



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2772 (F) 831-454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccwc.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF AB 361 AND CAL. GOV. CODE 54953, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DIAL-IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE USING THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW:

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

United States: 1 (571) 317-3116

United States (Toll Free): 1 (866) 899-4679

Access Code: 751-415-677

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approve *October 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes*
3. Correspondence
4. Public Comment:
Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 5.1. Consider Advocating for Menstrual Equity
 - 5.2. Consider *Women in Leadership for Diverse Representation (WILDR)* Partnership
 - 5.3. Consider Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings
6. Reports of Officers and Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - 6.1. Co-Chairs Report
 - 6.2. 2021 Trailblazers Ad Hoc Subcommittee Update
 - 6.3. Political Participation and Civic Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee Update
 - 6.3.1. Political Participation SOWAG Report Update
 - 6.4. Public Awareness Subcommittee Update
7. Staff Report
8. Adjournment

The next scheduled regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM

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 require special assistance to participate, please call (831) 454-2772 (TTY/TDD: 711) at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

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

P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711

commissions@santacruzcounty.us

www.sccwc.org

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, October 21, 2021
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Remote meeting
PRESENT: Theresa Cariño (*1st District*), Maryanne Campbell (*3rd District*), Maria Boutell (*3rd District*), Vanessa Quiroz-Carter (*Co-Chair, 4th District*), Jenny Sarmiento (*4th District*), Sheila De Lany (*5th District*), Rachel Bickert (*5th District*)
EXCUSED: Jillian Ritter (*Co-Chair, 1st District*), Jennifer Murray (*2nd District*)
ABSENT: Laurel Schonfield (*2nd 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 6th 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 30th, 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 7th 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*

Santa Cruz schools to widely stock menstrual products in schools

Because of AB 367, more items will be free of cost in campus bathrooms

By Melissa Hartman, Santa Cruz Sentinel

(<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/10/25/santa-cruz-schools-to-widely-stock-menstrual-products-in-schools/>)

SANTA CRUZ — In 2022, Santa Cruz students won't have to worry about carrying around period products when they're menstruating.

This month, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 367, or the Menstrual Equity Act of 2021, guaranteeing that public schools serving academics from sixth through 12th grades and undergraduate students would be required to up their free offerings.

"California recognizes that access to menstrual products is a basic human right and is vital for ensuring the health, dignity and full participation of all Californians in public life," AB367, which Los Angeles Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia authored, says in its text.

Existing law mandates that establishments stock 50% of the school's restrooms with hygiene products, but AB 367 makes schools stock all women's and agender restrooms as well as one men's restroom with the same products at no cost to students.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is ready to serve its middle and high school students by complying with the bill in the coming school year.

"The Santa Cruz County Office of Education applauds Governor Newsom for signing AB 367, legislation requiring schools to offer free and convenient access to essential hygiene products. All Santa Cruz County school districts are aware of the new requirement and are working to implement it," the county's education spokesman, Nick Ibarra, said.

Because the state cannot legally mandate private universities to provide such services, only community colleges and the California State University are required to place menstrual products throughout their campuses. There is a strong recommendation, however, for institutions such as the University of California to follow suit.

"UC Santa Cruz is looking to voluntarily comply," said University Representative Scott Hernandez-Jason.

Tampons, pads and other menstrual products will be placed in men's, women's and nonbinary bathrooms to accommodate not just girls and women but also transgender men, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming people. Prioritizing them is important, the now-law mentions, because of inequities in accessing affordable hygiene kits.

This is in line with the actions of Cabrillo College administrators, who have already stocked one restroom at the Aptos campus with menstrual products and infant care items such as diapers.

“In addition, we have what we call resource spots or cubbies on both campuses that contain supplies for students. These include packaged food, school supplies, personal hygiene products like bath soap and toothbrushes but it also contains menstrual products,” said Terrence Willett, Cabrillo dean of Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

Generally, decision-makers have been working with students to rethink their facilities and make them more meaningful for individuals from all walks of life.

“We are being equity-minded in both the way that we teach and the way that we provide support services,” Willett said. “We are making sure that all members of the community see themselves represented, whether it be in our curriculum or our employees who we hire or our events we put on and it's part of the zeitgeist, right now, of policy and practice.”

Women in Leadership for Diverse Representation (WILDR) facilitated a successful forum on 10/7/2021, with more than 75 women engaged in networking, learning, and sharing their interests to support more diverse women leaders in Santa Cruz County.

WILDR organizers are ready to build on the momentum created by the forum. We are looking towards organizing other virtual and in person opportunities for:

- further networking and community building
- learning about how to run a campaign and be appointed to a commission
- developing leadership skills, and
- addressing barriers diverse women face in becoming leaders.

WILDR is seeking nonpartisan partners in Santa Cruz County who will collaborate in producing, funding, and publicizing forums and other meetings in 2022. We envision a coordinated effort with shared leadership to provide networking forums targeted to different geographies, an in person learning and networking session for diverse women planning election campaigns, etc. With our partners we will ensure that women receive information through a variety of media and the channels with which they are familiar. WILDR organizers are open to tailoring our partnerships to build on the capacity of each partner, recognizing that we are stronger together and will reach more women by working collaboratively.



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2772 (F) 831-454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccwc.org

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION'S
FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS AS
A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HEALTH
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING**

WHEREAS, The Santa Cruz County Women's Commission is a legislative body under the Brown Act as defined under Cal. Gov. Code section 54952(b) and Santa Cruz County Code Section 2.38.110; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"), urgency legislation effective immediately, that amended Government Code section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue to meet under modified teleconferencing rules provided that they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(1)(A), a legislative body may meet under the modified teleconferencing rules during a proclaimed state of emergency, and where local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel strongly recommended that legislative bodies in Santa Cruz County continue to engage in physical/social distancing by meeting via teleconference as allowed by AB 361 and confirmed that she will regularly review and reconsider this recommendation and notify the public when it is no longer recommended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(3), within 30 days of the date the legislative body first holding a teleconferenced meeting under the modified rules, and every 30 days thereafter, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings provided it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined either that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person or that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2021, The Santa Cruz County Women's Commission held a teleconference meeting under AB 361; and

WHEREAS, this Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the current state of emergency and finds that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of members of the public to participate safely in person and further finds that the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, and due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission deems it necessary to utilize the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission makes the following findings by a majority vote:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct, and adopted as findings of the Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission.

Section 2. Effective immediately, and for the next 30 days, the Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission will meet via teleconference as authorized under AB 361 and Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

Section 3. No later than thirty (30) days from making today’s findings, or at the next scheduled meeting, the Commission will reconsider the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and, if necessary, adopt subsequent findings to continue holding teleconference meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission in Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of November, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Jillian Ritter
Co-Chair, Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter
Co-Chair, Santa Cruz County Women’s Commission

ATTEST: _____
Department Staff

Approved as to Form:

Office of the County Counsel



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2772 (F) (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccwc.org

Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Women's Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
LOCATION: **Santa Cruz County Government Building (unless held remotely)****
5th Floor Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

****Unless noted otherwise below**

Locations may vary for outreach, town hall meetings, special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations. Changes to the schedule will be listed on the website at www.sccwc.org as soon as information becomes available.

2022 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 20, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
February 17, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
March 17, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
April 21, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
May 19, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
June 16, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
August 18, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
September 15, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
October 20, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined
November 17, 2022	6:00 – 7:30 PM	To Be Determined