



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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

## Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

### Families, Youth, and Prevention – Special Meeting

**Date:** January 15, 2026  
**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Ow Community Room, Capitola Branch Library  
2005 Wharf Road, Capitola CA 95010

#### Introductory Items

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
  - 1.1. Called to Order: 11:00 AM
  - 1.2. Present: Celeste Gutierrez (Chair), Emma Ledvina, Lynne Petrovic, Rebecca Garcia, Sarah Kocjan, Sarah Marschall, Susan Nilsson
  - 1.3. Absent: Gloria Carroll
  - 1.4. Staff present: Tatiana Brennan, Gina De Martini-Kuhns
2. Public Comment

*Any person may address the Subcommittee for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. Subcommittee members will not take action on or discuss any topic not on today's agenda, but are permitted to ask staff to follow up and/or place the topic at a future meeting. Public comment will not exceed thirty (30) minutes. If there are additional persons still wishing to address the Subcommittee after this allotted period, public comment may be continued to the last item on the agenda.*

- 2.1: *Sarah Kocjan: Updates on record clearance*
- 2.2: *Rebecca Garcia: Loss of the sense of safety in the world, and how can we support each other.*

*2.3: Subcommittee members and staff discussed personal or professional challenges, as well as some connections, practices, and upcoming changes that bring hope.*

**Regular Agenda**

3. Consider and select objectives drafted by the ad-hoc workgroup to recommend to commission for consideration and incorporation into the workplan (Action)
  - 3.1. Additional direction: Adopt suggested changes to Objective 3, adjust related language in title, and the definition of success as tracked in the Workplan Objectives (attached).
  - 3.2. Motion: Emma Ledvina
  - 3.3. Second: Sarah Kocjan
  - 3.4. Motion passed unanimously
4. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned: 11:36 AM

*The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance to participate, please call 831-454-3400 (TTY/TDD: 711) at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.*

# **Families Youth and Prevention Subcommittee**

## ***DRAFT* Objectives for 2026**

### **Guiding principles underlying all objectives**

Our work is grounded in equity, dignity, harm reduction, and prevention, and is led by the voices and expertise of people with lived experience of incarceration and family separation. In partnership with county and justice-system collaborators, we commit to learning together, identifying and removing barriers to family connection, and advocating for systems that protect relationships, center on children, and support families to remain connected during incarceration and beyond.

We believe that strong, sustained relationships between children, parents, families, and trusted supports are essential to healing, and preventing the family's future system involvement.

### **Objectives**

#### **Objective 1: Identify and Reduce Barriers to Family Visitation**

By December 2026, in collaboration with women who are incarcerated and system partners (County Jail, FCS, law enforcement, and community providers), identify and document the **top** barriers to family visitation for incarcerated women, and advance at least three actionable **recommendations** to reduce those barriers, with a focus on equity, trauma reduction, and family-centered practices.

##### **Success looks like:**

- A shared, cross-system understanding of visitation barriers
- Clear recommendations that partners agree to explore or pilot
- Improved alignment between policy and lived experience

#### **Objective 2: Strengthen System Knowledge of Family Support Needs**

By December 2026, work with system partners to increase shared understanding of the supports families and incarcerated women need to maintain connection, including emotional, logistical, therapeutic, and financial supports, and integrate these insights into at least two policy changing discussions.

**Success looks like:**

- Increased cross-system awareness of family needs
- Family connection viewed as part of prevention and reentry
- Supports framed as investments, not exceptions

**Objective 3: Support Every Incarcerated Woman to have Least One Supportive, Trusted Relationship Natural Support**

~~By December 2026, collaborate with system partners to establish a process for identifying and strengthening at least one natural support (family member, trusted adult, or community connection) for incarcerated women, recognizing this connection as a key protective factor for children and families.~~

Or

By December 2026, collaborate with system partners to establish a process for identifying and strengthening at least one *supportive, trusted relationship* for incarcerated women, such as a family member or community connection, acknowledging the role of sustained support in protecting children and strengthening families.

**Success looks like:**

- ~~Family or natural supports intentionally identified and supported~~
- Having at least one supportive, trusted relationship
- Reduced isolation during incarceration
- Stronger continuity of relationships for children