



The Santa Clara County Gender Responsive Task Force: Collaborative Problem Solving for Justice-Involved Latina Girls

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Workshop Objectives

Discuss challenges, strategies, and outcomes related to our collective work:

- Getting Buy-in
- Changing the Lens
- Small Wins and Big Plans
- Lessons Learned
- Increase awareness

The degree of civilization in a society can be judged
by entering its prisons.
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky

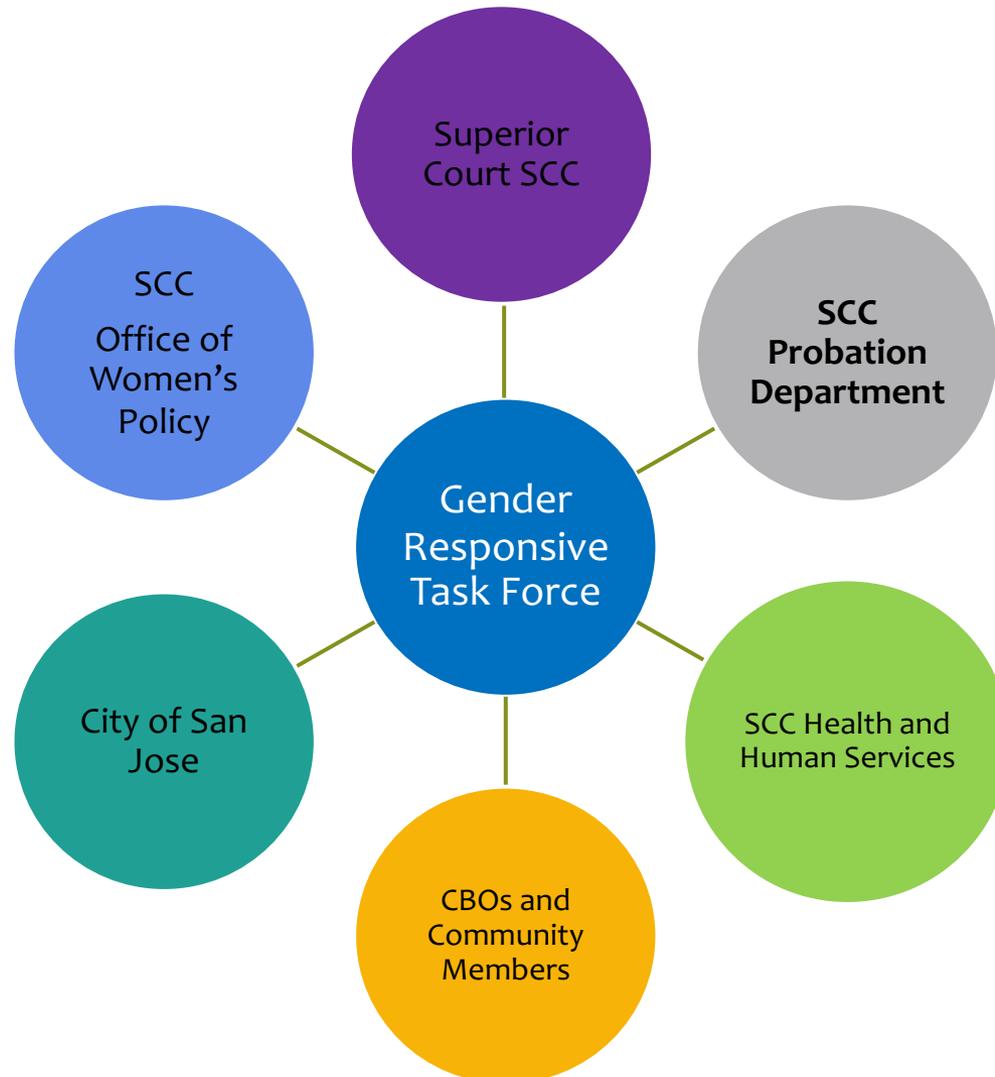
*"The measure of
any society is how
it treats its women
and girls."*

First Lady Michelle Obama
October 13, 2016

Getting Buy In: Gender Responsive Task Force (GRTF)

The GRTF was established in 2015 to create a comprehensive case plan and treatment model for moderate and high risk girls on probation in Santa Clara County that decreases their risk of recidivism and victimization, while also increasing their quality of life outcomes.

GRTF Partner Agencies



A New Lens



“Here is what we seek: A compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgement at how they carry it.”

*-Gregory J. Bowle,
Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*

Small Wins and Big Plans: GRTF Accomplishments to Date

- Government and community stakeholders meet on a monthly basis with the vision of transforming service delivery to young women on probation in the jurisdiction.
- The GRTF developed a vision, mission and work plan to implement a full scope continuum of care for young women and girls in the juvenile justice system.
- Each girl coming into Juvenile Hall automatically receives a therapist.
- A comprehensive case file review was conducted by the Court in the Summer of 2016 to create a data profile of girls in custody.

Small Wins and Big Plans: GRTF Accomplishments to Date

- Juvenile Hall established a specific position to develop and manage case plans for girls in custody.
- Focus groups with girls in custody to determine what types of programming and services they want to receive.
- A full time Judicial intern conducted a comprehensive study of national gender responsive programming and services to assist with future program development and implementation.
- Seeking Safety trauma support groups will begin in JH in January of 2017.

Small Wins and Big Plans: GRTF Accomplishments to Date

- Program coordination for girls detained in both Juvenile Hall and the James Ranch during school breaks.
- Self-sufficiency and mentoring program for girls at the James Ranch.
- Gender-responsive and culturally appropriate “book club” for girls detained in both Juvenile Hall and the James Ranch.
- Development of data-driven intake, case review, and case plan strategy for detained young women.
- Santa Clara County hosted its first Summit on Justice-Involved Women and Girls in October of 2015.
- Santa Clara County was selected as a site for the next National Justice-Involved Women and Girls Conference (December 2017).

Office of Women's Policy Report

- **Domestic violence is virtually universal** among the population (85% of respondents) and for many women the pattern of victimization began with childhood physical and sexual abuse (76% and 46% respectively)
- There are high rates of **complex trauma** and high rates of serious mental health issues in the population
- Despite AB109 the profile of the female offender remains that of a **low-level, non-violent offender**

Women's Jail Monitoring Program

Since 2013 the Office of Women's Policy, Commission on the Status of Women and the Office of the Sheriff/Custody Bureau have partnered to have a Women's Jail Monitoring Program

"What would I tell the women at Elmwood about being out? Get Ready. It's harder than I thought it'd be. It's just really, really hard."

– Post Custody Focus Group Participant, 2014

"I miss my kids. I just really miss them."

– Inmate to Monitor, 2014

"Thank you for visiting us. I can't believe you're here. I sometimes feel completely forgotten."

– Inmate to CSW Monitor, 2015

Increase Awareness: National Conference on Justice-Involved Women and Girls (December 2017)

- Association of Justice-Involved Females & Organizations (AJFO) 17th Bi-Annual Conference
- December 11 – 13, 2017; Santa Clara Marriott
- Only National Conference on Justice-Involved Women AND Girls; First time in California
- Call for workshop proposals starting January 2017
- 9 keynotes and plenaries, over 80 workshops, film festival, art exhibits, book-signings and more over 3 days setting the national dialogue for the next 2 years on major issues for justice-involved women & girls
- For more information: OWP@ceo.sccgov.org

Resources

- <http://OWP.sccgov.org>
- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/owp/Documents/csw/SWJailReport2015.Final.pdf>
- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/owp/Documents/pub/Breaking-Cycles-Rebuilding-Lives-May2008.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRCKE6y8pcY>
- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/owp/Pages/CSW-JailMonitoring-Program.aspx>

Q & A

***“When Women Come
Together with a Collective
Intention, Magic Happens”***

– Phylicia Rashad