



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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Minutes for Public Meeting and Agenda Release and Reentry Subcommittee

Date: March 3, 2026
Time: 12 PM to 1:30 PM
Location: Monarch Services, 550 Water Street, Suite J3
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Introductory Items

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 12.03pm. A quorum was declared.

Members Present:

Esmerelda Torres
Hannah Taylor
Jesse Silva
Kristie Clemens
Sarah Kocjan
Tara George

Members Absent:

Sarah Fletcher
Stacey Palau

Other Attendees:

Tatiana Brennan (staff)

2. Check-in (Informational)

2.1 Discussion:

Subcommittee members introduced themselves and reflected on Kailey Keller's presentation at the Commission on Justice and Gender on 2/12/2026. Discussion included the role of community supports in reducing recidivism, the importance of individuals being able to advocate for their needs within the justice system, and the value of connecting individuals to case management and supportive services. Members also reflected on the importance of centering lived experience and maintaining focus on the Commission's core mission.

2.2 Action:

No action was taken.

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. Public comment was opened and closed at **12.25pm**.

No public speakers.

Regular Agenda

4. Approve minutes from December 2, 2025, Release and Reentry Subcommittee Meeting (Action)

4.1. Motion: Hannah Taylor

4.2. Second: Sarah Kocjan

4.3. Vote:

Ayes – Esmerelda Torres, Hannah Taylor, Jesse Silva, Kristie Clemens, Sarah Kocjan and Tara George

Absent –Sarah Fletcher, Stacey Palau

4.4. Motion passed.

5. Staff Update on Subcommittee activities (Informational Only)

5.1 Families Youth & Prevention adopted objectives with metrics of success and shared at the February meeting.

5.2 Housing & Healthcare discussed system gaps and challenges related to housing and connection to services in the justice system. There was a focus such as recommending every agency within the criminal legal system have a housing lens.

5.3 The Biennial report will be updated per the 02/12 actions and submitted to the Board to be added to the April 14 meeting agenda.

6. Discuss previously considered objectives for the 2026-27 Workplan, including a survey across all sectors of the justice system and organizing subcommittees by sector and draft clear objectives with indicators of success (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

6.1 Discussion:

The Subcommittee discussed previously considered objectives for the 2026–27 Workplan, including the need to understand gaps in services for justice-involved women and identify where individuals encounter barriers when seeking support. Discussion included challenges related to mental health assessments for women in custody, continuity of care and support upon release, access to education and employment opportunities, and the need for improved data collection across justice system partners. Members emphasized the importance of incorporating input from justice-involved women and community partners in developing workplan objectives.

6.2 Identified Draft Objectives

Objective 1 – Mental Health Assessment and Support

In collaboration with system partners and justice-involved women, evaluate mental health assessments to identify service needs in custody and increase access to mental health treatment upon release.

Measurements:

1. Shared understanding of the problem in custody and post-release.
2. Measure is to understand CalAIM for mental health assessments and referrals, and to identify enhanced care management.
3. Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to improve processes and increase access to external supports.

Objective 2 – Education and Employment Access

Access for all justice-involved women to education and employment opportunities. Time: end of calendar year 2026.

Measurements:

1. Identify opportunities and ways to increase access for justice-involved women to education and employment.
2. Shared list of employers.
3. Identify if there are women-specific programs in the Clean Slate Program.

Objective 3 – Data Collection and System Analysis

Data collection objective: evaluate the data collection of justice system partners to identify trends, gaps, and needs. Identify data points to be collected.

Measurements:

1. Identify trends, gaps, and needs.
2. Report findings to the JAG Commission.
3. Report results to the Board of Supervisors.
4. Make recommendations to other justice system partners.

6.3 Action:

Motion to submit this work to the commission for consideration and adoption in the workplan.

Motion: Hannah Taylor

Second: Sarah Kocjan

Vote:

Ayes – Esmerelda Torres, Hannah Taylor, Jesse Silva, Kristie Clemens, Sarah Kocjan and Tara George

Absent –Sarah Fletcher, Stacey Palau

Motion passed.

7. Appoint subcommittee member to report out at the May 14, 2026, Commission Meeting (Action Item)

Motion to nominate Sarah Kocjan to report out at the May 14, 2026 Commission Meeting.

Motion: Sarah Kocjan

Second: Hannah Taylor

Vote:

Ayes – Esmerelda Torres, Hannah Taylor, Jesse Silva, Kristie Clemens, Sarah Kocjan and Tara George

Absent –Sarah Fletcher, Stacey Palau

Motion passed.

8. Announce Subcommittee Chair for the next meeting based on alphabetical rotation (Informational Only).

8.1 Sarah Kocjan will be the Subcommittee Chair for the next meeting.

8.2 Motion made to meet monthly, starting with the next meeting on April 21, 2026 from 12pm-1.30pm at the same location.

Motion: Hannah Taylor

Second: Sarah Kocjan

Vote:

Ayes – Esmerelda Torres, Hannah Taylor, Jesse Silva, Kristie Clemens, Sarah Kocjan and Tara George

Absent –Sarah Fletcher, Stacey Palau

Motion passed.

8.3 Motion made to eliminate the annotated agenda that staff prepares and to eliminate the pre-planning meeting that staff schedules and instead the agenda will be drafted by the outgoing and incoming Subcommittee chair to be emailed to staff for publication.

Motion: Tara George

Second: Hannah Taylor

Vote:

Ayes – Esmerelda Torres, Hannah Taylor, Jesse Silva, Kristie Clemens, Sarah Kocjan and Tara George

Absent –Sarah Fletcher, Stacey Palau

Motion passed.

9. Adjournment at 1.28pm.

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