



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda - Minutes

Housing & Healthcare Subcommittee

Date: January 22, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Location: Janus of Santa Cruz
200 7th Avenue, Ste 150
Santa Cruz CA

Introductory Items

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
 - 1.1. Called to order: 12:09 PM
 - 1.2. Present: Brenda Campbell (Chair), Evyn Robles, Janna Rivas, Leeann Luna, Sarah Kocjan, Jen Herrera
 - 1.3. Absent: Sheryl Norteye
 - 1.4. Guest: Clara Mandlhate
 - 1.5. Staff present: Tatiana Brennan, Gina De Martini-Kuhns
2. Check In (Informational only)
 - 2.1. Subcommittee held a brief check in
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 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.

3.1. Sarah Kocjan: Update on record clearance

Regular Agenda

4. Approve the minutes from the October 23, 2025 meeting (Action Item)
 - 4.1. Motion: Eryn Robles
 - 4.2. Second: Leeann Luna
5. Staff Report on Subcommittee activities and Commission Calendar (Informational Only)
 - 5.1. Staff provided an update on other subcommittee activities. No action was taken.
6. Adopt a Meeting Calendar for calendar year 2026 (Action Item)
 - 6.1. Subcommittee adopted a Meeting Calendar for calendar year 2026, rotating library locations
 - 6.1.1. March 26, 2026
 - 6.1.2. May 26, 2026
 - 6.1.3. September 24, 2026
 - 6.1.4. November 5, 2026
 - 6.2. Motion: Sarah Kocjan
 - 6.3. Second: Jen Herrera
 - 6.4. Motion passed unanimously
7. Working session to discuss gender responsive guidance to meet women's needs at the point of entry to shelter and related services and possibly develop related objectives to recommend to the commission to consider and incorporate into the workplan (Action Item)
 - 7.1. Existing program: Safe Release – starting point? how to build, collaborate, expand?
 - 7.1.1. Safe Release is immediate and short term
 - 7.1.2. Provide motel vouchers and resources to get back into the community
 - 7.1.3. Can connect them to women's shelter
 - 7.2. What does anyone else see that is missing?
 - 7.2.1. Clara:
 - 7.2.1.1. Safe services are important

- 7.2.1.2. Creating a safe space to continue recovery for women
- 7.2.1.3. Adding more resources: Clean Slate is great, reduces felony to misdemeanor
- 7.2.2. Evyn
 - 7.2.2.1. Shelters are leaving, homeless services are decreasing
 - 7.2.2.2. Shelters will ask if women have a place to go, including do you have a car?
 - 7.2.2.3. Change in the landscape
 - 7.2.2.4. Every program/organization should have a housing component
- 7.2.3. Brenda
 - 7.2.3.1. Gaps are too big to focus on
 - 7.2.3.2. The services that focus on women are almost non-existent, especially focusing on trauma informed
 - 7.2.3.2.1. Triage: Justice involved women
- 7.2.4. Sarah
 - 7.2.4.1. Experience has shown that Monarch makes a difference
 - 7.2.4.2. Evyn: mediation or attorney services for women that have a place to go but there are relationship or legal issues preventing housing
- 7.2.5. Jen:
 - 7.2.5.1. Housing lens for every program
 - 7.2.5.2. Health Services Agency (HSA) makes referrals to Homeless Person's Health Project (HHP)
 - 7.2.5.3. Idea: Health needs for justice involved women:
 - 7.2.5.3.1. Homelessness, gender, justice involved: increased health risk
 - 7.2.5.4. CALAIM: continue to track for policy and funding implications
 - 7.2.5.5. Data to help inform an objective: Do we focus on geographic region or subpopulation?
- 7.2.6. Leeann:

7.2.6.1. From incarceration to Safe Release

7.2.6.2. There is a waiting period to meet Probation officer and find out what to do next. If Housing runs out with Monarch and they can't connect to probation, what are the options for the women?

7.2.6.2.1. Idea: does the Subcommittee invite Public Defender and Probation?

7.2.7. Janna:

7.2.7.1. Clean Slate Program: explore and get a presentation on this

7.2.7.2. Focus on time from release to safe housing, whatever that is

7.2.7.3. Come up with data to determine the goal for the right amount of time

7.2.7.4. More intentional partnerships: holistic, whole person care agreements

7.2.8. Gina:

7.2.8.1. Cross-pollinate subcommittees to improve cross-system collaboration

7.2.8.1.1. Upstream: Families Youth & Prevention

7.2.8.1.2. Downstream: Housing & Healthcare

7.2.8.1.3. Disperse Release & Reentry amongst FYP & HH

7.2.8.1.4. Currently: Release & Reentry is mostly County, FYP is mostly CBOs/at-large members, Housing & Healthcare is mixed

7.2.8.1.5. Janna/Brenda: Consider sensitivity to structure, sensitivity to who is at the table and how it might shape others' willingness to speak up

7.3. Issues:

7.3.1. Are there agreements on best practices for shelters re: medical vulnerabilities:

7.3.1.1. Best practices are agency specific, but intake is women's needs sensitive

7.3.1.2. People First runs the Armory: not as sensitive

7.3.1.3. Connectors: County Outreach Case Managers

7.3.1.4. No services for women existing incarceration to get into Housing

7.3.1.5. Is new LITE House (formerly Gemma House) women only?

7.3.1.5.1. Yes: [Santa Cruz | Women's transitional housing relaunched after surviving budget cuts – Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)

7.4. Ideas:

7.4.1.1. Every program/organization should have a housing component

7.4.1.1.1. Do Probation Officers also become Connectors?

7.4.1.2. Idea: Health needs for justice involved women: Homelessness, gender, justice involved experience increases health risks

7.4.1.3. Data to help inform an objective: Do we focus on geographic region or subpopulation?

7.4.1.4. Invite Probation & Public Defender to form objectives

7.4.1.5. Subcommittee considers bringing legal component into focus

7.5. Next meeting: distill ideas into workplan items

7.6. Vote on suggestions for workplan

8. Appoint a subcommittee member to report out at the February 12, 2026, Commission meeting (Action): *Tabled due to loss of quorum. Brenda will report out again as the previously appointed member, and someone new will be appointed at the next meeting.*
9. Adjournment: adjourned at 1:40 PM

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