

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 4, 2025

1:00 PM

1025 Escobar St., Martinez | www.zoom.us | Call-In: 1-669-444-9171 / Meeting ID:
838 8249 1530

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Attachments: [COH Agenda w Time 9.4.25](#)
 [COH Slides 9.4.25](#)

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

- Present** Alejandra Chamberlain, Sherina Criswell, Hope Dixon, Wayne Earl, Maria E Fairbanks, Susan Leslie Gleason, Danielle Jimenez, Gabriel Lemus, LeAnn Matthews, Courtney Pal, Shawn Ray, Bessie Marie Scott, and Heather Worobey
- Absent** Verneda Clapp, Carolyn Foudy, Nicole Green, Juno Hedrick, and Yahel Moreno
- Non-voting** Tony Ucciferri

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

3.

Attachments: [COH Minutes 8.7.25](#)
 [COH Staff Report 9.4.25](#)
 [Council on Homelessness Q2-2025 Report](#)

A motion was made by E Fairbanks, seconded by Jimenez, that this item be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion: E Fairbanks
Second: Jimenez

4.

Attachments: [CoH Supplemental Questions 2025 With Track Changes](#)
 [Nominating Scoring Rubric as of 8.18.25](#)

To review and approve revisions to the Council on Homelessness member application materials as recommended by the Nominating Committee AND approve the COH members listed above for the Nominating Panel.

Motion: Criswell
Second: Matthews

5. Funding Committee: CoC NOFO Work Group

Mark provided an update on the Funding Committee COC NOFO Work Group, which is tasked with improving the COC-NOFO competition process in preparation of a possible 2025 CoC NOFO competition. The group has convened to discuss possible revisions to the renewal project scoring tool and a policy which prioritizes high-performing renewal projects over new projects. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 16th and 30th to further discuss these topics.

6. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

The Youth Advisory Board provided an overview of YAB's August activities, including bi-monthly meetings, Welcome Week events at colleges - where a total of 15 young people with lived experience of homelessness were interested and wanted to connect - and participation in an RFP panel for transitional housing. YAB is also working on ongoing strategic planning efforts and its involvement in planning the Homeless Awareness Month. Additionally, the Data and Research Subcommittee kicked off in early September and is preparing for the Youth Point-in-Time count. YAB continues to seek new members for 2026. Caroline also noted that HUD is expected to re-release the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program NOFO soon. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB may send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org <<mailto:ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org>>.

7. Old Business: Sector Report Outs from Council Members

- Mia Fairbanks shared that the Health Care for the Homeless Governing Board is recruiting for the Community Advisory Board where the purpose is to expand services to clients on the streets as part of the medical outreach. Meetings are once a month on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. -12 30 p.m. In addition, the same Governing Board is recruiting people with lived experience who have received care from the program and is visiting some shelters to share the position with clients. Rides to the meetings and lunch will be provided to the participants.
- Hope Dixon expressed her disappointment for the pausing of California Assembly Bill 90 (AB-90), which is a legislation for safe overnight parking for California community college students. The bill is no longer moving forward this year due to its significant cost. Hope shared that the bill might come back year after year, making relevant to colleges and legislation that this program needs to be funded. As a way to think about solutions, Hope will be presenting at two conferences soon and may be reaching out to some partners to discuss collaboration and support in co-presenting some of the great work that has been happening and as part of a lot of interest at the community college level.
- Jaime Jenett stated that the Early Implementation of Basic Needs Centers report, which is a college case-study, has been released and it contains a lot of great information as well as partners we already worked with.
- The Stand Down on the Delta event will have the homeless outreach team and HUD-VASH team participating on-site to screen veterans for the programs. Veterans will receive services such as medical, dental, housing, job placement, etc. The event will take place from September 12 - 15th at the Fairgrounds in Antioch, CA.

8. Old Business: Funding Updates

The Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) application for Round 6 was submitted on August 29. The HHAP Round 7 is intended for appropriation in FY26-27 for a budget of 50% of round 6 allocation. A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Services program will be released next month. Moreover, there has not been any update on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill that increases for the Continuum of Care program. Congress has until October 1 to pass a reconciled version or enact a continuing resolution, which would maintain current funding levels. Lastly, Shelby invited Contra Costa County's residents to fill out the Community Impact Fund (previously known as ARPA funding) survey to find out about community needs and preferences around funding priorities. Jill Ray added that the ARPA dollars were intended for COVID relief, and the Board of Supervisors have allocated \$1 million per district - there are five districts total - with each supervisor holding a community forums in their communities. To receive news about funding opportunities, please sign up on the [Contra Costa County Healths website](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001zpQMaVU8vAygGSKiQQAmHz_QvSMID0ShGg_UfEGz8Fw2oyhhOhpPQh4Scmvsv9L6-3wLwduaoMFPbiiNUnbiEe0LOSN5tVfBx16Z8EGIJAI%3D) <https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001zpQMaVU8vAygGSKiQQAmHz_QvSMID0ShGg_UfEGz8Fw2oyhhOhpPQh4Scmvsv9L6-3wLwduaoMFPbiiNUnbiEe0LOSN5tVfBx16Z8EGIJAI%3D>.

9.

Attachments: [SPIRIT Application 2026](#)

Presenter: Victoria Fairchild and Bianca Berrios, *Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services, Office for Consumer Empowerment*

Bianca Berrios, a 2023 SPIRIT graduate and co-instructor, shared her personal journey from addiction to recovery and her transformation through the SPIRIT program, which helped her regain confidence and pursue higher education. Victoria Fairchild, a 2016 SPIRIT graduate, also shared her path from being homeless to becoming a co-instructor, highlighting the program's role in her recovery and career development. The SPIRIT program, a 9-unit college course at Contra Costa College, provides training in behavioral health for individuals with lived experience ages 18 and above. The course aims to build skills in peer support, career development, and personal wellness, with a focus on recovery and resilience. Participants receive an educational allowance, internships, and ongoing support from the vocational team. The application process is rigorous, with six staff members reviewing each application to ensure authenticity and readiness for the program. The course emphasizes self-awareness, empowerment, and career opportunities within Contra Costa County's behavioral health system. To learn more about the SPIRIT program and how to apply, please visit the [Contra Costa County Healths website](https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32225/638898969991630000) <<https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32225/638898969991630000>>.

10. Announcements

- Wayne Earl announced plans for a Homelessness Memorial event, with the next planning meeting scheduled for September 10th. Anyone interested in being part of the planning process can fill out the Zoom's [registration form](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8441111111) [<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WMbqxBEoQQabBHi1S4TPmQ>](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WMbqxBEoQQabBHi1S4TPmQ). The official announcement can be found at the 'Contra Costa CoCs website [<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Council-on-Homelessness-Accepting-Applications.html?soid=1109615552347&aid=NCIHfD9BM-4>](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Council-on-Homelessness-Accepting-Applications.html?soid=1109615552347&aid=NCIHfD9BM-4).
- Bessie Scott highlighted the success of the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) program and thanked Contra Costa County' staff for their collaboration. The ERF program has helped 33 people, including 19 dogs where all rooms have their own dog crate. Hope Solutions is on the site and is assisting clients with housing, document readiness, jobs, etc.
- Ricka Davis-Sheard, Executive Director of Share Community, shared that the program has moved its mobile shower location at the Veterans Memorial Building in 403 6th Street and encouraged attendees to spread the word about the new site.
- Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla shared that the Head Start and Early Head start program are currently recruiting children 0-5 throughout the county. Parents with children who are interested in applying may do so by filling out a [form](https://www.csbconnect.org/request-info) [<https://www.csbconnect.org/request-info>](https://www.csbconnect.org/request-info) on the CSB Connect's website.
- The Homelessness 101 has sessions at the Antioch Library on September 13th and one in Walnut Creek, thanks to the partnership with the county library system.
- HUD-VASH is hiring of two social workers in Martinez.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 2nd at the McMorrow Training Room, 2120 Diamond Blvd, Concord

Adjourn

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For Additional Information Contact: contracostacoc@cchealth.org