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**Notes and  
References**

**COLLABORATIVE COURTS**

- I. Collaborative Courts (also known as specialty courts) are formed to meet the unique needs of a group of offenders or to address a specific community problem or issue. These may include courts formed to focus on substance abuse, mental health, or commercial sexual exploitation. These courts operate in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria and may consist of Judicial Officers, Deputy District Attorneys, Deputy Public Defenders and Defense Counsel, Deputy Probation Officers, Behavioral Wellness practitioners, Child Welfare Services workers, and community treatment providers, among others. Depending on the nature of the subject or the Court’s focus, representatives from these and other agencies and organizations may act as a formal treatment team.
- II. A Juvenile Treatment Court Core Committee provides agency oversight for collaborative court programs and meets quarterly to discuss program operations and resources, treatment capacity, proposed program modifications, and issues affecting program effectiveness. The Core Committee is governed by the Collaborative Courts Policy Council which has oversight for all criminal and juvenile court collaborative court programs. It is the decision-making entity for policies, procedures, and compliance with any Federal, State, or local requirements for a program’s operation. The Core Committee makes recommendations for program or policy changes to the Policy Council, which meets twice a year.
- III. Currently, there is one Juvenile collaborative court in operation; it is the following:

**Helping Achieve Resiliency in Treatment (HART):**

In Santa Maria, the HART Court is a post-adjudication, post-disposition program. For youth on probation to be accepted onto the calendar, the youth must be supervised by Probation, a confirmed victim of commercial sexual exploitation or at risk of being a victim, and willing to participate in the program. HART Court is designed to focus on minors who have suffered from sexual exploitation and trafficking, with a focus on trauma informed care, and a primary goal of reducing re-victimization.

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## **Collaborative Courts (continued)**

## **Notes and References**

Cases are staffed with members of a cross-discipline group every two weeks with the goal of determining service needs, referring to appropriate services, and identifying pathways to a stable and safe future for participants. A youth's participation, needs, the services identified for the youth, and the progress in any programming are shared with the Court and court participants. Youth served by Child Welfare Services and other agencies may participate in the program as well.

As participation in HART is voluntary, a youth can opt out at any time. In the event that a youth progresses in treatment and supervision satisfactorily, he/she will be eligible to graduate from HART and may have supervision terminated by the Court at that point. (More information about HART is available in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) manual section.)

### **1. Calendaring Process**

Youth are typically placed on the HART calendar, which is held bimonthly, via their defense attorney after their cases have been staffed by the treatment team and deemed appropriate for the calendar.

### **2. Supervision**

HART Court participants are assigned to a Deputy Probation Officer, who participates in treatment team staffing and serves as Court Hearing Officer for the HART calendar, which takes place every other Monday.