



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Meeting Agenda Minutes Commission on Justice and Gender

Date: **November 20, 2025**
Time: **12 pm - 1:30 pm**
Location: **Simpkins Swim Center**
979 17th Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Introductory Items

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call – Meeting convened at 12pm

1.1.

Commissioner Name	Present/Absent	Alternate (Present/Absent)
Leeann Luna , Monarch Services	Present	
Lynne Petrovic , Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)	Present	
Sarah Kocjan , Representative - Incarceration	Present	
Sheryl Norteye , Representative - Black/African American	Present	
Evyn Robles , Representative - Target Population	Present	
Jesse Silva , Representative - Gender Based Violence	Present	
Celeste Gutierrez , Representative - Latinx	Present	
Rebecca Garcia , County Office of Education (COE)	Present	
Tara George , District Attorney Office	Present	

Commissioner Name	Present/Absent	Alternate (Present/Absent)
Shelby Mason , Representative - LGBTQ+	Present	
Hannah Taylor , Public Defender Office	Present	
Jen Herrera , Health Services Agency	Absent	Brenda Campbell
Kristie Clemens , Sheriff Office	Present	
Lynn Boule , Walnut Avenue Women's Center	Present	
Sasha Morgan , Superior Court	Present	
Sarah Fletcher , Probation Department	Present	
Gloria Carroll , Human Services Department	Absent	No alternate present

2. Check in: Name and affiliation/relationship with the commission.
3. Public Comment

3.1 Discussion:

During public comment, Commissioners discussed support for women in custody through the coordination of cards, stamps, and phone call funding. Commissioners noted that Bookshop Santa Cruz previously coordinated donated cards, with approximately 75 cards provided, averaging two cards per person. Commissioners discussed covering the cost of phone calls, estimated at approximately \$10 per person, as well as the cost of cards and postage.

Commissioners discussed roles and coordination, including arranging logistics with community partners, handling funds, distributing cards, and identifying potential donors. A suggestion was made for Commissioners to consider voluntary \$5 donations to support the effort. Commissioners discussed forming a small group to move the effort forward.

3.2 Action:

On motion by Commissioner Sarah Kocjan, seconded by Commissioner Shelby Mason, the Commission approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to coordinate the women-in-custody card and phone support effort, to be led by Commissioner Eryn Robles. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2025 (previous) meeting (Action Item)

4.1 Action:

On motion by Commissioner Jesse Silva, seconded by Commissioner Sarah Kocjan, the Commission approved the minutes from the August 21, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of 2026 Commission meeting schedule (Action Item)

5.1 Discussion:

Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2026 meeting schedule and noted that, consistent with the Commission's bylaws, regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of every third month. The proposed meeting dates for 2026 were February 12, May 14, August 13, and November 12.

5.2 Action:

On motion by Commissioner Sarah Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Hannah Taylor, the Commission approved the 2026 meeting schedule as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Announcements by Commissioners and Subcommittees (or Commissioner Announcements or Reports) – (Informational only)

6.1 Subcommittee representatives report on subcommittee activities.

6.a Release & Reentry:

The subcommittee reported on current work related to women in custody and released. Commissioners received information regarding the number of women and total bed nights through the Safe Release Program during September and October. In September, 9 women received Safe Release cards for a total of 17 nights. In October, 4 women were housed for a total of 7 nights, for a combined total of 13 women and 24 nights over the two-month period.

The subcommittee reported that it met and will provide a written list of activities. Commissioners noted that subcommittee chair responsibilities rotate alphabetically by last name, with Commissioner Sarah Fletcher identified as the next chair. The subcommittee reviewed the proclamation and the biannual report, with a recommendation to include direct quotes.

6.b Families Youth & Prevention:

The subcommittee reported that members voted to select Commissioner Celeste Gutierrez as chair. The subcommittee discussed refining and focusing goals while expanding scope beyond children, increasing contact frequency to once per week, and strengthening

relationships outside the system. A speaker was identified for a future meeting. The subcommittee reviewed County Code provisions related to agenda setting and voted to recommend inclusion of an apology in the proclamation.

6.c Housing & Healthcare:

The subcommittee reported adopting a rotating chair structure based on alphabetical order by last name. Members reviewed and updated proclamation language and provided feedback on the biannual report, including a recommendation to incorporate quotes from individuals with lived experience. An invitation was extended by Commissioner Sheryl Norteye for subcommittee members, in her staff role, to attend a Continuum of Care meeting. The subcommittee tabled its workplan discussion to January and discussed potential partnerships with other County committees, including the Planning Commission, to advance shared work.

6.2 Workplan and Process Updates:

Commissioners discussed continuation of work on the 2026–27 workplan and sought clarity on how subcommittee recommendations would inform future Commission goals. Staff clarified that subcommittees will return with finalized recommendations for Commission consideration. The Commission is expected to consider and adopt goals in February, following subcommittee action.

6.3 Additional Announcements:

Commissioners asked about the process for coordinating holiday cards for women at Blaine Street. Staff noted that this could be addressed through the formation of an ad hoc subcommittee if needed. An update was provided regarding vouchers issued to four women, with additional details to be provided separately by Monarch Services.

6.4 Action:

No action was taken.

7. Direct subcommittees to continue work on 2026–27 Workplan and report back at February 2026 Meeting with recommended objectives (Action)
 - a. Release & Reentry, Tuesday December 2, 2025.
 - b. Families, Youth & Prevention, Thursday December 4, 2025
 - c. Housing & Healthcare, Thursday, January 22, 2026

7.a Discussion:

Commissioners reviewed the proposed direction for subcommittees to continue developing the 2026–27 Workplan and to report back at the February 2026 Commission meeting with recommended objectives. The proposed subcommittee meeting dates included Release & Reentry on December 2, 2025; Families, Youth & Prevention on

December 4, 2025; and Housing & Healthcare on January 22, 2026. Commissioners also reviewed the proposed direction to the Release & Reentry Subcommittee to identify and prepare a speaker for the February 2026 Mission Moment.

7.b Action:

On motion by Commissioner Kristie Clemens, seconded by Commissioner Sheryl Norteye, the Commission voted to table Item 7 to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1 Direct the Release & Reentry Subcommittee to identify and prepare a speaker for the February 2026 Mission moment (Action)

7.1.a. Action:

On motion by Commissioner Lynn Boule, seconded by Commissioner Celeste Gutierrez, the Commission directed the Release & Reentry Subcommittee to identify and prepare a speaker with lived experience for the February 2026 Mission Moment. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Recommend the proclamation honoring Dr. Susan Greene, including subcommittee revisions, and direct the staff liaison to work with the Chair of the Board of Supervisors on its issuance and signature; or decline to recommend the proclamation (Action)

8.1 Discussion:

Commissioners discussed whether to recommend a proclamation honoring Dr. Susan Greene, including proposed revisions developed by subcommittees. Discussion included whether to incorporate an apology in the proclamation language. Commissioners noted prior subcommittee review, including consideration of language read during a Families, Youth, and Prevention Subcommittee meeting, and discussed outreach regarding the likelihood of the Board of Supervisors signing a proclamation that included an apology.

Commissioners discussed balancing recognition of Dr. Greene’s contributions to the Commission and the community with concerns about whether apology language would be accepted by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioners expressed differing perspectives on the appropriateness of including an apology in the proclamation and the importance of honoring Dr. Greene’s work in a way that could be successfully issued and signed.

8.2 Action:

On motion by Commissioner Sarah Kocjan, seconded by Commissioner Hannah Taylor, the Commission voted to recommend the proclamation honoring Dr. Susan Greene, as written, with an edit to the final sentence suggested by Commissioner Lynne Petrovic, and to direct the staff liaison to work with the Chair of the Board of Supervisors on its issuance and signature. The motion passed, with Commissioner Celeste Gutierrez abstaining.

9. Consider the updated Biennial Report and recommend additional changes or approve the updated report and direct the staff liaison to submit to the Board to accept and file (Action Item)

9.1 Discussion:

Commissioners reviewed the updated Biennial Report and discussed recent program developments, including the opening of Blaine Street in 2023 and post-release educational training and medical connection efforts. Commissioners discussed the need for additional revisions to the report and noted that staff would work with the Sheriff's Office representative to incorporate changes prior to returning the item to the Commission.

9.2 Action:

On motion by Commissioner Lynne Petrovic, seconded by Commissioner Celeste Gutierrez, the Commission directed that the Biennial Report be updated and brought back to the Commission for further consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Mission Moment - Lived Experience Presentation (Informational Only)

- 11.1. Conduct Factor Analysis with County staff (Discussion: non-action item)

11.1.a Discussion:

Commissioners considered conducting a factor analysis with County staff to inform prioritization for the 2026-27 Workplan.

11.1.b Action:

On motion by **Commissioner Hannah Taylor**, seconded by **Commissioner Tara George**, the Commission voted to table Item 11.1 to the February Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- 11.2 Approve identified priorities, direct staff to incorporate them into the workplan or to refer relevant departments for follow-up, or schedule report back at the next quarterly commission meeting (Action)

11.2.a Action:

Item 11.2 was tabled as part of the action taken under Item 11.1. No separate action was taken.

12. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 1.30pm