



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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## Minutes: Public Meeting and Agenda

### Families, Youth, and Prevention Subcommittee

**Date:** September 25, 2025  
**Time:** 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
**Location:** Ow Community Room, Capitola Branch Library  
2005 Wharf Road, Capitola CA, 95010

#### Introductory Items

1. Call to Order / Roll Call: Called to order at 11:07 AM
  - 1.1 Present: Lynne Petrovic, Rebecca Garcia, Celeste Gutierrez, Sarah Kocjan, Emma Ledvina, Gloria Carroll, Sarah Marschall, Nicole Coburn, and Tatiana Brennan
  - 1.2 Absent: Savannah Hayes Desai, Susan Nilsson
2. Check In (Informational only)

In your eyes, what is the purpose of this subcommittee? What would you like to see the subcommittee accomplish in the next year?

2.1 Subcommittee members reflected on the check-in questions and their responses are detailed in the table below.

Name	Purpose of Subcommittee	Subcommittee accomplishments in the next year
Lynne Petrovic	Bringing awareness of the impact and trauma of incarceration for women and their families  Facility visitation: families of women that are incarcerated  Children's Bill of Rights	Strengthening the connection between incarcerated women and their families  Decreasing the trauma of children's whose mothers are incarcerated
Rebecca Garcia	Focus on women with families, including not just their children but other family members as well	Problem solve the issues above

Name	Purpose of Subcommittee	Subcommittee accomplishments in the next year
Celeste Gutierrez	<p>Support families (in the broad sense) to have access to people that are in jail and support for those incarcerated people to be released</p> <p>Facilitating relationship between mothers and children and ensuring that a therapist is available, should that resource be desired</p> <p>Using a Harm Reduction approach and a preventative care approach</p>	<p>Increase contact visits from the current allowance (1 visit/month)</p> <p>Expanding the allowance of contact visits to include family and friends, not just children</p> <p>Increased focus on equity</p>
Sarah Kocjan	<p>Decrease isolation for incarcerated women</p> <p>Ensure that women have at least one supportive relationship with someone while they are incarcerated</p>	<p>Increase contact visits to weekly for incarcerated women (includes children and other family members)</p> <p>Work with Police Commissioner to implement goals</p>
Emma Ledvina	<p>Improve quality of life for families and incarcerated women</p> <p>Increase communication and reduce recidivism</p> <p>Expand visits and the length of visits and expand the definition of allowable visitors to include friends and family</p> <p>Remove systemic barriers to the visits and address law enforcement protocols for arrests when children are present and ensure that policy maintain fidelity to the protocols and continue to improve them over time</p>	
Gloria Carroll	<p>Focus on the children of incarcerated women and the rights of the mothers during contact visits</p> <p>Bill of Rights for Incarcerated Mothers: ensuring there is a process and support network available to</p>	<p>Establish an agreement with the County Jail and County Family Children's Services to provide confirmation/denial of incarceration of women engaged with FCS</p>

Name	Purpose of Subcommittee	Subcommittee accomplishments in the next year
	<p>incarcerated mothers</p> <p>Improving coordination between County Family and Children’s Services (FCS) and law enforcement<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Identifying the need for contact and connection and identifying strategies to address them</p> <p>Balancing competing interests of children and incarcerated mothers</p>	
Sarah Marschall	<p>Focus on coordination and support systems for families</p> <p>Reduce sentences and transition to a better system</p> <p>Prevention of cycles</p> <p>Supporting and encouraging visits whenever appropriate</p> <p>Listening to people impacted by incarceration</p> <p>Arrest process that centers children</p> <p>Internal systems coordinated in support of incarcerated women</p> <p>Addressing the financial system that creates barriers for incarcerated women</p>	

### 3. 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*

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<sup>1</sup> FCS has a state-mandated responsibility to report on outreach and reunification efforts and therapist engagement for women incarcerated for short periods of time, i.e. those in County jail

*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 Nicole Coburn, ACEO, shared that Gemma House will be reopening and there will be a ribbon cutting on Friday October 3 at 10.30am. Janus will be the new operator. Gemma House will provide an opportunity for women who have children to have a room.

### **Regular Agenda**

4. Adopt a rotating schedule for Subcommittee Chair, such as alphabetical by last name (Action Item)

4.1 Chair position will be annual and next election will be September 2026. Celeste G. was voted to be chair. Staff liaison may consult with Chair.

4.2 Additional Direction: Elect Celeste as Chair for one year

4.3 Motion: Rebecca Garcia

4.4 Second: Sarah Kocjan

4.5 Votes: Passed Unanimously

5. Approve minutes from June 5, 2025, Families, Youth, and Prevention Subcommittee Meeting (Action Item)

5.1 Minutes approved

5.2 Additional Direction: Change “Biological harm is being done..” to “Biological harm has been done..”

5.3 Motion: Move the minutes with additional direction (Rebecca Garcia)

5.4 Second: Sarah Kocjan

5.5 Votes: Passed unanimously

6. Review drafted proclamation to recognize Dr. Susan Greene and recommend revisions, additions, or corrections (Action Item)

#### 6.1 Discussion:

6.1.1 Plan was for subcommittees to review and return with feedback.

6.1.2 Suggestion that draft proclamation include an apology, with edits to remove “disrespected” and note misleading information instead. Rebecca provided draft language to insert.

6.1.2.1 Draft Language Provided by Rebecca Garcia: “Whereas: Dr. Green was a true leader and mentor to the JAG Commission and its Subcommittees members which resulted in great admiration for her and upon elimination of her contract she was disrespected with misleading information of her services consequently an apology is given”

6.1.3 Proclamation should affirm admiration for Dr. Green without reservations.

6.1.4 Discussion on whether the proclamation should come formally from JAG.

6.1.5 Suggestions to make the language strength-based, less formal, and more personal and leave whether an apology should be included to the Commission chairs.

6.2 Additional Direction: Include additional notes or make the proclamation more strength-based

6.3 Motion: Move the supported language with additional direction (Rebecca Garcia)

6.3 Second: Sarah Kocjan

6.4 Votes: Passed Unanimously

7. *Item Tabled. Next subcommittee meeting to address Item 7.* Review drafted biennial report and recommend updates for the general commission and specifically for the Families, Youth, & Prevention Subcommittee (Action Item)

7.1 Discussion:

1. Question raised about making goals specific to subcommittees.
2. Discussion on whether goals have been completed, including status of the item beginning with “request that the sheriff’s office research and consider...” and whether therapy is ongoing or needs more attention.
3. Agreement to meet and get updates on the status of each goal.
4. Clarification that the aim is to complete and approve current goals, then set goals for the next two-year reporting period.
5. Suggestion to move forward to item 9; decision to hold off on items 7 and 8 for now.
6. Workplan will be updated to reflect past goal status and provide direction on completed items and focus areas.

7.2 Motion:

7.3 Second:

7.4 Votes:

8. *Item Tabled. Next subcommittee meeting to address Item 8.* Discuss the 2026-27 Workplan, specify outcomes for ongoing work, and/or develop new goals to recommend be included in the workplan (Action Item)

8.1 Discussion:

8.2 Motion:

8.3 Second:

8.4 Votes:

9. Select a speaker topic for the November 20, 2025, commission meeting and appoint a subcommittee member to find the speaker and coordinate with staff (Action Item)

9.1 Discussion:

1. Chair to present the topic to the commission for understanding.
2. Confirmed that it is the subcommittee’s turn.
3. Discussion on natural supports and lack of system communication; suggested speakers included Emma, Sarah, and Gloria.
4. Contact visits identified as important, with suggestions for speakers or interactive activities to explore barriers and supports beyond law enforcement.
5. Agreement that multi-systemic issues exist and input from multiple departments and stakeholders is valuable.

6. Emphasis on contextualizing issues and identifying which to highlight.
7. Agreement that visits, natural supports, and “how well our systems support the coordination for the family” are central points.
8. Desire to connect women to both informal and formal support systems.

9.2 Additional Direction: Topic will focus on how to coordinate in support of family and systems support by having a speaker and conducting a factor analysis on “How well our

systems support family.” Sarah will speak for 5 minutes to contextualize. Celeste will schedule time to meet with Sarah Kocjan

9.3 Motion: Sarah Kocjan

9.4 Second: Lynne Petrovic

9.5 Votes: Passed Unanimously

10. Appoint a subcommittee member to report the results to the commission during Announcements at the November meeting (Action Item)

10.1 Motion: Celeste Gutierrez selected as the member to report the results to the commission (Sarah Kocjan)

Second: Rebecca Garcia

Votes: Passed Unanimously

Next Meeting: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11-12.30pm

11. Adjournment – 12:33 PM

*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.*