



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Minutes - Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Release & Reentry Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, January 14th, 2025
Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Location: Monarch Services, 550 Water Street, Suite J3

1. Roll Call – 12:00 pm
 - 1.1. Present: Jesse Silva, Tara George, Kelly Joyce, Julianna DeNike, Kristie Clemens, Polly Schulzeelser, Donia Merkel, Stacey Palau, Jody Biehl, Susan Greene, Savannah Hayes
2. Agenda Review
3. Announcements
 - 3.1. Library event with local author Jeri Ross, February 6th Capitola Branch Library 7pm, to discuss her memoir and personal story as the daughter of a maximum-security federal prisoner.
 - 3.2. Safe Release: October through December 2024, 16 clients for a total of 19 nights.
 - 3.3. New Life / Gemma:
 - 3.3. New Life: 2-3 week waitlist to come into treatment. Experiencing an increase in women seeking to come into treatment; 9 women right now including a mom with an 18-month-old toddler.
 - 3.3. Gemma: currently 1 client, 1 intake next day and potentially 4 women to transition from Blaine Street to Gemma.
 - 3.4. Jail Update
 - 3.4. Jail population: 28 women in custody

3.4. Main Jail: G Unit, 10 women; H Unit, 6 women; O Unit, 2 women.

3.4.1.1.1. Women in H Unit restricted to cell.

3.4. Blaine Street: 10 women, 5 enrolled in WRRP.

3.4. 14 women in custody on bench warrants, some also with fresh charges. Will clarify numbers at next subcommittee meeting. 6 women on releasable to program list from 3-32 days (women waiting for 32 days has mental health priority and challenges finding appropriate placement).

3.4. Author Jeri Ross visited women in Blaine Street as part of their enrichment program. Read excerpts from her book and ended with well received breathing meditation.

3.4. JAG holiday contributions including \$10 on each womans books and holiday cards were distributed for the fourth year. Didn't get to do polaroid photos this time.

3.4. Visitation

3.4. In person contact visits reinstated September 2024 for 1 hour per month for children of women at Blaine Street. No visits to date.

3.4. Rountree in-person contact visits scheduled to begin January 18th, 2025.

3.4. Question regarding Family Visiting Days, and idea proposed for Mother's and Father's Days for 2025.

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 George

5.2. Second: Kristie Clemens

6. Discussion

6.1. Exploring reasons people don't engage or disengage from services

6.1. Update on CalAIM Justice Involved Initiative - to be implemented October 2026.

6.1. Discussion on MAT in-custody and process for prescription upon release.

6.1. Planning February 20th quarterly JAG commission meeting.

7. Adjournment – 1:30 pm

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