



## Santa Cruz County Commission on Justice and Gender

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

### Public Meeting Minutes

#### Commission on Justice and Gender

**Date:** Thursday, May 8, 2025  
**Time:** 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
**Location:** Simpkins Family Swim Center  
979 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

1. Roll Call: called to order at 12:05 pm
  - 1.1. Present: Kristie Clemens, Tara George, Sasha Morgan, Sarah Fletcher, Suzanne Willis  
(for Hannah Taylor), Rebecca Garcia, Brenda Campbell, Leeann Luna, Lynne Petrovic,  
Evyn Robles, Jesse Silva, Shelby Mason, Sheryl Norteye, Sarah Kocjan
  - 1.2. Excused: Hannah Taylor, M'Randa Bounds, Gloria Carroll, Celeste Gutierrez
2. Agenda Review
  - 2.1. Changes to the agenda:
    - 2.1.1. Add action to advocate to Board to retain contract with Susan Greene  
  
Motion: Rebecca Garcia  
Second: Lynne Petrovic  
Passed unanimously
3. Announcements
  - 3.1. – Sarah Kocjan will be visiting the District 5 supervisor to support retaining the contract  
and stipends for commissioners.
  - 3.2. – Care not Cages is putting together information to support continuing the contract for  
the June 3 budget hearing

3.3. – Sven Stafford reported on the budget cuts to the County Executive Office:

3.3.1. \$700,000 needed to be cut in professional services and the County is facing real tradeoffs

3.3.2. Stipends for commissioners or speakers are not being cut

3.3.3. Community Correction Partnership awarded funds to Gemma House

3.4. – Janus taking over Gemma house, beds will remain for women

3.5. – 35 women in custody

3.5.1. 11 in Blaine, 14 in G Unit, 7 in H Unit, 3 in O Unit

3.5.2. New programs at Blaine: Culinary Programs and Master Gardners

3.5.3. New programs at the Main Jail: professional development, art therapy (currently available at Blaine)

3.6. 1 contact visit at Blaine

#### 4. Public Comment

*Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*

4.1. – Esmerelda reported on Safe Releases

4.1.1. March: 6 safe releases, 10 bed nights, 13 vouchers

4.1.2. April: 3 safe releases, 6 bed nights

#### 5. Approval of Minutes (Action)

Motion: Rebecca Garcia

Second: Sarah Fletcher

Passed: Unanimously

6. Election of Co-Chairs: Nominate and appoint Co-Chairs for a one-year term from May 2025 to April 2026. The current Co-Chairs were appointed in November 2024. Another election is necessary to realign their terms consistent with the bylaws and ensure future elections occur as scheduled.  
*Amended 08/21/2025 to clarify the names of the co-chairs are Leeann Luna and Jesse Silva.*

Motion: Rebecca Garcia

Second: Shelby Mason

Passed: Unanimously

7. Presentation on Psychological Effects of “Solitary Confinement” and Women’s Experiences

7.1. – Moira Davis presented on the psychological effects of Solitary Confinement

7.2. – Readers shared lived experiences: “What would you people who have not experienced incarceration or isolation to know?”

7.2.1. Sheryl Norteye read letter from woman who has experienced isolation

7.2.2. Other readers: Esmerelda, Sarah, Emma, and Savannah share written accounts of lived experience

7.2.3. Susan N. shared written account of lived experience from someone who had been incarcerated and in isolation in the Main Jail and out of state

7.3. Commission discussed recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on what was shared.

8. Adjournment:

8.1. Meeting Adjourned at: 1:33 pm

The next scheduled regular meeting is on August 21, 2025, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm.

*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.*