



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Minutes - Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Release & Reentry Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, December 10th, 2024
Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Location: Monarch Services, 550 Water Street, Suite J3

1. Roll Call – 12:00 pm
 - 1.1. Present: Alicia Gaytan, Polly Schulze-Elser, Donia Merkel, Julianna DeNike, Stacey Palau, Lupe Cisneros, Hannah Taylor, Jesse Silva, Susan Greene, Savannah Hayes
2. Agenda Review
3. Announcements
 - 3.1. Safe Release: October through November 2024, 9 clients for a total of 11 nights.
 - 3.2. New Life / Gemma:
 - 3.2. New Life is at capacity with a 2-3 week waiting list. 6 women in residential treatment. 2 children with a parent. Still pursuing South County to expand services.
 - 3.2. Gemma: 4 women in residence, another coming in later this month.
 - 3.3. Jail Update
 - 3.3. Jail population: 30 women in custody
 - 3.3. Main Jail: G Unit, 16 women, 5 enrolled in classes; H Unit, 6 women.
 - 3.3. Blaine Street: 8 women, 5 enrolled in WRRP
 - 3.3. 5 women in custody on bench warrants, 2 women on releasable to program list.
 - 3.3. Visitation

- 3.3. In person contact visits reinstated September 2024 for 1 hour per month for children of women at Blaine Street. No visits to date. One scheduled for January 2025.

3.4. Library

- 3.4. Partnering with Rising Scholars and Cabrillo College librarians to support students at juvenile hall who are taking online Cabrillo classes.

- 3.4. One woman in Blaine let us know she is dyslexic, and library is now piloting audio books for women in Blaine Street. Positive response so far!

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: Hannah Taylor, second Polly Schulze-Elser.

6. Discussion

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

- 6.1. The discussion focused on identifying barriers to service engagement and reasons for disengagement, such as trust issues, feeling overwhelmed, poor timing, and assumptions about individuals' capacities. Participants emphasized the need for transitional support, effective aftercare, and building strong rapport to bridge gaps and enhance service continuity

- 6.1. Discussed ideas for hosting February quarterly JAG Commission meeting focusing on this topic.

7. Adjournment – 1:31 pm

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