

Application Form

Profile

Roland

First Name

Middle Initial

Fernandez

Last Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

CA

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 5

Employer

Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

10 years

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ G.E.D. Certificate

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

University Of Phoenix

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BA

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

Other Training A

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

Bay Church Compassion Community Advisory, Pittsburg Behavior Health Board Member I help any Homeless Person on my own time as much as possible, I am a volunteer at Loaves and Fishes, Pittsburg, I understand their needs and am willing to help more effectively

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

N/A

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

☒ I Agree

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 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
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 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

[View results](#)

Respondent

20

Anonymous

08:47

Time to complete

About the Supplemental Questions for the Council on Homelessness Membership Application

The following questions will be used by the Council on Homelessness' Nominating Panel to identify diverse applicants that can contribute unique expertise and perspectives to the Council. Answers to these questions will be evaluated in relation to the experience and qualifications desired for available member seats. Please carefully consider how your personal experiences, professional experiences, and values will contribute meaningfully to the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Please note, there are two required elements of the Council on Homelessness application, these "Supplemental Questions" and the County Application. You **must complete both** components of the application by **Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5PM**. Instructions for completing the County Application will be sent to you after completing the "Supplemental Questions" below.

For more information, about applying to the Council on Homelessness, please review the Council on Homelessness Board Recruitment FAQ document.

If you need accommodations to complete the application, please contact Jaime Jenett, Staff to the Council, by emailing cchomelessscouncil@cchealth.org or calling or texting (925) 464-0152.

Supplemental Questions

1. Which vacant Council on Homelessness seat are you applying for? *

- ☒ **Behavioral Health Representative** – Must work in the behavioral health field in Contra Costa County (i.e., peer support, clinician, system-level behavioral health planner, etc.) with experience impacting behavioral health policy, decision-making, and/or funding.
- ☐ **City Government Seat** – Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **CoC/ESG Program Grantee** – Must work with an agency receiving Continuum of Care and/or Emergency Solutions Grant funding in Contra Costa, including agencies that are providing housing and/or services to survivors of domestic violence. Applicants must work with one of these agencies to be eligible: CCH: H3; Contra Costa Crisis Center; Contra Costa Housing Authority; GRIP; Hope Solutions; SAHA; SHELTER, Inc; STAND! For Families Free of Violence; Trinity Center
- ☐ **Community Member Seat** – Must live or work in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative** – Must work for an agency in Contra Costa County that administers federal funding for homelessness and/or housing programs.
- ☐ **Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) Representative** – Must work for the Contra Costa Employment and Human Services Department.
- ☐ **Faith Community Representative** – Must have substantial experience as an employee, volunteer, or congregant of the County faith community.
- ☐ **Public Housing Authority** – Must be an employee of a Housing Authority in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Public Safety Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the public safety field in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Reentry Services Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the reentry field in Contra Costa County (i.e., services provider and/or correctional staff supporting individuals reentering the community after involvement with the criminal legal system).
- ☐ **Youth Representative** – Must be between the ages of 17 and 24 and have lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County

2. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness and in the specific Council seat(s) you are applying for. (400 word maximum) *

I believe our Unhoused Community needs more help in anything they're doing, must educate them in order for a better life

3. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, volunteer work, or connections (such as affiliations with organizations addressing homelessness) that you would bring to the Council on Homelessness and/or the specific seat you are applying for. For example, you can talk about things like your experience getting services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, relationships with organizations, etc. (400 word maximum) *

I have experiences with assisting our unhoused community in Martinez, Bay Point and Pittsburg

4. Please identify your personal connections with homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☐ I am a person currently experiencing homelessness and living in a shelter or location not meant for human habitation (e.g., in a tent).
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness within the past 7 years but is currently housed.
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness more than 7 years ago but is currently housed.
- ☒ I am a family member of someone who has experienced homelessness
- ☐ I am none of the above but still invested in addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ I would prefer not to respond

5. **Unhoused people in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. Please list and explain 3 reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others. (400 words maximum) ***

economy, mental health, addiction,

6. **Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support people who are unhoused and people at risk of being unhoused. Your ideas can come from your own experience receiving services, your work, and/or what you've seen in the news. (400 word maximum) ***

trust, compassion

7. **How many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings have you attended in the past? ***

- ☒ 3 or more meetings
- ☐ 1-2 meetings
- ☐ 0 meetings

8. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach, which means people can get into housing without needing to meet certain requirements like being sober, participating in a religious program, or having a job. In response, the Council has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.*

Do you agree with the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

9. Members of the Council are expected to attend standing monthly Council on Homelessness meetings which take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members are also expected to participate in at least one committee, which typically meet on a monthly basis.

Standing Committees (meet once a month or every other month)

- Equity Committee
- HMIS Policy Committee
- Oversight Committee
- PATH (Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing) Committee

Ad Hoc Committees (meet on an as-needed basis for a limited time)

- Funding Committee
- Governance Committee
- Homelessness Awareness Month Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Committee

All Councilmembers are expected to attend meetings in person and can only attend virtually twice per calendar year under very narrow circumstances. Additionally, Councilmembers may miss up to two Council meetings per calendar year. Based on this information, please identify the level of commitment you can provide to the Council on Homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☒ I am available to attend the **standing monthly COH meeting** on the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm, and I am available to participate in at least one committee which would require attending a separate regular meeting.
- ☐ I am not available for the standing monthly COH meeting and/or I am not available to participate in at least one committee.

Demographic Information (Optional)

The Council aims to engage as broad a representation as possible of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and geographical representation within the County. Responses to the following questions are optional. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

10. What are your pronouns (for example: she/him/they/ze, etc.)?

11. What is your gender identity (for example: female/male/transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming, other)?

12. What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, other)?

13. What best describes your age? (Check one)

- ☐ Transition aged youth (18-24)
- ☐ Adult (25-54)
- ☐ Older Adult (55-61_
- ☐ Senior (62+)

14. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

- ☐ White
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)
- ☐ Black/African American/African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous
- ☐ Asian American/Asian
- ☐ Multiple Races
- ☐ Other

15. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- ☒ East Contra Costa County (for example: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- ☐ Central Contra Costa County (for example: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- ☐ South Contra Costa County (for example: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- ☐ West Contra Costa County (for example: El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo)
- ☐ I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

16. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

we must help everyone in any need for living

Contact Information

17. Name *

Roland Fernandez

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

Application Form

Profile

Danielle M Jimenez
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] Suite or Apt

[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
City State Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 4

Contra Costa County Mental health community support worker
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

3+ years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

District 4

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

29 years

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Behavioral Health

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

12+

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

California State University East Bay

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BA Psychology

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Diablo Valley College

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

AA/Psychology

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**Other Training A**

SPIRIT Certification

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Medi-Cal Certified Peer Support Specialist

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist, #MPSS-HUOYTP

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

I would like to continue serving on the Council on Homelessness to bring a behavioral health and substance use perspective to policy discussions and systems change. Through my work with A3 Crisis Response and my personal journey of recovery, I have seen the unique challenges unhoused individuals face in their most vulnerable moments. Serving on committees like NOFO and Funding & Governance has deepened my understanding of the Continuum of Care, and I am eager to keep learning, contributing, and advocating to strengthen services and support for our unhoused community in Contra Costa County.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

I have over three years of experience with Contra Costa County's A3 Crisis Response, recently promoted to Lead Community Support Worker. In this role, I serve individuals facing behavioral health, substance use, and housing challenges. I bring strong skills in crisis intervention, public speaking, and collaboration, along with lived experience in recovery and navigating the county's mental health system. Serving on the NOFO panel and committee groups has shown me how vital it is to bring a behavioral health lens into policy discussions that impact our unhoused community in Contra Costa County.

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

Council on Homelessness

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

Council on Homelessness

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

Council on Homelessness

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

N/A

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

N/A

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

☒ I Agree

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Application Form

Profile

Judy (Judith) Quittman
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] Suite or Apt
[Redacted] CA [Redacted]
City State Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 1

Contra Costa County Health Services Mental Health Clinical Specialist
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

20 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

District 1

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

23 years

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Behavioral Health Representative

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

UC Berkeley

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

MSW/MPH

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

University of San Diego

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BA/International Relations

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Chabot Community College

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Interdisciplinary Studies in Letters and Science

Judy (Judith) Quittman

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**Other Training A**

DBT-Linehan Board of Certification, Certified Clinician™

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

registered and active LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

I am an LCSW/MPH (Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Masters of Social Welfare and a Masters of Public Health) who has worked in Contra Costa County for the past 20 years. I am a Mental Health Clinical Specialist at West County Adult Behavioral Health. I started my career in social services by working at one of the largest homeless shelters in San Francisco (now called Next Door). There I became an advocate for homeless people. I also became acutely aware of many of the contributing factors leading an individual to homelessness. Today, I support individuals on a micro level with many of those contributing factors. Now, I want to exercise my MPH skills and see how to leverage influence on a macro level. For example, our County no longer has a dual diagnosis substance abuse treatment program. This would be something that I would want to bring to the Council's attention. The reason I would want to serve on the Council on Homelessness is that I have 30 years of working with homeless individuals in professional capacities. I see on a daily basis how we are doing the best we can with what we have. I think we can do better, try harder, and I am motivated to support change. I have insight from my professional experience, willingness, and patience to see how I can be a part of a team that supports change/growth/movement for a seemingly chronic/hopeless "problem". Homelessness is a tragedy. It is not what someone would choose if they had other options. We can make a difference.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

Professional experience: Work before graduate school: When I worked at the shelter at Polk & Geary (SF), I often worked on the women's floor where there were just two staff to make sure things stayed "cool" during the swing shift. There could be 100 homeless ladies who could be high or off their psych meds sleeping on the 4th floor of the shelter. I saw first hand what it is like to live in a homeless shelter. (1993-1997) Another shelter I worked at was one in Berkeley on Durant. I worked in the woman's/family shelter and the transitional housing upstairs. (during graduate school) I volunteered for 7 years at the Berkeley Free Clinic as a medic. (1993-2000) Work after graduate school: I worked for Asian American Recovery Services (AARS) providing behavioral health services to the folks on GA (General Assistance) in San Francisco. Many folks on GA are single adults who are homeless facing a myriad of issues. (2000-2005) The shelter at Polk & Geary was a "wet" shelter. That shelter was quite a bit different than the "dry" shelter run by the same agency. I provided some mental health services to the "dry" shelter after graduate school. After working full time at AARS in SF, I went to work in the inpatient psych unit and the Psychiatric Emergency Services at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. There I became very familiar with that component of the continuum of care and I realized that people don't live in hospitals. Hospitals teach people to become patients they don't support clients with learning the behavioral skills to live in the community. As a clinician at West County BH, I work as a clinical case manager and a clinician with helping clinician build their life worth living and confronting behavioral health challenges. I have worked as an LCSW in the Mental Health Clinical Specialist classification since 2005. My co-workers and I are daily supporting homeless individuals and have unique insights to the challenges that homeless people face and the dearth of resources available.

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

My resume shows that I worked at the Berkeley Free Clinic for 7 years.

Conflict of Interest and Certification

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☐ Yes ☒ No

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[View results](#)

Respondent

5

Anonymous

5417:57

Time to complete

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- ☐ **City Government Seat** – Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **CoC/ESG Program Grantee** – Must work with an agency receiving Continuum of Care and/or Emergency Solutions Grant funding in Contra Costa, including agencies that are providing housing and/or services to survivors of domestic violence. Applicants must work with one of these agencies to be eligible: CCH: H3; Contra Costa Crisis Center; Contra Costa Housing Authority; GRIP; Hope Solutions; SAHA; SHELTER, Inc; STAND! For Families Free of Violence; Trinity Center
- ☐ **Community Member Seat** – Must live or work in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative** – Must work for an agency in Contra Costa County that administers federal funding for homelessness and/or housing programs.
- ☐ **Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) Representative** – Must work for the Contra Costa Employment and Human Services Department.
- ☐ **Faith Community Representative** – Must have substantial experience as an employee, volunteer, or congregant of the County faith community.
- ☐ **Public Housing Authority** – Must be an employee of a Housing Authority in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Public Safety Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the public safety field in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Reentry Services Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the reentry field in Contra Costa County (i.e., services provider and/or correctional staff supporting individuals reentering the community after involvement with the criminal legal system).
- ☐ **Youth Representative** – Must be between the ages of 17 and 24 and have lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County

2. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness and in the specific Council seat(s) you are applying for. (400 word maximum) *

I am an LCSW/MPH (Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Masters of Social Welfare and a Masters of Public Health) who has worked in Contra Costa County for the past 20 years. I am a Mental Health Clinical Specialist at West County Adult Behavioral Health. I started my career in social services by working at one of the largest homeless shelters in San Francisco (now called Next Door). There I became an advocate for homeless people. I also became acutely aware of many of the contributing factors leading an individual to homelessness. Today, I support individuals on a micro level with many of those contributing factors. Now, I want to exercise my MPH skills and see how to leverage influence on a macro level. For example, our County no longer has a dual diagnosis substance abuse treatment program. This would be something that I would want to bring to the Council's attention. The reason I would want to serve on the Council on Homelessness is that I have 30 years of working with homeless individuals in professional capacities. I see on a daily basis how we are doing the best we can with what we have. I think we can do better, try harder, and I am motivated to support change. I have insight from my professional experience, willingness, and patience to see how I can be a part of a team that supports change/growth/movement for a seemingly chronic/hopeless "problem". Homelessness is a tragedy. It is not what someone would choose if they had other options. We can make a difference.

3. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, volunteer work, or connections (such as affiliations with organizations addressing homelessness) that you would bring to the Council on Homelessness and/or the specific seat you are applying for. For example, you can talk about things like your experience getting services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, relationships with organizations, etc. (400 word maximum) *

Work before graduate school: When I worked at the shelter at Polk & Geary (SF), I often worked on the women's floor where there were just two staff to make sure things stayed "cool" during the swing shift. There could be 100 homeless ladies who could be high or off their psych meds sleeping on the 4th floor of the shelter. I saw first hand what it is like to live in a homeless shelter. Another shelter I worked at was one in Berkeley on Durant. I worked in the woman's/family shelter and the transitional housing upstairs. I volunteered for 7 years at the Berkeley Free Clinic as a medic. Work after graduate school: I worked for Asian American Recovery Services (AARS) providing behavioral health services to the folks on GA (General Assistance) in San Francisco. Many folks on GA are single adults who are homeless facing a myriad of issues. The shelter at Polk & Geary was a "wet" shelter. That shelter was quite a bit different than the "dry" shelter run by the same agency. I provided some mental health services to the "dry" shelter after graduate school. After working full time at AARS in SF, I went to work in the inpatient psych unit and the Psychiatric Emergency Services at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. There I became very familiar with that component of the continuum of care and I realized that people don't live in Hospitals. Our consumers live in the community. I made a move to outpatient behavioral health care at West County Adult Behavioral Health. At West County I have honed my clinical skills and am now a Linehan Board Certified Dialectical Behavioral Therapy therapist.

4. Please identify your personal connections with homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☐ I am a person currently experiencing homelessness and living in a shelter or location not meant for human habitation (e.g., in a tent).
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness within the past 7 years but is currently housed.
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness more than 7 years ago but is currently housed.
- ☐ I am a family member of someone who has experienced homelessness
- ☒ I am none of the above but still invested in addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ I would prefer not to respond

5. Unhoused people in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. Please list and explain 3 reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others. (400 words maximum) *

1. Structural discrimination/xenophobia that promotes fear of minorities/people who are different. This is extraordinarily palpable today with respect to the undocumented immigrants to this country. In the case of undocumented people, they are limited and prohibited from accessing resources (jobs/income) that leads to homelessness. There is also a long history in this country of subjecting minorities and withholding resources.
2. Mental illness/substance users are also discriminated against. Mental illness and substance abuse can affect and become a problem for any human being. Once you have a mental illness or a substance abuse problem, people will treat you differently and can cause a person to be more vulnerable to becoming homeless. Not only do people treat the individual differently, but the individual may feel a stigma that may also further perpetuate difficulties in accessing services.
3. Practical issues: transportation, phone, internet access, language, childcare, etc. Of course, it will make it difficult to access services and resources if you can not call, get a ride, or feel safe to communicate your needs. Sometimes, some very seemingly "basic" needs, can be things that others take for granted and cause significant barriers for others to access services.

6. Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support people who are unhoused and people at risk of being unhoused. Your ideas can come from your own experience receiving services, your work, and/or what you've seen in the news. (400 word maximum) *

Idea #1:

I will continue to beat my drum at every opportunity I get. Contra Costa County does not have a dual diagnosis program. We need a dual diagnosis program. We used to have Nevin House. That program was great and filled a very important need. Now that it is gone, there is a huge vacuum/need for this kind of a program. So many homeless people struggle with both addiction and mental health issues. Today, more than in the past, methamphetamine (crystal meth) is making more people paranoid and causing them to have psychotic symptoms that do not go away once they quit. We need a 6-18 month dual diagnosis program. This would be my number one idea for helping the homeless and people at risk of being unhoused.

Idea #2:

-when homeless people get sent to Psychiatric Emergency Services or to the inpatient psych services the Hospital is eager to turn people around as soon as possible, if there is space, they can be sent to Hope House, instead of the streets. The problem is that they can only stay at Hope House for 15-30 days. Due to the short term nature of their program, their staff have to put pressure on the consumers to find a placement or go back to the streets. This puts undue stress on the consumer and often leads to relapse of homelessness/substance use/AWOL/or other less desirable outcome. It sure would be nice if there were some kind of placement where people could go to after Hope House, while they continue to stabilize on their psych meds and continue to seek a more long term temporary or permanent placement.

7. How many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings have you attended in the past? *

- ☐ 3 or more meetings
- ☐ 1-2 meetings
- ☒ 0 meetings

8. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach, which means people can get into housing without needing to meet certain requirements like being sober, participating in a religious program, or having a job. In response, the Council has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.*

Do you agree with the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

9. Members of the Council are expected to attend standing monthly Council on Homelessness meetings which take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members are also expected to participate in at least one committee, which typically meet on a monthly basis.

Standing Committees (meet once a month or every other month)

- Equity Committee
- HMIS Policy Committee
- Oversight Committee
- PATH (Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing) Committee

Ad Hoc Committees (meet on an as-needed basis for a limited time)

- Funding Committee
- Governance Committee
- Homelessness Awareness Month Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Committee

All Councilmembers are expected to attend meetings in person and can only attend virtually twice per calendar year under very narrow circumstances. Additionally, Councilmembers may miss up to two Council meetings per calendar year. Based on this information, please identify the level of commitment you can provide to the Council on Homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

☒ I am available to attend the **standing monthly COH meeting** on the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm, and I am available to participate in at least one committee which would require attending a separate regular meeting.

☐ I am not available for the standing monthly COH meeting and/or I am not available to participate in at least one committee.

Demographic Information (Optional)

The Council aims to engage as broad a representation as possible of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and geographical representation within the County. Responses to the following questions are optional. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

10. **What are your pronouns (for example: she/him/they/ze, etc.)?**

11. **What is your gender identity (for example: female/male/transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming, other)?**

12. **What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, other)?**

13. What best describes your age? (Check one)

☐ Transition aged youth (18-24)

☐ Adult (25-54)

☐ Older Adult (55-61_

☐ Senior (62+)

14. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

☐ White

☐ Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)

☐ Black/African American/African

☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous

☐ Asian American/Asian

☐ Multiple Races

☐ Other

15. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- ☐ East Contra Costa County (for example: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- ☐ Central Contra Costa County (for example: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- ☐ South Contra Costa County (for example: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- ☒ West Contra Costa County (for example: El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo)
- ☐ I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

16. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

I am Spanish speaking which allowed me to promote evidenced based treatment in Spanish at our Behavioral Health Clinic here in West County. We are the only region with in the County that provides BH group in Spanish.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Judy Quittman

18. Email *



19. Phone Number *



Application Form

Profile

Desiree

First Name

Middle Initial

Rushing

Last Name

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

CA

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 3

Employer

Job Title

Length of Employment

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

3

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

15

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Behavioral Health Representative/Faith Community Representative

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

>10

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

Desiree Rushing

Other Training A

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

Information on supplemental application

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

Information on supplemental application

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

☒ I Agree

Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
 - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
 - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
 - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

[View results](#)

Respondent

23

Anonymous

63:34

Time to complete

About the Supplemental Questions for the Council on Homelessness Membership Application

The following questions will be used by the Council on Homelessness' Nominating Panel to identify diverse applicants that can contribute unique expertise and perspectives to the Council. Answers to these questions will be evaluated in relation to the experience and qualifications desired for available member seats. Please carefully consider how your personal experiences, professional experiences, and values will contribute meaningfully to the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Please note, there are two required elements of the Council on Homelessness application, these "Supplemental Questions" and the County Application. You **must complete both** components of the application by **Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5PM**. Instructions for completing the County Application will be sent to you after completing the "Supplemental Questions" below.

For more information, about applying to the Council on Homelessness, please review the Council on Homelessness Board Recruitment FAQ document.

If you need accommodations to complete the application, please contact Jaime Jenett, Staff to the Council, by emailing cchomelessscouncil@cchealth.org or calling or texting (925) 464-0152.

Supplemental Questions

1. Which vacant Council on Homelessness seat are you applying for? *

- ☐ **Behavioral Health Representative** – Must work in the behavioral health field in Contra Costa County (i.e., peer support, clinician, system-level behavioral health planner, etc.) with experience impacting behavioral health policy, decision-making, and/or funding.
- ☐ **City Government Seat** – Must be an employee of a city or town located in Contra Costa County. This seat is not open to representatives elected to positions in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **CoC/ESG Program Grantee** – Must work with an agency receiving Continuum of Care and/or Emergency Solutions Grant funding in Contra Costa, including agencies that are providing housing and/or services to survivors of domestic violence. Applicants must work with one of these agencies to be eligible: CCH: H3; Contra Costa Crisis Center; Contra Costa Housing Authority; GRIP; Hope Solutions; SAHA; SHELTER, Inc; STAND! For Families Free of Violence; Trinity Center
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- ☐ **Public Housing Authority** – Must be an employee of a Housing Authority in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Public Safety Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the public safety field in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Reentry Services Representative** – Must have substantial experience in the reentry field in Contra Costa County (i.e., services provider and/or correctional staff supporting individuals reentering the community after involvement with the criminal legal system).
- ☐ **Youth Representative** – Must be between the ages of 17 and 24 and have lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County

2. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Council on Homelessness and in the specific Council seat(s) you are applying for. (400 word maximum) *

I have a passion for the livelihood of all people. I'm a retired respiratory therapist of 34yrs. While working at Kaiser Antioch Hospital , I worked with Administration on protocols and policies that instructed staff on proper discharge and how to treat the unsheltered because they have different needs I have served and feed the unsheltered for over 10yrs. Im an Ordained Minister and first started feeding and supplying needs at various Churches. I then started supervising to leave no one behind program at Nami Contra Costa for the last six years. we feed over 250 unsheltered individuals a month along with supplying water and food for their animals.. We offer support and resources when possible and collaborate with C. O.R.E. We also refer out to homeless court. I know about 80% of the homeless population in East Contra Costa and they know me I have established a relationship and trust with them. I am a certified Medi-Cal peer specialist.. I'm applying for the health representative position and the Faith community Representative seat.

3. Please briefly describe any personal or professional skills, experiences, volunteer work, or connections (such as affiliations with organizations addressing homelessness) that you would bring to the Council on Homelessness and/or the specific seat you are applying for. For example, you can talk about things like your experience getting services in the county, comfort with public speaking, experience working with unhoused youth, community activism, relationships with organizations, etc. (400 word maximum) *

As a medical professional and a certified Medi-Cal peer specialist, I understand the walls, the unsheltered individuals experience because I do go out and interact with the unsheltered not only by feeding, but giving support I feel I am well equipped for either position I'm applying for the Behavioral Health Representative seat and also the Faith Representative seat. On second Sundays, I provide food and shelter and an opportunity outside for the unsheltered to have church along with their animals. I have found housing temporarily and permanently for many unsheltered individuals. I have worked on the memorial committee with many organizations for the unsheltered I work with sororities and other agencies that give me clothing supplies, etc., to distribute to the unsheltered..

4. Please identify your personal connections with homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- ☐ I am a person currently experiencing homelessness and living in a shelter or location not meant for human habitation (e.g., in a tent).
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness within the past 7 years but is currently housed.
- ☐ I am a person who experienced homelessness more than 7 years ago but is currently housed.
- ☒ I am a family member of someone who has experienced homelessness
- ☐ I am none of the above but still invested in addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ I would prefer not to respond

5. Unhoused people in Contra Costa County come from many different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexual and gender identity, and immigration status. Please list and explain 3 reasons why certain groups might have a harder time accessing services than others. (400 words maximum) *

I believe people of color and younger individuals have a hard time trusting and accessing services. I also believe people that deal with mental health issues. Also have a hard time accessing services. People of color have trust issues because of things they've heard or experienced in the past younger people don't have the experience and with all to start to navigate the steps to get help that they need mentally challenged individuals. Don't understand at times what they need to do to get the proper help. Men and women that are couple with children are without children. Don't want to separate when they have to go to two different places for shelter.

6. Please share and explain two (2) ideas to help Contra Costa County better support people who are unhoused and people at risk of being unhoused. Your ideas can come from your own experience receiving services, your work, and/or what you've seen in the news. (400 word maximum) *

In my experience with encountering and dealing with people who are un sheltered or at risk of being un sheltered. We have to instill trust the compassion and care for the people on sheltered must be genuine when they continually see you. A bond is built. There is no judgment no criticism.. I have spoken and supported unsheltered individuals in the mist of them still using their drugs right in front of me..

7. How many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings have you attended in the past? *

- ☒ 3 or more meetings
- ☐ 1-2 meetings
- ☐ 0 meetings

8. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach, which means people can get into housing without needing to meet certain requirements like being sober, participating in a religious program, or having a job. In response, the Council has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.*

Do you agree with the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

9. Members of the Council are expected to attend standing monthly Council on Homelessness meetings which take place on the first Thursday of the month from 1 pm – 3pm in Martinez. Members are also expected to participate in at least one committee, which typically meet on a monthly basis.

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Demographic Information (Optional)

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12. What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, other)?

13. What best describes your age? (Check one)

☐ Transition aged youth (18-24)

☐ Adult (25-54)

☐ Older Adult (55-61_

☐ Senior (62+)

14. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

White

Hispanic/Latino(a)(o)(e)(x)

Black/African American/African

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

American Indian/Alaskan Native/Indigenous

Asian American/Asian

Multiple Races

Other

15. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- ☐ Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
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- ☐ I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

16. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

I am a black woman that understands that even though they are more people of color unsheltered as a retired respiratory therapist color is not a factor for what I can bring to my community and my peers when it comes to my heart and the love that I have for others.

Contact Information

17. Name *

Elder Desiree Rushing

18. Email *

[REDACTED]

19. Phone Number *

[REDACTED]