



County of Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz County Youth Commission
701 Ocean Street, Room 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD/TTY: call 711
Elizabeth Padilla, Juliette Rezzato - Staff Liaisons

YOUTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 28, 2026
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Westridge Community Room
500 Westridge Drive
Watsonville, CA 95076

1. CALL TO ORDER /ROLL CALL

Commissioner:	Seat:	Status:
Aliyah Marcus	District 1	Present
Danna Perez-Garcia	District 2	Present
Natalie LeBlanc	District 3	Present
Chloe Schacher	District 4	Present
Paige Haentjens	District 5	Excused
Samuel Rios	At-Large (Immigrant / farmworker family background)	Present
Chiara Rojas	At-Large (Identifies as LGBTQ+)	Present
Fritzi Aparicio Hernandez	At-Large (Identifies as low-income)	Present
Americo Castillo	At-Large (Person with physical / learning disability)	Present
Amber Chavez	At-Large (Person of color)	Present
Cristina Nolasco	At-Large (Person living in rural / unincorporated area)	Present

Staff:	Title:
Juliette Rezzato	Youth Commission Staff Liaison
Grace Graessle	Youth Commission Intern

2. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved the minutes of August 25, 2026, and August 31, 2026, Regular Meetings.

Result:	Approved [10 to 0]
Motion/Second:	Nolasco, Marcus
Ayes:	Marcus, Perez-Garcia, LeBlanc, Schacher, Rios, Rojas, Hernandez, Castillo, Chavez and Nolasco
Nayes:	None
Abstain:	None

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No one addressed the commission

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Year One Focus Survey (Non-Action Item)

Action:

Commission completed the Year One Focus Survey.

Public Comment:

No one addressed the commission

b. Confirm top priority focus topic for the year (Action Item)

Action:

The commission selected the following interconnected focus topics for the year:

1. Mental Health, Stress and Emotional Well-Being
2. Basic Needs and Access to Opportunities

Public Comment:

No one addressed the commission

Result:	Approved [10 to 0]
Motion/Second:	Rios, Rojas
Ayes:	Marcus, Perez-Garcia, LeBlanc, Schacher, Rios, Rojas, Hernandez, Castillo, Chavez and Nolasco
Nayes:	None
Abstain:	None

c. Select three focus areas within the priority topic (Action Item)

Action:

The commission selected the following focus areas for each topic for the year:

1. Mental Health, Stress & Emotional Well-Being:
 - a. Improve access to and awareness of mental health services for youth by identifying what is available in schools and the community, where the gaps and barriers are, and how youth can be better connected to support.
 - b. Reduce stigma and judgement around youth seeking and using mental health services.
2. Basic Needs & Access to Opportunities:
 - a. Improve access to and awareness of transportation resources available to youth in Santa Cruz County.
 - b. Improve access to and awareness of collect and future-planning resources that serve youth of all backgrounds and reflect the full range of paths after high school.

Public Comment:

No one addressed the commission

Result:	Approved [10 to 0]
Motion/Second:	LeBlanc, Nolasco
Ayes:	Marcus, Perez-Garcia, LeBlanc, Schacher, Rios, Rojas, Hernandez, Castillo, Chavez and Nolasco
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

d. **Youth Commission Workplan – What do we need to learn first?** (Non-Action Item)

Action:

Staff addressed the commission to determine questions and relevant support for upcoming work.

Public Comment:

No one addressed the commission

e. **Next steps and Workplan Development** (Non-Action Item)

Action:

Staff addressed the commission to discuss workplan development and how the commission will engage the selected focus topics and focus areas.

Public Comment:

No one addressed the commission

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:30 PM Monday, October 26, 2026

Aptos Library Community Room, 7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Submitted By:

Juliette Rezzato

Youth Commission Staff Liaison