



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 Public Meeting and Agenda - Draft Minutes Commission on Justice and Gender

Date: August 13, 2026
Time: 12 pm – 1:30 pm
Location: Greg Cabot Community Room
500 Westridge Drive
Watsonville, CA

Introductory Items

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call (Commissioners)

a.

Commissioner	Present/Absent
Shelby Mason	Present
Sasha Morgan	Present
Kristie Clemens	Present
Sarah Fletcher	Present
Tara George	Present
COE: Rishi Lal	Absent
Amy Peeler (HSA)	Absent
Sarah Kocjan	Present
Gloria Carroll	Present
Lynn Boule	Absent
LATINX REP - VACANT	N/A
Sheryl Norteye	Present (arrived after 12 pm)
Clara Mandlhate	Present
Jesse Silva	Present

Commissioner	Present/Absent
Hannah Taylor	Present
Lynne Petrovic	Present
Leeann Luna	Absent

b. Quorum was established.

2. Check in was held.

3. Public Comment -

Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission 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 Commission after this allotted period, public comment may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

Speakers:

Julie M. from Walnut Avenue announced that the Coastal Community Justice Center would have a full-time navigator and a Grand opening ribbon cutting on September 14th at noon. Additionally, that they will be having their annual fundraiser.

Stacy Palau with the New Life team announced open women's recovery residence on September 1. Erin added that it will be 7 beds, flyers are available. Participants will receive exit planning while they are still in treatment.

Monarch Services announced an annual fundraiser gala.

Regular Agenda

4. Approve Minutes from May 14, 2026, meeting (Action Item)

- a. *Motion: Lynne Petrovic*
- b. *Second: Sarah Kocjan*
- c. *Ayes:*
- d. *Nays: none*
- e. *Result: Motion passes unanimously*

5. Announcements by Commissioners and Subcommittees (or Commissioner Announcements or Reports) – (Informational only)

5.1. Number of women in custody:

Kristie Clemens from SC Sheriff reported:

Main Jail G Unit: 11

Main Jail C Unit: 8

Main Jail O Unit: 0

Blaine: 7

TOTAL: 26 of 291 Incarcerated Persons

5.2. Number of safe releases between May and August 2026

Esmerelda Torres from Monarch services announced the following;

May: 5 clients, 9 nights

June: 6 clients, 12 nights

July: 8 clients, 14 nights

Total of 18 clients, 35 nights

5.3. Subcommittee Updates

5.3.a. Release & Reentry Subcommittee Update

Jesse Silva reported on discussion of work plan and second chance employer list.

5.3.b. Housing & Healthcare and Families, Youth, & Prevention could not meet.

6. Appoint ad-hoc work group for JAG Holiday cards to begin coordinating holiday cards (Action)

a. *Attached materials: Recommended timelines*

6.1. *Additional direction:*

-Kristie Clemens described how it has worked in the past.

-Evyn Robles offered to get community member donations.

6.2. *Nominees/Volunteers:*

- Kristie Clemens

- Evyn Robles

Motion: Sarah Kocjan

Second: Tara George

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

7. Direct the Release & Reentry Subcommittee to select and prepare a lived experience speaker for the November, 2026, meeting (Discussion and Action)

a. *Additional Direction: move discussion to after #8 and #9. Becomes Item #10.*

b. *Motion: Lynne Petrovic*

c. *Second: Sarah Kocjan*

d. *Result: Motion passes unanimously*

8. Reflect on and discuss May meeting's lived experience presentation and Sheriff presentations, and take related actions (Discussion and possible action)

8.1. Commissioners & Public Discussed Lived Experience Questions

Lt. Socorro Luna asked if there was ever an avenue the speaker could have gotten resources and stated it was not clear if there was ever preventative services provided.

Kristie Clemens suggested an annual workgroup or focus group of women with lived experience to convene focus group across sector to work through key questions. More women with lived experiences should guide the commission continuously.

Lynne: We meet 4 times and make recommendations after each meeting. What is the goal? How do we make the speakers feel safe? Providing presentation structure? Within the context of subcommittee's work and expertise within what they are trying to accomplish? [Reflecting on the Sheriff remarks]: how can we make recommendations about policy without lived experience? Can we meet with Sheriff Clark and ask how we can accomplish our remit?

Lt. Luna suggested expanding the scope and asked if they can interview people on probation or pretrial?

Lynne Petrovic asked, should 50% of the people on commission have lived experience?

Kristie Clemens noted that there are more women on pretrial than in custody. Supports idea of 50% of commission having lived experiences.

Hannah Taylor: Can we do both in tandem?

Someone from Monarch noted it is difficult to keep in touch with women after they are released.

Lynne Petrovic mandate is the commission purpose/mission, which refers to women and girls involved in or impacted by the criminal legal system, not just incarcerated women

Susan Nilsson: Recidivism is unfortunate, but word will spread by mouth

Evyn Robles: We need a brand, have a flier or literature for the commission and invite people if they have a story, come tell us.

Ana Ontiveros from Monarch Services: include list of programs and community partners participating.

Susan Nilsson clarified, will the work group draft and publish or just draft? Confirmed just draft.

8.2. Additional Direction 1:

i. Establish ad Hoc work group to design flyer and report back.

a. Motion: Jesse Silva

b. Second: Lynne Petrovic

c. Ayes: Shelby Mason, Sasha Morgan, Amy Peeler, Gloria Carroll, Sheryl Norteye, Clara Mandlhate, Jesse Silva, Hannah Taylor, Lynne Petrovic, Kristie Clemens

d. Nays: Tara George

e. Abstentions: none

f. Result: Motion passes with 1 opposed.

8.3. Additional Direction 2:

- a. *Appoint Ana Ontiveros, Kristie Clemens, and Jesse Silva to the ad-hoc work group.*
- b. *Motion: Hannah Taylor*
- c. *Second: Sarah Kocjan*
- d. *Result: Motion passes unanimously*

9. Receive report on lived experience engagement and take related actions (Informational and potential action)

Commissioners and Public discussed how to develop guidelines for engaging with lived experience presenters:

Cassie Gazipura asked Didn't we already have a document/agreement and can we find it?

Emma thinks she has it.

Other concerns discussed: What are we doing with it? Does it fit into the rest of the meeting?

9.1. Additional Direction 1:

Establish Ad Hoc group:

- a. *Motion: Lynne Petrovic*
- b. *Second: Tara George*
- c. *Result: Motion passes unanimously*

9.2. Additional Direction 2:

- a. *Appoint Lynne Petrovic, Emma Ledvina, and Hannah Taylor to ad hoc workgroup*
- b. *Motion: Sarah Kocjan*
- c. *Second: Tara George*
- d. *Result: Motion passes unanimously.*

10. (Moved from #7) Direct the Release & Reentry Subcommittee to select and prepare a lived experience speaker for the November, 2026, meeting (Discussion and Action)

- a. *Additional direction: Wait until there is a protocol to ensure safety before postponing direction to November.*

Motion: Lynne Petrovic

Second: Sheryl Norteye

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

11. (Previously #10) Consider phased implementation of the 2026-27 Workplan and proposed objectives and take related actions

Commissioners and public discussed what was being adopted and considered amendments.

Lynne Petrovic made a motion, seconded by Tara George to adopt the workplan with revised end date of November 2027.

Commissioners had questions about what was being approved.

Gloria Carroll described the barrier between FCS and SCO to allow women to make the choice to have visits. Cited lack of coordination, FCS struggles to get info and coordination to incarcerated population. FCS has case workers who can bring kids. Important to let the women choose as is their right by state law.

Commissioners discussed further to clarify what it meant to adopt objectives:

Gatisa noted some objectives focus on incarceration.

Commissioner Sasha Morgan stated that as the law changes, people are not staying incarcerated as long and asked if the commission should adapt?

Tara George stated that the commission should trust the subcommittees to recommend appropriate goals

Cassie Gazipura from Monarch Services stated that the system has failed 26 women incarcerated, get their voices in the room.

- a. Motion: Lynne Petrovic*
- b. Second: Tara George*
- c. Ayes: Shelby Mason, Sasha Morgan, Tara George, Amy Peeler, Gloria Carroll, Sheryl Norteye, Clara Mandlhate, Jesse Silva, Hannah Taylor*
- d. Abstentions: Sarah Fletcher, Kristie Clemens*
- e. Result: Motion passes with 2 abstentions.*

11. Adjournment (time check - 1:30 PM)

<i>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.</i>
