



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
1000 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-4130 | www.santacruzhumanservices.org
RANDY MORRIS, DIRECTOR

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP (HSAG)
January 2026 Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 20, 2026

TIME: Scheduled 1 pm – 3 pm

PLACE: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

HSAG Members Present

- Denise Hitzeman
- Serg Kagno

Human Services Staff Present

- Randy Morris, HSD Director
- Adam Spickler, HSD Senior Analyst
- Heather Viola, HSD Executive Secretary

1. Welcome

2. Director's Report

- Federal, State and County budget updates provided to HSAG members
 - ✓ Regarding flexible client funds for Housing for Health clients, confirmed support from the Community Foundation recently ended
- Reviewed Governor's proposed state budget for FY 2026-27, shared publicly available state budget information: [CWDA 2026 State Budget - County Welfare Directors Association of California](#)
- Reviewed timeline for local FY 2026-27 budget implementation
- Other federal, state, and local updates and policy issues reviewed

3. Advisory topics of interest for round table discussion

- Health Information Exchange—issue discussed regarding Manifest Med Ex and direct access with Dominican / access through Watsonville Hospital
- Discussed local day services for those experiencing homelessness and a forthcoming report to the Board on funding needs for potential new services, and that mail services were previously administered by HSD to specifically provide a means to access government services mail
- Urban hospital funding concerns were discussed in light of federal cuts
- Implications of CalFresh & Medi-Cal work requirements were reviewed:
 - ✓ Homelessness no longer considered a work requirement exemption; it will now need to be health / mental health related for possible work requirement exemptions

4. Potential public engagement opportunities

- Scheduling meetings for 2026
 - ✓ Meet in March and May (after May Revise) in north county, in person.
- Membership recruitment
 - ✓ Membership outreach to resume in May/June due to significant nature of budget and policy items being in flux

Next meeting: March 4, 2026, at 1 pm, at 1000 Emeline Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060