



Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

701 Ocean St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-454-3400 (TTY/TDD: 711)
JAG@santacruzcounty.us

Notice of Meeting and Agenda – Minutes (DRAFT)

Families, Youth, and Prevention Subcommittee

Date: March 19, 2026
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

1.1. Lynne Petrovic called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM on behalf of Chair Celeste Gutierrez

1.2. **Present:** Celeste Gutierrez (arrived 11:15 AM), Emma Ledvina, Gloria Carroll, Lynne Petrovic, Rebecca Garcia, Sarah Kocjan, Sarah Marschall

1.3. **Absent:** Susan Nilsson

1.4. Staff present: Gina De Martini-Kuhns, Tatiana Brennan (arrived approximately noon)

2. Check In (Informational only)

Subcommittee members may share brief personal or professional check-ins. No discussion of agenda topics will occur during this item.

2.1: A check in was held.

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 Marschall announced that the Family Justice Center is on the verge of opening the pilot program at the end of the month due to funding constraints.

Regular Agenda

4. Approve minutes from the December 4, 2025, and January 15, 2026, Families, Youth, and Prevention Subcommittee Meetings - *Action Item*

4.1. *Motion: Sarah Kocjan*

4.2. *Second: Lynne Petrovic*

4.3. *Result: Motion passes unanimously*

5. Staff Report on Subcommittee activities and Commission Calendar - *Informational Only*

5.1. *Staff reported on meetings held in January and upcoming meetings in April and May; the Board will accept the Biennial Report on March 24; and update on Mother's Day ad-hoc workgroup including drafted guidelines for future workgroups.*

6. Identify tasks embedded in objectives, the corresponding deliverables and develop strategies to reach objectives for the Commission to formally adopt in May 2026, and update objective target date if needed – *Action Item*

6.1. *Staff introduced the item: With Chair Celeste Gutierrez's approval, staff created draft workplan materials to identify discrete tasks and concrete deliverables, establish who will carry out which work and in which capacity. Staff will recommend the Commission consider and implement a phased adoption of the workplan objectives since the subcommittees will be ready at different times during the remainder of the calendar year. The next Biennial Report due date has been moved to February 2028, so objective dates can be changed at the subcommittee's discretion.*

6.2. The subcommittee discussed breaking the objectives into concrete tasks, deliverables, and strategies to support phased adoption of the Commission workplan. Members acknowledged the importance of grounding the work in relationship-building and potential alignment with Annie E. Casey work related to equitable outcomes the Sheriff's staff have done. Discussion focused on developing messaging that recognizes current work while positioning the Commission's involvement as a collaborative next step.

Members discussed the importance of understanding how to communicate effectively with law enforcement and jail staff, including being intentional about which commissioners participate in outreach efforts. The subcommittee also discussed researching prior efforts that allowed Commission access to incarcerated women and identifying existing relationships or precedents that could support continued access.

6.3. For Objective 1, members identified several potential tasks, including:

- 6.3.1. Conducting research on barriers to visitation and family connection for incarcerated women
- 6.3.2. Reviewing research related to parental involvement and successful outcomes
- 6.3.3. Developing a messaging framework for meetings with jail staff and supervisor
- 6.3.4. Coordinating with jail staff to request access and meeting dates
- 6.3.5. Meeting with incarcerated women
- 6.3.6. Exploring alternative pathways for support if direct access is limited
- 6.3.7. Establishing ongoing access to incarcerated women
- 6.4. Members also discussed contacting UCSC and individuals involved in previous research efforts to explore support for continued work and historical context regarding Commission access to the jail.
- 6.5. For Objective 2, discussion focused on long-term structural access and the Commission's role in gathering information from incarcerated women. Members discussed exploring authority similar to ombudsman or oversight functions used by other advisory bodies, including the Mental Health Board and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. The subcommittee discussed developing recommendations or a report regarding ongoing jail access and mechanisms for incorporating input from incarcerated women into Commission work.
- 6.6. The subcommittee also amended adding annual jail access as part of the objective's success measures.
 - 6.6.1. *Motion: Emma Ledvina*
 - 6.6.2. *Second: Lynne Petrovic*
 - 6.6.3. *Result: Motion passed unanimously*
- 6.7. The subcommittee approved formation of ad hoc workgroups for Objectives 1 and 2. Lead members identified during discussion included:
 - 6.7.1. Objective 1: Sarah M., Emma, and Celeste
 - 6.7.2. Objective 2: Gloria, Sarah K., and Lynne
- 6.8. A motion to establish the work groups amend Objective 2 to include annual jail access was approved unanimously.
 - 6.8.1. *Motion: Emma Ledvina*
 - 6.8.2. *Second: Lynne Petrovic*
 - 6.8.3. *Result: Motion passed unanimously*

7. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM

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