



## Meeting Minutes - Final

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

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Thursday, May 1, 2025

1:00 PM

Location: In person: 1025 Escobar St.,

Martinez Virtual:

<https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclf-uspzovGdR7op72t5-X4nsGdqdpvL-X#/registration>

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**Attachments:**

[COH Agenda 5.1.25](#)

[COH Slides 5.1.25 updated 4.29.25](#)

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

**Staff Attendance:** Jaime Jenett, H3; Jamie Schecter, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase; Tania Morales, Homebase

**Community Member Attendance:**

- In-person: Jaclyn Tummings, DCD; Melanie Erickson, DCD; Caoline Miller, H3; Darius Aikens, Pittsburg Police department; Dillon Baler, Upward health; Jasmine Lologo, Upward Health; Nance Rowemanns, Upward Health; Leon Salee, YAB
- Remote: Athena, Bay Area Community Services; Angela Mullen, Brentwood Unified School District; Christine Wetzal, Caminar; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Gerry, Community member; Jessika Erin, Community member; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County District 3; Kirsten Hougen, CCC EHSD CSB; Janna Evans, CCCOE; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Gina O., Contra Costa Crisis Center; Lisa Malul, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Elissa Kim, H3; Jorge Flores, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Emily Bero, Hope Solutions; Khayla DiGiorgio, Hope Solutions; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Hang Mosier, SAHA Homes; Christi Rossi, SHELTER Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER Inc.; Barb Hunt, St. Vincent de Paul of CCC; Jai De Lotto, VA CES; Anastasia Lockwood, YAB

**This was read into the record.**

**Present**

Alejandra Chamberlain, Verneda Clapp, Sherina Criswell, Hope Dixon, Wayne Earl, Maria E Fairbanks, Carolyn Foudy, Susan Leslie Gleason, Nicole Green, Juno Hedrick, Danielle Jimenez, Gabriel Lemus, LeAnn Matthews, Yahel Moreno, Courtney Pal, Shawn Ray, and Tony Ucciferri

**Absent**

Heather Worobey

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

Leslie Gleason, COH member, announced that Trinity Center has launched a search for a new executive director. Anyone who is interested in applying should visit [Trinity Center's website](#).

Angela Mullen, the foster and homeless youth liaison for Brentwood Unified School District and also a member of the McKinney-Vento Education Council, discussed the significant challenges faced by homeless families and youth in East Contra Costa County. During the 2023-24 school year, 1,300 students were identified as homeless students, with the majority living in doubled up situations or in vehicles. Due to the lack of family shelters, many families are told to go out of the County to find resources. Housing instability leads to chronic absenteeism, emotional distress, and causes a decline in their academic performance. Angela emphasized the urgent need of expanding shelter options and increase housing resources for vulnerable students and families in East Contra Costa County.

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3, shared the news that Valerie Slovin, a H3 staff member, has officially retired and thanked her for her dedication and continuous work of over 10 years helping people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Other members joined Mary to thank Valerie for her devotion.

3.

**Attachments:**                    [COH Minutes 4.3.25 draft](#)  
   [COH Staff Report 5.1.25](#)

**A. APPROVE minutes from the April 3, 2025 Council meeting and B. APPROVE staff report for the May 1, 2025 Council meeting**

**Motion:**                                **Earl**

**Second:**                                **Ucciferri**

4. Committee Report Out: a. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) provided a report on their activities in April and plans for May. In terms of next steps, they plan to continue their partnership with Rainbow, meet with the Contra Costa Health, Community, Education, and Information team to improve their social media presence, participate in the Housing Needs Assessment Committee, and improve collaboration with the Oversight Committee. They await the HUD's Youth Homeless Demonstration HDP FY 2024 NOFO award results. The members expressed their excitement and pride in the work they are doing, emphasizing the importance of advocacy and public speaking.

5. Committee Report Out: Nominating Committee (5 min)

Jaime Jenett discussed the need to seek a new representative for the City Government Representative seat, as the previous representative, Jazmin Ridley, stepped down and resigned from the seat. The committee now is seeking volunteers for a Nominating Panel to review applications and recommend a new candidate for the open seat. The following COH members agreed to join: Leanne Matthews, Juno Hedrick, Dani Jimenez, and Hope Dixon.

## 6. Old Business: Funding Updates

The Board of Supervisors approved the recommendations for the Housing and Homeless Services per the RFP on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with nearly \$6.6 million in federal, state and local funds. All contracts will become effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 or later. For the 2024 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity federal funding update, CoC grantees have begun receiving grant agreements. Due to significant changes on the agreement language to enforce compliance with executive orders, such as prohibition to promote gender ideology and denying of services per immigration status, The National Alliance to End Homelessness recommends seeking legal counsel to review the grant documents. Per the language changes about immigration status for CoC assisted households, some agencies are questioning whether they need to go back and request proof of immigration status to people receiving services or whether that applies to new people who will receive services, as many agencies that provide services do not request proof. Jamie answered that nonprofits have had a different standard under local and state government in terms of verifying immigration details and that they utilize HMIS data to make sure eligibility is in place but clarified that the HMIS does not track citizenship status. H3 recommends continuing working with legal counsel and being informed about the process. There are also concerns about HUD's Housing First language changes, with H3 acknowledging the importance of keep enforcing this program model at the state and local level. Additionally, H3 also highlighted the new funding from Assembly Bill (AB) 109, a public safety realignment funding that all counties get from the state for housing programs. For the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 6 update, there will be three stakeholder engagement meetings to obtain input on the community's needs and help create a budget for the HHAP 6 application to the State-the application is due at the end of August. Lastly, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the entity that coordinates across the entire Federal government on homelessness, published the Federal Strategic plan and has reduced to a minimum presence and function required by law based on an executive order on March 14, 2025. Anyone interested in receiving email notifications from Contra Costa County's CoC Funding Opportunities page can sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

## 7. Old Business: (ACTION ITEM) Discuss And Approve 2025 Quarter 1 Council On Homelessness Recommendations For Report To County Board Of Supervisors

Jaime Jenett discussed the 2025 quarter 01 recommendations for reports to the County Board of Supervisors. The Council would like to promote more of the Homelessness 101, a community forum on homelessness where members of the public can come and learn real basic information about homelessness. The next one will be scheduled in Pittsburgh. Other recommendations to send to the Board of Supervisors are to include youth's work, address the need for a cheat sheet of what the different committees are doing, and the current challenges of funding due to federal cuts and the need to raise awareness of these challenges.

**To approve the 2025 Quarter 1 Council on Homelessness Recommendations for the report to the County Board of Supervisors.**

**Motion: Jimenez**

**Second: E Fairbanks**

## 8. Old Business: Conference Reports

Jamie Schecter shared the recent presentation that H3 did at the Corporation for Supportive Housing Annual Conference in Chicago, in collaboration with Alameda County, where they shared the training sessions and resources that Contra Costa County uses to support providers in their community. H3, in partnership with Hope Solutions, also had a strong representation at the Housing California conference, where they presented on their El Portal Place project and discussed the use of AB 109 funding. The team expressed excitement about their innovative projects and the recognition they have received from attendees for their work.

## 9. New Business: Update: System Performance Measures (10 min)

Kimberly Thai went over the HUD System Performance Measures (SPM), which were established in 2015. The SPM is an annual report used at the federal level to determine funding for the CoC at a local level, identify trends, understand impacts for program or policy changes, and guide decision-making. The SPM is guided by seven key measures with Measure 6 focusing on prevention outcomes and is only applicable to high-performing communities. The meeting also covered how to use the findings to understand changes over time, set goals for the CoC, and the importance of considering changes in funding sources and priorities. The conversation ended with a discussion on the data presented, including the number of returns to homelessness, the number of homeless persons, employment and income growth, and exit destination data.

## 10. New Business: Sector Report Outs from Council Members

H3 reminded COH members to use this space to share any updates. A question was raised to find out if they were part of any other council, board, or advisory group that speaks to the work around homelessness. A council member answered [1:26:09] that she belongs to the Alameda County CoC Outreach Access and Coordination Committee so it could be an opportunity to share what they are doing and how it relates to this work. Alejandra Chamberlain, COH member, mentioned that there is a group that will be formed soon to discuss AB 2083, which involves probation, child welfare, behavioral health as well as The County Office of Education and Regional Center. Mia Fairbanks is also on the Healthcare for the Homeless Board and they will be undergoing a site visit and evaluation by their funder. Mia will have some flyers with more information about who can access those services at the next meeting. Hope Dixon shared that she could bring in information about the Reimagine Richmond project where they work on reimagining community safety with police oversight, and the Rock project, a mental health crisis line for low level emergency calls. Hope Dixon also mentioned that the City of Richmond is recruiting for a community intervention specialist and details about the job opportunity may be found at the [City of Richmond's website](#). For AB 109, Nicole Green shared that there will be an online summit on June 4<sup>th</sup> and it will be open to all county programs (H3, CoC, behavioral health, etc.). COH members will be asked to confirm if they have a report out they would like to share when the email about quorum goes out.

#### 11. New Business: Learning Corner: Presentation on Opioid Response and Services

Elissa Kim, the Opioid Response Coordinator, presented data on drug overdose deaths and emergency department visits, with data showing that drug overdose emerged as the leading cause of death among residents aged 25-54, highlighting the impact on different regions and communities. She emphasized the need for a comprehensive response to address the issue, which affects people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses. News articles about recent incidents in neighboring counties were shared, emphasizing the importance of prevention within their own community. The Access Line provides outpatient services, medication-assisted treatment, detox facilities, and recovery support services. She highlighted the importance of treatment, particularly for those struggling with substance use disorders, and mentioned the availability of bilingual services. Elissa also introduced the Opioid Response Team, which engages with vulnerable populations to provide support and connect them with treatment and recovery services. She emphasized the need to break the stigma surrounding harm reduction and substance use, and mentioned the availability for the public to obtain naloxone and fentanyl test strips in vending machines. The Syringe Service Program provides sterile supplies, prevention supplies as well as education and testing for STIs and HIV. Elissa encouraged collaboration with other organizations to support the community and the need to improve outreach. Anyone needing support or information may email the team directly at [AODOPIOIDResponse@cchealth.org](mailto:AODOPIOIDResponse@cchealth.org) or call at 925-335-3330.

#### 12. Announcements

None

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025

#### Adjourn

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 2400 Bisso Lane (Suite D2), Concord, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at [www.contracosta.ca.gov](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov). If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: [contracostacoc@cchealth.org](mailto:contracostacoc@cchealth.org) or call 925-608-6700