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Shared Safety Community Forum: Engaging Community on Shared Safety

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**CR#2.1. Final Capstone Project Title and Abstract**

**(Feb 2021)**

**Title:** Community Forum: Engaging Community on Shared Safety

**Abstract:** United Way of Santa Cruz County (UWSCC) is a non-profit working with a coalition of organizations in Santa Cruz County pooling efforts, fundraising, and support. UWSCC staffs the Youth Action Network, which serves youth and families, and facilitates the Community Education and Engagement Workgroup which serves survivors of crime and offenders. The social problem is that there are too few justice policies in the United States that align with the views of victims of crime. The agency problem is, too many survivors of crime in Santa Cruz County are not provided the proper services. The purpose of this project was to increase the community's knowledge and awareness of the topic of Shared Safety. The forum was evaluated by a post-event survey distributed on a Google Forms file. The forum had a diverse turnout, and over 100 participants. UWSCC should continue the use of community forums to engage and educate.

**Keywords:**

*Shared Safety, Recidivism, Restorative, Holistic, Well-Being*

**CR# 1.1: Agency information and partnering organizations**

**(9/11/20)**

The United Way of Santa Cruz County (UWSCC)

UWSCC is a non-profit organization whose mission is, “To improve the lives of youth and families in Santa Cruz County by uniting our community to address the basic needs of education, health, and financial stability.” (United Way, 2015) United Way functions as a key collaborator in Santa Cruz County, bringing together law enforcement, county officials, victims services organizations, and people with lived experience to promote this mission. Programs that are supported under United Way as of 2021 are the Youth Action Network, 2-1-1, Santa Cruz County Children’s Network, Jovenes Sanos, Community Correction Partnerships (CCP) and United 4 Youth. (United Way, 2015)

United Way partners with Applied Survey Research of Watsonville, CA each year to complete a Community Assessment Project (CAP) that gathers data on quality of life indicators using in-depth telephone surveys on over 800 community members. (Community Assessment Project, 2019) This data is used in the creation of programs for serving the community of Santa Cruz County.

Community Corrections Partnership Community Education and Engagement Workgroup (CEEW) is a coalition of systems leaders facilitated by United Way, and currently, the Director of Community Impact whose focus is on survivors and victims of crime. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020) In 2017 an organization called Californians for Safety and Justice published the report titled, “Blueprint for Shared Safety”. This is a framework that was the product of, “...a year of research and outreach to stakeholders -- including law enforcement leaders, justice reform advocates, crime survivors, and local government officials -- to create a survivor center framework for local leaders. (Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety, 2020) Shared Safety framework consists of five main pillars or goals for communities to strive towards. These are Shifting to a Public Health Framework, Making the System Work, Well-Being is Safety, Breaking the Cycle of Harm, and Crime Survivors at the Center. (Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety, 2020) Please see Appendix A for a more detailed description.

In 2018-2019, CEEW conducted focus groups, interviews, and convenings of over 175 community members in Santa Cruz County, including survivors of crime, youth, and systems stakeholders. From this

data came the final report, “Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety Phase 1: Survivors at the Center.” (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020)

The report outlines five goals, prioritizing healing and restoration for crime survivors, ensuring access to trauma recovery services, engaging crime survivors to prioritize and elevate their voices, strengthen community trust and confidence in the criminal justice system, recognize who is most vulnerable to crime in Santa Cruz County. Shared Safety work has become the forefront for the CEEW, and the Director of Community Impact at United Way. After the initial research for this report, CEEW was expanded to include representatives from the District’s Attorney’s Office, Probation Department, Public Defender’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, County Office of Administrators and organizations that work with survivors including from Community Action Board, Conflict Resolution Center, Monarch Services, Walnut Ave Family and Women’s Center, and Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020)

The Youth Action Network (YAN) began in 2012 as the Youth Violence Prevention Network and serves Santa Cruz County with funding and support from UWSCC. YAN’s mission states that they support “An equitable, united, and safe county where all youth are engaged in family, school and community, have a sense of safety and well-being, feel they have a voice and are empowered to use it, and are able to access opportunities for a successful transition into adulthood.” In 2015, YAN adopted a five-year strategic plan to strive towards the following goals: increasing program and system effectiveness for those that serve victims of crime, promoting positive youth development, fostering safe and vibrant neighborhoods, increasing equity and reducing racial and ethnic disparities, and promoting and providing authentic community engagement. (Youth Violence Prevention Network, 2015) In the summer of 2020 YVPN released the final “Dialogues for Change” report that describes their five year efforts to strengthen community and law enforcement relationships as a means of creating safer communities. (Burr et. al., 2020)

Youth Action Network created “Project Thrive” to help create an “...equitable and culturally responsive, trauma-informed system of care for boys and young men of color who have been impacted by violence.” (Burr et. al., 2020)

Project Thrive then hosted several conferences to provide capacity building including the Trauma-Informed Systems Conference (2017), Culturally Responsive Organizations Training (2018), Implicit Bias Training (2018), and the Leadership Cohort for Advancing Equity and Cultural Responsivity . (Burr et. al., 2020)

The conferences, data collection, community dialogues, training and adoption of the Blueprint for Shared Safety aid in United Way's, CPP's, CEEW's, and YAN overarching goal of using a public health framework to better serve youth and crime survivors in Santa Cruz County. The workshops allow professionals who have contact with youth to be properly trained in trauma-informed care and cultural responsiveness. They also support those serving survivors of crime and groups vulnerable to crime in minimizing re-traumatization, promoting aspects of wellness, and minimizing barriers to services including language, transportation, and cultural differences. (SCCYVPT, 2020) The dialogues also included youth specific voices to elevate their input in law enforcement and community relationships (Dialogues for Change, 2020).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, United Way has adapted all events and meetings to be held virtually. YAN compiled an online list of resources for community members and students to reference including food and mental health services. This list is available on their website for community members and youth who are participating in an online school and may not have access to all of the resources they would have if their schooling was still in person. (Emmert, 2020)

**CR # 1.2: Communities Served: Demographic Profile and Needs Analysis****(9/25/20)**

United Way serves the entirety of Santa Cruz County, while the CPP CEEW focuses on survivors of crime, and the Youth Action Network (YAN) serves all of the youth and their families and support systems in Santa Cruz County. Table 1 shows California and Santa Cruz County both have a higher percentage of Hispanic or Latino groups. 39.4% of the state of California reports to be Hispanic or Latino, and 34% of the county of Santa Cruz reports to be Hispanic or Latino, compared to the United States which is only 18.4%. (Comparative Demographic Estimates, 2019)

*Table 1 Race and Ethnicity in the United States, California, and Santa Cruz County (2019)*

	White Alone	Black or African American Alone	American Indian or Alaskan Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone	Hispanic or Latino
United States	72%	13%	1%	6%	.2%	18%
California	59%	6%	1%	15%	.5%	39%
Santa Cruz County	77%	2%	.5%	5%	.1%	34%

U.S Census Bureau. (2019). *Quickfacts: California; United States, Santa Cruz County*

It is also important to note that while United Way, YAN, and CCP/CEEW all serve the entirety of Santa Cruz County, there is a significant difference between the demographics and economic breakdown of Watsonville (south county) and North County. North County consists of Aptos, City of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Live Oak, and Soquel; South County is broken down into Watsonville and Corralitos. (California State Association of Counties, 2015) South County has a larger Hispanic/Latino population than North county, and also has a lower median income and higher rate of persons in poverty. (U. S. Census Bureau, 2019) While Santa Cruz County has an overall higher median income than the rest of the nation, Watsonville has a lower median income than the United States. This is important because these populations require different

services based on their needs and resources. South county has a higher rate of persons under the poverty level than that of California and the United States. (U. S. Census Bureau, 2019)

*Table 2 Median Household Income and Persons in Poverty United States, California, Santa Cruz County, Watsonville*

	United States	California	Santa Cruz County	Watsonville
Median household income	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 55,000
Persons in poverty	10.5%	11.8%	12.2%	16.4%

U.S Census Bureau. (2019). *Quickfacts: Watsonville city, california; united states, santa cruz county; California; California.*

United Way serves the entirety of Santa Cruz County. The Community Education and Engagement Workgroup is specifically focused on survivors of crime, and Youth Action Network specifically on youth of Santa Cruz County. (United Way, 2015) COVID-19 shifted the way survivors of crime could access services. For example, someone who is a survivor of a domestic violence incidence may not be able to call any hotline or services in the area because they are at home, and do not leave the house, therefore not being alone without their abuser. There is another issue of underreporting. The statistics for incidents of crime happening in 2020 according to the Sheriff's call log and the victims services organizations in the county are drastically different.

*Table 3 Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Survivors Served Law Enforcement vs. Victim Services Organizations*

	Sheriffs Call Log	Walnut Ave Family Women's Center	Monarch Services
Domestic Violence	91	518	
Sexual Assault	27 (3 for rape, 24 for sexual offense)		520



A, Coto. (personal communication, January 27, 2020); S, Rodgers. (personal communication, January 22, 2020); Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. (2020). *Total cad calls received based on nature of call.*

[https://santacruzsheriff.org/application/files/8716/0952/0186/2020\\_Total.pdf](https://santacruzsheriff.org/application/files/8716/0952/0186/2020_Total.pdf).

**CR# 1.3: Initial Capstone Project Ideas (1-2 pgs.)**

**(10/9/20)**

Shared Safety work has been the forefront of the whole internship experience. This work has been done in many capacities including editing the 70 page long report to be finalized and presented to the County Office of Administrators, supporting a virtual training on trauma informed care, and the planning and logistics of the Shared Safety Community Forum and Shared Safety Dialogues. The Community Forum will be taking place on February 3rd. The work that has been completed and the role that will be played during the actual event would be an event capstone project.

This event is hosted by the Community Education and Engagement Workgroup, along with other county partners. The purpose of this event is to engage the broader community on the framework and Shared Safety and motivate and excite people on their roles that they could play in the safety of their community. I created an Eventbrite registration page, a short movie to be shown during the event, attended planning and logistics meetings, made outreach calls a few days before the event to ensure all those who need to register are, conducted county wide data on services provided to survivors of sexual assault, homicide, and domestic violence, maintained the Facebook page, and created a post event survey to assess the effectiveness of the event. Because of the extensiveness of the work that has already been done, my mentor and I decided the Shared Safety Community Forum would be a good option for the capstone project.

The concept of Shared Safety is a holistic framework that allows for everyone to create a safer community. There are a lot of different definitions and confusing language that go along with Shared Safety, so this event will clear up some of the muddle, and excite and challenge the participants to engage in their broader community, and in their personal circles to create a safer community. The forum will host a survivor panel to elevate voices of those with lived experience which is a challenge for Santa Cruz County and for many other entities. The importance of centering the experiences of those who are survivors of crime cannot be overstated.

**Title:** Shared Safety Virtual Community Forum: Engaging Community on Shared Safety

**Project Description:**

Too many crime survivors in Santa Cruz County do not receive the proper services and are retraumatized. This capstone project of research and facilitation supports the larger virtual event, and United Way virtual forum on the Shared Safety framework which focuses on reducing recidivism, identifying who is most vulnerable, advancing health and healing, and breaking the cycle of harm. (Alliance for Safety and Justice, 2017) This event comprised of a representative from Californians for Safety and Justice, the parent organization that created the original Blueprint for Shared Safety, a moderator that is a staple person in the community, speakers from the District Attorney's Office and Conflict Resolution Center, and facilitating breakout groups of 4-6 participants to answer the questions, "What inspires you about the Shared safety framework?" and "What opportunities do you see?" This research and facilitation project includes responsibilities such as creating the post-event survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the forum, managing the Facebook page and creating social media posts to facilitate outreach in the community, running technology support during the event, completing research on county-wide statistics of survivors of crime to be read out during the event, and creating a flyer for outreach.

**Justification**

There is too much violent crime in Santa Cruz County. The year of 2020 involved racial justice uprisings, calls for defunding the police, alt-right extremist groups, and the COVID-19 pandemic which created an even tougher environment for those who are survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Even just in the start of 2021, there were two homicides which is more than the county usually experiences within a year. The consequences of COVID-19 and natural disasters (fires and floods), in Santa Cruz County have created a large burden on the community members and systems leaders. (Editorial Board, 2021) The purpose of this forum was to engage the Santa Cruz County community, and in turn create a sense of public safety. The Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety outlines 11 recommendations for the county to

better serve the community and survivors of crime. This forum worked towards the specific long term goals of strengthening community trust in the criminal justice system and implementing a community outreach campaign to shift to a public health framework that aligns multiple community sectors, with evidence based approaches to promote shared safety for the entire community. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020)

### **Stakeholders**

Stakeholders for the Shared Safety Community Forum are all the presenting sponsors: United Way Santa Cruz County, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Conflict Resolution Center, Human Care Alliance, NAACP, Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance, Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, Santa Cruz County Administrative Office, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Santa Cruz County Probation, Santa Cruz County Public Defender's Office, United Way of Santa Cruz County, Walnut Ave. Family & Women's Center, Watsonville Law Center, and Watsonville Police Department. (Emmert, 2021) All of these co-sponsors are law enforcement entities, organizations that serve survivors of crime, county entities, or organizations that serve the youth of Santa Cruz County. All sponsors have a role to play in the safety of the community. Stakeholders also include crime survivors in Santa Cruz County and all general community members. The purpose of Shared Safety is educating everyone that they all have a role to play in creating a safer community.

### **Benefits**

The positive impacts for this event are the opportunity to hear from participants about their understanding of Shared Safety. The post-event survey will show the Community Education and Engagement Workgroup where the gaps are in the education of the community members about Shared Safety, and where they can improve their work with community engagement. Participants have a chance to comment on questions asked in the survey.

### **Implementation Method**

The Shared Safety Community Forum will be held virtually to adhere to COVID-19 safe practices. Research was conducted prior to the event about county statistics on domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide. These were read out by the facilitator of the survivor's panel in order to give context to their experiences. A schedule of Facebook was created based on best practices of engaging community members according to National Crime Victims Rights Week 2021 Resource Guide. An iMovie clip was made prior to the event with recordings of the CEEW members explaining why Shared Safety was important to them, this was shown early in the event to also provide context and relate their work to the overall goal of Shared Safety. After the survivor's panel, there was a time for breakout sessions for participants. Each group has a preassigned moderator, and prewritten discussion questions. According to Stanford University Teaching Commons, successful breakout sessions will include pre assigning groups for a large webinar, having clear set questions and time limits, and having a moderator that has seen the discussion topics before the webinar. (n.d.) The breakout sessions were created based on the language spoken, either English or Spanish, and were assigned during the event. A post event survey was developed and sent out to participants six days after the forum on February 9, 2021. Participants had until February 19th to complete the survey. Participants received a second reminder on February 23rd and had until the end of the month to complete the survey. After the event, a final report was written to share with the Probation department to demonstrate if the event had met its objectives. The Probation department funds the Shared Safety work in Santa Cruz County, so also provided funding for this event. Please see Appendix B & C for more information.

### **Participants**

My duties for the Shared Safety Community Forum were creating a clip in iMovie of CEEW members speaking on why Shared Safety was important to them, creating a post event survey and having the CEEW critique and revise it, running the tech support during the forum including creating breakout rooms and answering the chat box, managing the Facebook page for outreach and creating 20-25 posts, attending logistics meetings, and completing research on countywide statistics for crime survivors. This

project was supported by another intern from University California Santa Cruz, my mentor, the Director of Community Impact from United Way, representatives from COPA, and the CEEW members.

### **Resources**

This project was completed all virtually. United Way allocated a budget of \$600 for \$100 stipends for the crime survivor panel, of which there were four, to ensure they were compensated for their time and efforts, and \$200 for the Spanish interpreter. I committed eight to ten hours a week from the start of November 2020 until the day of the event, February 3, 2021. The Director of Community Impact was working close to twenty to thirty hours per week from the start of November until the day of the event. The survivor panel gave a total of eight hours of their time between meetings, and the recording of the final panel. The moderator of this panel, the Program Director of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County gave the same amount of time. There were a total of three CEEW meetings, of which last two hours each, that were dedicated to planning logistics for the event.

### **Supplemental**

United Way Santa Cruz County receives funding from the Santa Cruz County Probation Department to fund efforts of Shared Safety. This event was funded by the Probation Department. The need for the project was determined in November 2020 during the CCP CEEW (2020) meeting where members stated their objectives. These objectives were to engage the broader community with the Shared Safety Framework & create a space for them to see their role, create energy & excitement, elevate those with lived-experience, survivors at the center, highlight what's been done so far, where are we going, and show ways for community members to get involved. In this meeting it was also determined that CEEW group members would reach out to people they saw as good candidates for panelists. The panelists were people with lived experience of being survivors of crime and this panel satisfied the objective of elevating those with lived-experience and putting survivors at the center.

In September of 2020 the original idea for this capstone project was to conduct a research project about the economic benefits of shifting to a public health framework. Due to factors outside of my control

and county officials being called to action by natural disasters, a steep rise in crime, and COVID-19 response, the decision to change the capstone project was made in January of 2021.

### **Potential Challenges**

Conducting all meetings and events over a virtual platform creates a challenge of participant engagement. The event featured breakout rooms, a Menti word cloud activity, and a poll during the forum in order to better engage participants. The Menti word cloud was made by asking participants the question, “What do you think of when you think of Shared Safety?”, and the poll asked participants, “Have you heard of Shared Safety before this forum.”

### **COVID-19 Accommodations**

To address the current pandemic restrictions, all event logistics were completed virtually through Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

### **Overview**

The first phase of researching capstone ideas began at the start of the month in November 2020. The Shared Safety Community Forum was then selected as the capstone project. The second phase began in November of 2020 and ceased February 2021. This phase established verbiage for outreach materials, desired outcomes, learning how to conduct different Zoom features in a large meeting, creating social media posts, and drafting an event agenda and workplan. The third phase consisted of a dress rehearsal and the event was hosted in February 2021. The fourth phase of assessing the outcomes and reporting on the findings of the project began in February of 2021, and will be completed in May of 2021.

**Table 1. Scope of Work and Timeline**

<b>Scope of Work/Timeline</b>
<b>Title:</b> Shared Safety Community Forum: Engaging Community on Shared Safety
<b>Project description:</b> This project is a virtual forum held for community engagement and education on the topic of Shared Safety, elevate the voices of those with lived experience, highlight what has been done so far regarding Shared Safety work in the county, and show what the next steps are.

**Purpose/Primary objective of the project:** The primary objectives of this project is to provide logistical and technical support to the overall forum.

**Longer term goal:** To create better service for survivors of crime.

Phases		Activities/Tasks		Deliverables	Timeline/ deadlines
1	Select capstone project	1.1	Research types and topics of projects Discuss idea with mentor Complete list of ideas	Generate a list of capstone project ideas	Nov 2020
		1.2	Discuss ideas with agency staff	Submit a list of potential ideas to mentor for review/approval	Nov 2020
2	Plan project, Project logistics	2.1	Create list of registration questions, develop Eventbrite page, develop verbiage for outreach materials, develop flyer	Submit shortened URL to mentor for revision, submit flyer for revision, submit verbiage for revision	Dec 2020
		2.2	Develop Shared Safety social media posts (Facebook) on Canva	Submit ideas to mentor for revision	Jan 2021
		2.3	Conduct research on county wide statistics on crime survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide	Submit loose script for facilitator to mentor for revision	Jan 2021
		2.4	Collect clips of CEEW members from co-intern, create clip in iMovie under 3 minutes	Submit clip to mentor for revisions	Jan 2021
		2.5	Create post event survey based on desired outcomes gathered from December CEEW meeting	Submit survey to mentor, submit survey to CEEW	Jan 2021
		2.6	Watch videos on how to run a large zoom webinar	Implement notes in TECH agenda	Jan 2021
3	Implement project	3.1	Participate in final rehearsal	Edit TECH agenda	Feb 2 2021
		3.2	Host event!	Engage in message group with project manager and MC	Feb 3 2021
4	Report on project findings	4.1	Edit zoom recording, create recording file that can be posted online	Submit file to mentor to post on website	Feb 2021
		4.2	Send reminder for post event survey	Submit to mentor	Feb 23 2021



		4.3	Review post event survey findings	Submit summary of findings to mentor, report on findings in final capstone report	March 2021
		4.4	Participate in capstone festival dress rehearsal	Submit presentation to professor and mentor	April 2021
		4.5	Final preparation for Capstone Festival	Final Capstone Festival presentation!	May 2021

**CR#1.6. Problem description & problem model (2-3 pgs.)****(11/20/20)**

**Introduction:** The Shared Safety Community Forum addressed the micro-level problem of, “ Too many survivors of crime in Santa Cruz County do not receive the proper services and are retraumatized.” This problem was thoroughly addressed in the Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety. The lack of culturally appropriate and accessible resources for survivors of crime is the main contributing factor to this problem. This causes the consequences of low rates of crime reporting, low rates of receiving proper restitution, and low rates of vulnerable populations to crime seeking out services.

The event addressed the macro-level problem of, “The macro problem this project addresses is that too few justice system policies in the United States align with the views of victims of crime.” The contributing factors to this problem are the populations most vulnerable to violent crime are also those who already have generational trauma and the lack of survivors of crime receiving help from systems or state institutions. This causes the consequences of retraumatizing those with generational trauma and having a current justice system (long prison sentences) that does not lead to a safer community.

**Figure # 1. Problem Model**

<i>Contributing Factors</i>	<b>Agency-Specific “Micro-Level” Problem</b>	<i>Consequences to Agency</i>
Lack of voice and representation of survivors in the criminal justice system	Too many survivors of crime in Santa Cruz County do not receive the proper services and are retraumatized.	Lower rates of reporting crime
Lack of accessibility of services		Low rates of survivors receiving proper restitution
Local shortage of culturally responsive therapists and service providers who reflect communities of color		Low rates of populations who are most vulnerable to crime do seeking out services
<i>Contributing Factors</i>	<b>Broader “Macro-Level” Health/Social Problem:</b>	<i>Consequences to Society</i>

Victims of crime are more likely to be: low income, young, people of color	The macro problem this project addresses is that too few justice system policies in the United States do not align with the views of victims of crime.	Vulnerable populations who have experienced repeat victimization have high rates of mental health issues
2 out of 3 victims of crime surveyed has received no help after their incident		8 out of 10 victims of crime reported experiencing at least one symptom of trauma
The majority of crime victims believe that the criminal justice system relies too heavily on incarceration		Long prison sentences are ineffective as a crime control measure

**Micro-level Problem Description:** Too many survivors of crime in Santa Cruz County do not receive the proper services and are retraumatized. When crime victims do not receive the proper care after being harmed, it can cause the victims to become retraumatized in an effort to help them. If they do not view the services that are available as viable or accessible to them, they are unlikely to reach out to these services, and fall likely to be traumatized later in life as well. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020)

**Population affected:** The population affected is the entire population of Santa Cruz County, but the populations that are most affected are communities of color, Latino communities especially in Santa Cruz County, young people 18-24, and females. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020)

**Contributing factors:** The micro-level problem description is, “Too many survivors of crime in Santa Cruz county do not receive the proper services and are retraumatized.” The Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety identified the following contributing factors, the lack of voice and representation of survivors in the criminal justice system, the lack of accessibility of services, and the shortage of culturally responsive therapists and service providers who reflect communities of color. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020) The first goal identified in the report is, “Prioritize Healing and Restoration for Crime Survivors.” Of those interviewed, the majority described almost never being asked of what they need to heal by courts, service providers, and advocates. According to Alliance for Safety and Justice of California, most victims of crime prefer resources to be put into restorative justice tactics rather than prison. (2015) The Community Action

Board of Santa Cruz County identified those populations with the highest rates of poverty being farmworkers, female headed households, latinos, South county residents (the city of Watsonville), and those with less than a high school diploma. (CAB Community Action Plan Report, 2018) These are also the populations that are most vulnerable to crime, as well as experiencing the largest barriers to receiving services. Barriers identified in Santa Cruz County were transportation, lack of knowledge about services, and lack of culturally appropriate service providers. This cycle of harm can cause large rates of retraumatization in victims of crime.

**Consequences:** The consequences identified by the Santa Cruz County Blueprint for Shared Safety were having negative experiences interacting with formal systems lead to lower rates of reporting crime, survivors do not receive proper restitution, and populations who are most vulnerable to crime do not seek out services, victims experience victim blaming responses. A lack of trust within law enforcement officials is a major cause of low crime reporting rates. “...there is a strong perception of reporting as a gatekeeper to access systems or states based support service...the perception of stereotyping and an empathy divide with law enforcement deter participants from reporting crime.” (Warnken & Warren, 2014) The CEEW identified the lack of restitution, not just monetary restitution as a problem for crime survivors in Santa Cruz County. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020) Those who hold a fear of accessing services could have a criminal record themselves, are undocumented, or who do not want to file a police report are all experiencing barriers to obtaining restitution, and lack of resolution. (Strang, et. al, 2013)

**Macro-level Problem Description:** The macro problem this project addresses is that too few justice system policies in the United States do not align with the views of victims of crime. Most crime victims, according to the Nation Survey of Victims’ Views, report that they would prefer rehabilitation and restorative methods of justice over longer prison sentences and punitive measures.

**Population affected:** The population affected by this problem is victims of crime, both property and violent crime, in the United States.

**Contributing factors:** In 2016, Alliance for Safety and Justice, a sister organization of Californians for Safety and Justice conducted a National Survey of Victims' Views and surveyed a representative sample of the nation of 3,165 people across the country, and identified and interviewed over 800 victims. (Crime Survivors Speak: The First-Ever National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice, 2016) Three contributing factors they identified to the problem of too little justice system policies in the United States not aligning with the views of victims of crime and those populations that are most vulnerable to crime are that victims of crime are more likely to be: low income, young, people of color, two out of three victims of crime surveyed has received no help after their incident, and the overwhelming majority of crime victims believe that the criminal justice system relies too heavily on incarceration, and strongly prefer investments in prevention and treatment, not jail. (Crime Survivors Speak: The First-Ever National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice, 2016) These populations identified as being the most vulnerable to crime, are also those populations that are most likely to live in environments that are prone to violent crime, as well as holding the most distrust for law enforcement. (Warnken & Warren, 2014) As well as two out of three victims not receiving help, those that did receive help, the majority reported the help coming from family or friends and recovery help from hospitals. Only one out of ten received assistance from a district attorney or prosecutor's office. (Crime Survivors Speak: The First-Ever National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice, 2016)

**Consequences:** The consequences of these factors are populations who have experienced repeat victimization are more likely than others to suffer from mental health problems, high levels of depression, anxiety and symptoms related to PTSD, eight out of ten victims of crime reported experiencing at least one symptom of trauma, and long prison sentences are ineffective as a crime control measure. About 40% of victims presenting in trauma centers across the nation have been victims of crime before. (Warnken & Warren, 2014) The Institute on Law and Social Policy and Berkeley School of Law indicated that several victims of crime noted a deficiency in access to critical trauma recovery services, in particular, therapy and mental health resources, and an increase of severe emotional distress making going to work, caring for a

family, and oneself difficult post crime. (Warnken & Warren, 2014) In 2018, the Department of Justice reported on state prisoner recidivism, and in one year of 412,731 prisoner releases, 45% were re arrested in one year or less. (Clarke, 2019) This study did only take into account arrest rates and not overall convictions.

<b><a href="#">CR#1.7. Updates to Capstone Reports #1.1 - 1.6 (10-12 pgs.)</a></b>
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<b>(12/11/20)</b>
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<b><a href="#">CR#2.2 Project Assessment Plan (1-2 pgs.)</a></b>
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<b>(March 2021)</b>
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### **Expected Outcome**

As a result of the Shared Safety Community Forum, the short term expected outcome is for participants to increase their knowledge on the concept of the Shared Safety framework. Additionally, my overall contributions to the project will be assessed.

### **Outcome Measures**

My contributions to the success of the event as a whole consisted of creating a post-event survey, creating an iMovie clip, managing social media (Facebook page), and managing various technological aspects of the forum including recording, managing the waiting room, polls, menti word clouds, sharing resources and supplemental information in chat box, spotlighting presenters, messaging presenters, communicating with MC & Project Manager, assigning breakout rooms - participants and facilitators, sharing breakout room instructions and managing time, and sharing the survey. These were critical roles in order to ensure the success of achieving the expected outcome for the event.

### **Method**

The post event survey was a Google forms format that was distributed by myself. The breakout rooms were assessed by collecting the notes from all the group facilitators and creating a data theme. Assessment of my performance was carried out by the Director of Community Impact (my mentor and project manager for the event) including written feedback for my contributions, as well as the feedback from participants who emailed or texted her after the event.

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*Table 4 Expected Outcomes from Project*

<b>Short term outcome(s)</b>	<b>Intermediate outcome(s)</b>	<b>Long-term outcome(s)/Impacts</b>
Participants gain knowledge on the concept of Shared Safety framework	Participants will utilize trauma-informed care in their work	Fewer survivors of crime will be re-traumatized while receiving services

## **Findings**

Feedback provided for the technological logistics contributions from participants was, “Tech was almost seamless and there was a lot of appreciation for sharing mental health and crisis response resources in the chat box multiple times throughout the event.”

The social media posts received positive feedback as well. Although there was positive feedback, the delivery of them could have improved to include more images and less wording in order to reach a vaster audience. They were also only provided in English. The audience of the event included only a small number of monolingual Spanish speakers. Social media information was not translated into Spanish, which could have created a barrier to participation.

Twenty-four 24 participants completed the post-event survey. The event in total had 100 viewers for the live event, and 140 people registered who also received a link to the recording. When reviewing the survey responses I noticed two spelling errors. The survey also required those who viewed it to sign into a Google account. This error was pointed out and changed a week after the survey was provided. To increase the responses to the survey, it could have been sent out sooner after the event. The survey was provided in the chat box after the event, and then not again until five days later. The survey was sent out the first time five days after the event, and then again two weeks after the event. The survey could have been sent out sooner, and again with a reminder.

## **Assessment Results**

According to the post event survey that was distributed, out of the 24 respondents, 83.3% of them reported that they either Agreed or Strongly Agreed with the statement, “This forum increased my understanding of the concept of Shared Safety.” There was not a defined number of how many participants were desired to report Agree or Strongly Agree on this question. However, more than half would have been ideal. The small number of participants that actually reported to the survey could have contributed to this number being low.



The strengths of this forum were the broad range of systems leaders that helped with outreach. There were over forty different organizations represented in the forum. There were also 160 people registered at the start, and then about 110 viewed the entire forum. The max number of participants registered was reached at 160. The survivor panel was a strength for the forum because it achieved the objective of elevating survivors' voices as well as being impactful for the participants. It was discussed with the CEEW that many times people will not share stories as personal and intense as were shared in the panel because of fear of triggering someone. The forum had an extensive list of mental health resources provided multiple times throughout the forum, as well as two counselors on call to direct participants to if they felt as though they needed to talk something out after hearing the panel's stories. Another strength was the organization of those who planned the forum. There were multiple agendas for the tech and speakers, and there were multiple logistics meetings conducted beforehand in order to ensure a smooth process.

Weaknesses for the forum included the lack of availability in everyone's schedule to plan a practice session before the actual event. This was not the fault of anyone, but this contributed to some tech difficulties during the event. The survey distribution was also a weakness. The survey was distributed right after the event in the chat box, one week after the event, and then for a last time three weeks after the event. There were only 24 respondents to the survey which contributed to a lack of knowledge on how the forum achieved its outcome measures and objectives. Please see Appendix D & E For more information.

### **Recommendations**

The project provided an increase in community engagement in the framework of Shared Safety. I recommend this be a yearly forum held for all community members so highlight the past year's accomplishment in crime survivor work.

### **Conclusions and Personal Reflections**

Throughout my year-long research and report writing process, I experienced a grandiose amount of personal and professional growth. The process of designing, planning, implementing, and assessing this

capstone project created a space for me to gain skills of organization, administrative skills such as meeting facilitation, social media outreach, project management, and assessment. I also learned the value of my work and time. I had terrible work boundaries coming into the project, always volunteering up my time, and then getting too overwhelmed and not fully delivering on all tasks. I have acceptable boundaries now, and I am able to say no much easier.

The experience of conducting my capstone project during a global pandemic and personal issues with finances and job security was extremely challenging. I did not have these challenges the entire time and they were resolved, but when they were apparent it was hard to continue to put my school work first. I also witnessed the hardships that this pandemic really put on those who are vulnerable to crime. The stark increase of domestic violence cases during the height of the COVID lockdown was terrifying. I was pushed out of my comfort zone to compartmentalize my personal problems and focus only on school and this project when I needed to. I also had to take the initiative of learning how to conduct a large zoom meeting on my own which was fun.

Hopefully the world isn't in shambles by the time you start your capstone project. It can be extremely challenging to not think about the terrible things happening in this country while you focus on your project. Try to connect the problems of the world with what you hope to solve nationally. This helped me. Also make sure you communicate with your mentor and instructor always. Always over communicate, do not think you are asking stupid questions or you are being annoying. Put yourself out there. Ask to be involved in everything that you can, and try to take away any shame or anxiety you feel about messing up, being late, or not fully delivering.

I had an amazing experience with my mentor and my placement. There were no issues. The following is no fault to my mentor or placement. The fact that this department and major is largely focused on social equity and that it puts students in a position of unpaid labor for over a year is not sustainable. I want the department to address this concept of unpaid labor for students, most of whom are working full time, have children, and are taking on a full course load. Fair compensation for all labor is the real definition

of social equity. Especially because many CHHS students are females and are Latinas who are already populations in the United States who work and time exploited.

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## Appendix

### Appendix A

#### Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ) Blueprint for Shared Safety

In 2017 Californians for Safety and Justice developed the Blueprint for Shared Safety after over a year of research and outreach to stakeholders including law enforcement leaders, reform advocates, crime survivors and local government officials. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020) This Blueprint contains a matrix outlining the five areas in which communities can strive towards a safer society. These areas or pillars are Shifting to a Public Health Frame, Well-Being is Safety, Crime Survivors at the Center, Breaking the Cycle of Harm, and Making the System Work. Santa Cruz County adopted this model to create a strategic plan of their own to better meet the needs of crime survivors. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020) This Strategic Plan identified five goals to better support victims of crime. These five goals are: prioritize healing and restoration for crime survivors, ensure access to trauma recovery services, engage crime survivors to prioritize and elevate their voices, strengthen community trust and confidence in the criminal justice system, and recognize who is most vulnerable to crime. (DeGarmo, Emmert, Kilroy, 2020)

#### 5 BLUEPRINT PRINCIPLES

These guiding principles are the foundation for Shared Safety. By implementing practices that are grounded in these principles, local governments can build a strong safety infrastructure for whole communities.



**SHIFTING TO A  
Public Health  
Frame**



**Well-Being  
IS SAFETY**



**Crime Survivors  
AT THE CENTER**



**Breaking the  
Cycle  
OF HARM**



**MAKING THE  
System Work**

## Appendix B

### Virtual Forum Implementation Details

The moderator was a person that has strong ties in the community. He had stakes in different community groups and had grown up in Santa Cruz County. The forum hosted live facilitators from the District Attorney's Office and from the organization, Californians for Safety and Justice. These stakeholders gave the audience a well explained background of Shared Safety. The forum also showed a recording clip of those with lived experience. This panel was facilitated by a Program Director of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, who had extensive prior experience facilitating panels of this nature. According to a survey done by Alliance for Safety and Justice, two out of three survivors of crime feel as though they do not have a space to speak to others about their experiences. (Alliance for Safety and Justice, 2015) Creating a safe space for the lived experience panel to elevate their voices was imperative.



## Appendix C

### Shared Safety Community Forum Breakout Rooms Questions

The Community Education and Engagement Workgroup decided on questions that were asked during the breakout room sessions during the community forum. The breakout rooms were facilitated by a person who knew beforehand, and included 4-6 members. Each person was allowed about two minutes to answer each question. the facilitators included people from the CEEW, and a couple of others from partnering organizations.

1. What inspires you about the Shared safety framework?
2. What opportunities do you see?

The script for the facilitators to follow when starting the breakout sessions was as follows. “First, let’s go around the screen & state our name, our community &/or organization. Who wants to go first, then I’ll call on folks?” This was scripted in order for the breakout members to feel comfortable sharing their stories/ideas in front of people they most likely had not met before.

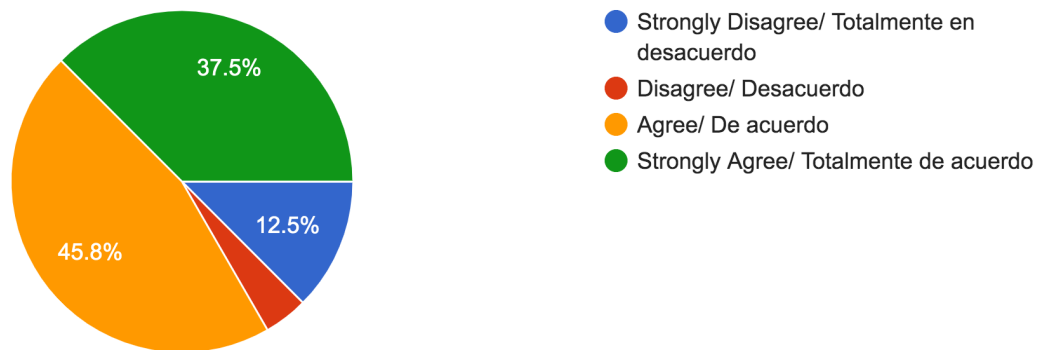
## Appendix D

### Results from the Post-Event Survey

*Figure 1 This forum increased my understanding of the concept of Shared Safety.*

(B) This forum increased my understanding of the concept of Shared Safety is. / (B) This forum increased my knowledge about the concept of Shared Security

<font style="vertical-align: inherit;"><font style="vertical-align: inherit;">24 responses</font></font>



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## Appendix E

### Objectives for Forum as Defined by the CEEW

The objectives stated by the Community Education and Engagement Workgroup were, “engage the broader community with the Shared Safety Framework; create a space for community members to see their role in Shared Safety; create a sense of energy and excitement in the community around Shared Safety; elevate the voices of those with lived-experience; put survivors at the center; and highlight what has been done so far, where the Shared Safety work is going, and ways to get involved.”