**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.

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