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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2023

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## **Contra Costa County Probation Department to Launch Innovative Partnership with Talkspace**

(Martinez, CA) – In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, the Contra Costa County Probation Department is launching a partnership with Talkspace, a pioneer in virtual therapy, featuring a nationwide network of licensed clinicians who provide culturally reflective and linguistically relevant behavioral health care services. These services are available in 32 languages for adults and adolescents and can be accessed via their secure, HIPAA-compliant online platform and mobile application.

The partnership will allow clients under probation supervision to engage in therapy with a dedicated provider, matched based on individual needs. Additionally, clients and eligible family members will have round-the-clock, confidential access to a robust catalog of self-guided classes and resources via Talkspace Self-Guided that address a variety of topics related to mental health and wellness.

“We know that many of our clients are struggling with a variety of emotional and mental health concerns,” stated Chief Probation Officer Esa Ehmen-Krause. “The partnership with Talkspace allows us to create a pathway to wellness for those we serve, and access services in a convenient manner.”

While Talkspace has a demonstrated history of working within the public and private sectors assisting employees, the partnership with the Probation Department, to serve clients, is the first of its kind. The program will begin May 24.

“We are honored that Contra Costa Probation Department has chosen Talkspace for this groundbreaking partnership to provide therapy through proven virtual modalities like text-based therapy,” said Laura Magnuson, Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and VP of Clinical Engagement for Talkspace. “Together we are meeting their clients where they are and supporting the Probation Department’s mission to strengthen individuals and communities.”

“It is our goal to provide clients and their families with access to essential mental health services at no cost,” said Ehmen-Krause, “and we are committed to reducing the stigma so many people face while battling mental health issues.”

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