grantees are measuring their performance on outcomes for children and adults. **The Santa Cruz County CAM Project** bi-annually provides data on the following 18 performance indicators.

Child/Youth Indicators

- Children remain at home
- Occurrence of child maltreatment
- Average length of stay in foster care
- Re-entries to foster care placement
- Timeliness of reunification
- Timeliness of permanency
- Prevention of substance-exposed newborn
- Connection to supportive services
- Improved child well-being

Adult Indicators

- Access to substance abuse treatment
- Retention in treatment
- Substance use
- Connection to supportive services
- Employment
- Criminal behavior

Family/Relationship Indicators

- Improved parenting
- Family relationships and functioning
- Risk and protective factors