



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Minutes - Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Release & Reentry Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, October 8th, 2024
Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Location: Monarch Services, 550 Water Street, Suite J3

1. Roll Call – 12:05 pm
 - 1.1. Present: Alicia Gaytan, Tara George, Kelly Salazar, Polly Schulze-Elser, Sarah Fletcher, Donia Merkel, Julianna DeNike, Stacey Palau, Kristie Clemens, Susan Greene, Savannah Hayes, Jesse Silva, Hannah Taylor
2. Agenda Review
3. Announcements
 - 3.1. Safe Release: August 27th to date, 6 safe releases for a total of 9 nights.
 - 3.2. New Life / Gemma:
 - 3.2. Gemma almost at capacity, 1 opening. Hiring new staff.
 - 3.3. Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) announced awards for Prop 47. HSA and COE each received a combined 15 million. HSA focus on transitional housing, Janus as partner. Casey Swank, Director of Substance Use Disorder Services is HSA lead.
 - 3.4. Jail Update
 - 3.4. Jail population 30 women in custody: 10 in Blaine Street; 20 in Main Jail – 13 in G Unit and 7 in H Unit.

- 3.4. 6 in WRRP.
- 3.4. In G Unit, 6 are enrolled in classes.
- 3.4. In H Unit, no classes, not a programming unit.
- 3.4. WRRP after care – 3 women at Gemma enrolled at Cabrillo and Rising Scholars.

- 3.4.1.4.1. Rising Scholars, Homeless Garden Project, and Goodwill giving monthly presentations at Blaine.

3.5. Visitation

- 3.5. First visit scheduled in September at Blaine, did not happen because the woman scheduled had an infraction and was rehoused at Main Jail prior to visit. She is now back at Blaine.
- 3.5. October Visit, women who wanted a visit didn't make the deadline, needed to submit paperwork at least two weeks ahead. Must get family member on visiting list, must get security clearance, family member needs to call to schedule the visit. Family members did not make their call in time for the October visit. Up to guardian to make the call, also have to prove parent or guardian of child. Brochure available to family regarding visiting in Main Jail lobby. Planning to put more visiting information on the website. RounTree still waiting on body scanner for reinstating children visits.
- 3.5. IDs while in custody. SCSO staff still looking into that, waiting on DMV. Santa Barbara and San Diego counties have similar programs.
- 3.5. Netflix Documentary titled *Daughters* highly recommended. Date with dad – father daughter dance with girls whose fathers are incarcerated.

4. Public Comment – No public comment

Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes (Action)

- 5.1. Motion: Tara Geoge moved to approve, Kristie Clemens second.

6. Discussion

6.1. Bench Warrants, no update available.

6.2. Charges and Recidivism: discussion on unmet health needs and ongoing needs for more capacity in treatment and safe and stable housing long term. Challenges with CAFE's include staff turnover, which interrupts case management and peer support once trusting relationships have been established. Consider gap analysis from individuals cited and released. Probation focus on reducing revocations may have some info Sarah F. will share.

6.3. Conflict Resolution Center Reconciliation Project offers opportunity to help repair relations between justice involved people and their family members / close friends.

6.4. Re: Gemma and CAFE's about people's willingness to engage and meeting people where they are.

6.5. Request for individual therapy in and out of custody.

6.6. Holiday contributions to support healthy communications with children and other loved ones.

7. Adjournment – 1:35 pm

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