



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Minutes - Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Release & Reentry Subcommittee

Date: March 18, 2025
Time: 12:15pm – 1:45pm
Location: Monarch Services, 550 Water Street, Suite J3

1. Roll Call – 12:18 pm
 - 1.1. Present: Jesse Silva, Kristie Clemens, Polly Schulze Elser, Esmeralda Torres, Tara George, Emma Ledvina, Jody Biehl, Katie Anaya, Hannah Taylor, Sarah Kocjan, Susan Greene
 - 1.2. Excused: Stacey Palau, Sarah Fletcher, Savannah Hayes Desai
2. Agenda Review
3. Announcements
 - 3.1. New audiobooks at Blaine Street, thanks to librarian Jesse Silva. Half of the women there have listened to all of them and are appreciative and ready for more!
 - 3.2. Jail Update
 - 3.2. Jail population: 30 women in custody
 - 3.2. Main Jail: 18 women total; G Unit 12 women; H Unit 6 women; O Unit, 3 woman.
 - 3.2.1.1.1. Blaine Street: 9 women, 6 enrolled in WRRP. One woman at Blaine celebrating High School graduation today!
 - 3.2.1.1.2. 5 on release to program list. Days on list range from 1 to 24. Two are releasable to pretrial but need a verifiable address and one doesn't have one, the other is waiting for a medical transfer.

3.2.1.1.3. 3 WRRP participants at Gemma: 1 at UCSC, 1 in Rising Scholars, and other planning to enroll in Rising Scholars.

3.2.1.1.4. Polly worked with WRRP women to help coordinate women with out of county warrants to appear in court via zoom and get warrants recalled.

3.2.1.1.5. 8-week Culinary program at Blaine Street starting where women will be able to earn serve safe certificate. Funded through a COE AB109 grant.

3.2.1.1.6. Goodwill is leading an employment readiness class.

3.3 Visitation

2 contact visits have taken place at Blaine Street in February and March, same mother and child. No update on when visits will begin at Rountree or when visits might open up for other loved ones in addition to children under 18.

3.4 Safe Release: 11 assessments for safe release. Vouchered 8 women for a total of 12 bed nights.

4. Public Comment – No public comment

5. Approval of Minutes (Action)

Motion: Tara George

Second: Sarah Kocjan

Approved unanimously

6. Discussion:

6.1. Mother's Day – cards, stamps and contributions by April 18th. Polaroid photos may not be possible due to staffing issues. Ideas posed about a Mother's Day gathering at Blaine Street.

6.2. Trauma Informed Care: what it means in jail, an inherently traumatic environment; what it means to different service providers.

7. Adjournment – 1:45 pm

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