



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

701 Ocean St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-454-3400 (TTY/TDD: 711)
JAG@santacruzcounty.us

Public Meeting and Agenda – Draft Minutes

Release and Reentry Subcommittee

Date: September 1, 2026
Time: 12 PM to 1:30 PM
Location: Monarch Services, 550 Water Street, Suite J3
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Introductory Items

1. Call to Order / Roll Call (*internal only: 3-5 minutes*)

Esmerelda Torres	Present
Hannah Taylor	Present
Jesse Silva	Present
Kristie Clemens	Present
Sarah Fletcher	Present
Sarah Kocjan	Present
Stacey Palau	Absent
Tara George	Present
Cassie Gazipura	Absent

Quorum established.

2. Check-in (Informational) - held.
3. Public Comment

3.1. Kristie Clemens distributed *Women's Recovery and Reentry Program (WRRP)* fliers

Regular Agenda

4. Approve minutes from May 19, 2026, Release and Reentry Subcommittee Meeting (Action)

- 4.1. Additional Direction: None
- 4.2. Motion: Hannah Taylor
- 4.3. Second: Tara George
- 4.4. Result: Motion passes unanimously
- 5. Staff Update on Subcommittee activities (Informational Only)
 - 5.1. Families, Youth & Prevention meets next Thursday 9/10.
 - 5.2. Information for the Release & Reentry workplan (WIOA)
 - 5.3. Ad-Hoc work group on flyer was formed and they are coordinating design and production of the flier.
 - 5.4. Suggestion came out of the last meeting: commission could meet every other month and leverage workgroups.
 - 5.4.1. Participants in the ad-hoc get stipend.
 - 5.4.1.1. Could update chair terms at same time: alternating for institutional knowledge. Opportunity to appoint one County co-chair and one at-large member.
- 6. Received CalAIM presentation from Sheriff staff and take related actions
 - 6.1. Gatisa Noble presented on CalAIM Justice Involved (JI) Initiative implementation in facilities where people are incarcerated.
 - 6.1.1. [Slides available on Commission website.](#)
 - 6.2. Sarah Fletcher requested if anyone sees missing/incorrect programs on system interception program map.
- 7. Review workplan objectives, tasks, and take related actions (Action)
 - 7.1.1. Attachments:
 - 7.1.1.1. RASCI
 - 7.1.1.2. Workplan Project Update
 - 7.1.1.3. Subcommittee discussed Objective 1: Identify gaps in mental health services in custody and barriers to access in mental health treatment upon release.

- Sarah Kocjan stated it costs \$1000 of taxpayer dollars per day to for people to receive treatment at Janus. Preferential treatment is given to people with SUD, their needs are encouraged.
- Megan Rorie from New Life stated that Enhanced Care Managers (ECM) is the wild west. ECM representatives were knocking on peoples' RV doors to sign the up and disappeared. It's easier for people to get treatment for substance use disorder (SUD). It doesn't help that the Carelon contract (formerly Beacon) issue short authorizations and people are not finishing their treatments and are back in custody in 1-2 days.
 - *Question:* Is there still an Uber contract to take Medi-CAL patients to their appointments? Yes.
 - Sarah Kocjan works as an Uber driver. Transported someone to treatment who urinated in her car.
 - *Question:* Does mental health not include SUD?
- Sarah Fletcher said getting people to SUD treatment does not seem to be a problem but getting people to mental health continues to be a problem: hard to engage, hard to stick wit;, Second cohort of Prop 47 CAFES established peer navigators sometimes were found to improved outcomes and were preferred.

7.1.1.4. Jesse Silva moved to direct staff to come up with recommendations around who the county partners with. about if there is standardized training and support. Sarah Fletcher added: do we want to look into training or support for partners such as Uber drivers transporting folks to treatment?

7.1.1.4.1. Kristie Clemens seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

8. Announce Subcommittee Chair for the next meeting based on alphabetical rotation (Informational Only)

8.1. Kristie Clemens for December 3, 2026 at 12 pm.

9. Adjournment

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