



# Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, October 21, 2021  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: Remote meeting  
PRESENT: Theresa Cariño (1<sup>st</sup> District), Maryanne Campbell (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Maria Boutell (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Vanessa Quiroz-Carter (Co-Chair, 4<sup>th</sup> District), Jenny Sarmiento (4<sup>th</sup> District), Sheila De Lany (5<sup>th</sup> District), Rachel Bickert (5<sup>th</sup> District)  
EXCUSED: Jillian Ritter (Co-Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> District), Jennifer Murray (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
ABSENT: Laurel Schonfield (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)  
GUESTS: 1 member of the public was present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:03 PM.

**Motion to Approve Meeting Agenda**

Motion/Second: Cariño/Bickert

**Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Review and Approve September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Sarmiento/Boutell

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Correspondence:

Commission reviewed Santa Cruz County position descriptions.

4. Public Comment: None

5. New Business/Action Items:

5.1. Girls, Inc. of the Central Coast (GICC) – Patricia Fernandez-Torres (*Executive Director*)  
Fernandez-Torres provided an overview of the programs and services that GICC provides to more than 800 girls in Santa Cruz County. They primarily offer programs facilitated by teens and conducted at school sites after school. Programs focus on higher education, career mentoring, High School preparation, health, relationships, communication, drug abuse prevention, leadership, science, math, sports and media. Virtual programs were provided during the pandemic. Former County Clerk, Gail Pellerin serves on the 2020-2021 Development Committee.

5.2. County Efforts to Address Homelessness – Dr. Robert Ratner (*County Director of Housing for Health*)

Ratner provided an overview of the County's Housing for Health Division efforts to prevent and end homelessness via results-oriented efforts from an equity and

inclusion framework. Primary causes of homelessness are a lack of affordable available housing, health challenges, absence of supportive connections and a loss of hope and purpose. The 2019 Point in Time (PIT) report indicated that there were 2,167 unhoused individuals in Santa Cruz County at that time, 78% of whom were unsheltered. The percentage of K-12 students identified as homeless (8.8%) is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate out of 58 California counties. Three-year framework includes building a strong collaborative coalition committed to change, targeted prevention, improved outreach and expanded pathways to homes. Goals include a 25% reduction in overall homelessness and a 50% reduction of “unsheltered” by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 600 shelter/transitional beds; 490 rapid re-housing slots; 600+ permanent supportive housing units; and improved program and coalition performance.

6. Reports of Officers and Ad Hoc Subcommittees

6.1. Co-Chairs Report: No Report

6.2. *Ad Hoc 2021 Trailblazers Awards Subcommittee Update*: No Report

6.3. *Ad Hoc Political Participation and Civic Engagement Subcommittee Update*

Quiroz-Carter reported that the October 7<sup>th</sup> Women in Leadership Forum was well attended. Event was recorded, and distributed materials will be shared.

6.4. *Ad Hoc Economic Justice Subcommittee Update*: No Report

6.5. *Public Awareness Subcommittee Update*:

Bickert reported that she has regained access to Instagram, and it now has 459 followers.

7. Staff Report

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Survey remains under review. The Equal Employment Opportunity and Cultural Competence Plan will be published pending more current data updates.

8. Announcements: None

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*