



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2026
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: County Government Building, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor Redwood Conference Room
PRESENT: Paige Gordon (1st District), Brenda Rogers (2nd District), Gail Michaelis-Ow (2nd District), Suzanne Doty (3rd District), Allison Albert (3rd District), Rita Sanchez (4th District), Ariel Young (5th District)
EXCUSED: Kate McGrath (5th District)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)
GUESTS: Stephanie Barron (YARR Co-Chair) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:06 PM.

2. Approve March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes as written

Motion/Second: Young/Gordon

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:

4.1. Your Allied Rapid Response (YARR) 101: Framed as a network of Women Supporting Women for and with Our Community Presentation.

Barron presented an overview of Your Allied Rapid Response (YARR), a grassroots, consensus-based network focused on protecting Santa Cruz immigrant communities. YARR provides education, rapid response coordination, and community support (distributing "Red Cards" to help individuals assert their constitutional rights, training educators and volunteers on appropriate responses to ICE interactions under current California law, dispelling misinformation, reducing fear, and building trust through ongoing trainings and community engagement. Key strategies include childcare safety plans, accompaniment to appointments, and verification to confirm enforcement activity before alerting the community. YARR relies on trained volunteers (mostly women) to serve as legal observers, documenting and de-escalating situations while maintaining lawful boundaries. Commissioners can attend community events, promote safety planning resources, and help to normalize preparedness tools across all communities.

4.2. Consider 2026 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

The Legislative Priorities Subcommittee selected legislative priorities from those identified by the *California Legislative Women's Caucus* and the *American Association of University Women (AAUW)*. Priorities included AB-65 (*The Pregnancy Leave for Educators Act*), AB-788 (*Rehabilitation and Safety for incarcerated Women*), AB-1570 (*Healthcare Coverage: Diagnostic Imaging*), AB-1755 (*Ending CalWORKS Work Hour Restrictions*), AB-1981 (*The True Cost of Child Care Act*), AB-1876 (*Equitable Care for All Act*), AB-2066 (*Pregnancy – Qualifying Life Event*), and SB-1237 (*Pay Equity Enforcement*).

Motion to approve 2026 Legislative Priorities Advocacy Letter.

Motion/Second: Michaelis-Ow/Albert

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3. Officer Elections

Motion to re-elect Gordon and elect Albert as Commission Co-Chairs.

Motion/Second: Young/ Michaelis-Ow

Motion passed unanimously.

4.4. Consider 2027 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve and adopt the 2027 Meeting Schedule.

Motion/Second: Gordon/Young

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

5.1. Ad Hoc 2026 Status of Women and Girls Report Subcommittee Update (Albert, Gordon)

Albert and Gordon continue their research. The State's data isn't disaggregated by gender, so it has not been useful. Staff will share additional data sources that may be helpful.

5.2. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report (Albert, Michaelis-Ow, Doty)

Subcommittee completed their work and has been dissolved.

5.3. Ad Hoc Resource Directory Subcommittee Report (Rogers, Gordon)

Subcommittee continues to collect resources, and Staff continues to update the Commission website with links to a variety of resources. Immigration resources will be added.

5.4. Ad Hoc EEO/CR Advocacy Subcommittee Report (Doty, Sanchez)

Subcommittee is reviewing the 2024-2027 EEO/CR report to provide feedback. Staff will schedule a meeting to check in. The CEO's CEDAW implementation report to the Board will be used to inform recommendations to departments.

6. Priority Reports

6.1. CEDAW Recommendation Implementation Status Report

Commission reviewed the CEO's report to the Board on County response to the CEDAW recommendations. While the Housing for Health response meets State/Federal standards only, Gordon noted that Sanctuary County standards should exceed State standards. Commission will continue to monitor implementation of their recommendations.

6.2. Social Media Outreach Report

Commission reviewed the social media outreach report. Engagement insights include: 677 followers on Instagram (+6), 644 followers on Facebook (+1), Facebook reach (299) and Instagram reach (307).

6.3. Immigration Enforcement Activity Report

Commission reviewed the first report and recommendations of the ad hoc Board *Subcommittee to Safeguard Health, inclusion, Essential Services, and Local Defense* (S.H.I.E.L.D) and SCCC Chapter 10.07 to Prohibit the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement.

7. Staff Report

Staff shared the final letter to the Zoning Administrator in support of the surfer stature honoring women surfers. Commission discussed community opposition to the project.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters

Doty shared an update on the DataShareSCC's April focus on the use of data to prevent sexual violence.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*