



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, April 3, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

**Recording link:** Available by email request to [CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org)

### **Council Member Attendance:**

- In-Person (14): Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
- Remote (2): Juno Hedrick; Verneda Clapp
- Absent (3): Dani Jimenez; Heather Worobey; Jazmin Ridley

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

### **Community Member Attendance:**

- In-person: Jill Ray, BOS District 2; Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch; Anya Kushwaha, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Alicia Alfarez, SHELTER Inc.; Cynthia Chaves, SHELTER, Inc.; Leon Salee, Youth Action Board.
- Remote: Peter Myers, Contra Costa County; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Melanie Erickson, DCD; Jaclyn Tummings, Department of Conservation and Development; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Brianna Ramos, Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Kimberly Thai, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Kristin Kane, Kaiser Permanente; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; Augustin Pizano, Lutheran Social Services; June Cummings, Resources for Community Development; Christi Rossi, SHELTER Inc.; Jacqueline Franco, SHELTER Inc.; Brittany Ferguson, STAND For Families Free of Violence; Jai De Lotto, VA CES; Teri Lundvall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Anastasia Lockwood, YAB; Anna Cleese, xx; Emily Bero, xx; Khougen, xx; Medaja Elias, xx; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, xx; Veronica Fiore, xx.



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## AGENDA ITEM

### 1) Call to Order

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#### A. Chair starts the meeting:

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.

### 2) Introductions

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#### A. Meeting Norms:

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green went over the hybrid meeting norms and guidelines to help ensure that meetings are conducted in a safe and respectful environment that encourages participation and inclusivity.

#### B. Roll call of Council members and introduction of guests:

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green conducted a roll call of Council members and invited guests to introduce themselves in the chat.

#### C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green conducted the poll activity called “Who is in the room?” with the purpose of getting a sense of who is attending the meeting. The poll was conducted via Zoom poll. All answers are anonymous, and the results are provided below:

- **Question 1: How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?**

This is my first meeting:	2 (7%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	9 (32%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	17 (61%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

- **Question 2: Do you have lived experience of homelessness?**

Yes, currently	0 (0%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (4%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	6 (23%)
No	19 (73%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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- **Question 3: What best describes your racial identify?**

African American/Black	6 (18%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3 (9%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	3 (9%)
Hispanic/Latinx	3 (9%)
White	15 (44%)
Multi-racial	4 (12%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

### 3) Public Comments

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**A. Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda**

Members of the public:

- None.

### 4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

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**A. APPROVE minutes from the March 6, 2025 Council meeting**

**B. APPROVE staff report for the April 3, 2025 Council meeting**

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Members made a motion to approve the items above as a whole group:

Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the consent calendar items as listed above.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record
  - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell
  - Seconded by: Tony Ucciferri
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: Hope Dixon; Mia Fairbanks
  - ABSENT: Dani Jimenez; Heather Worobey; Jazmin Ridley



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## 5) Committee Report Outs

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### A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Policy Committee

Presenter: Kimberly Thai, H3

- i. **(ACTION ITEM)** APPROVE 2025 Oversight Committee work plan as recommended by the Oversight Committee

Kimberly presented the proposed revisions of the HMIS Client Revocation of Consent form, which is used when a client wants to take back the permission they previously gave to share their information with partner agencies. The new version is more user-friendly, with clearer language, and options for clients to set their record to private or anonymize it. The form was approved by the HMIS Policy Committee on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The next step is to translate the form into Spanish and other languages as needed. The form's submission is usually within 48 hours and may be submitted to the service provider or directly to the H3 team.

Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the Revocation Form as recommended by the HMIS Policy Committee.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record
  - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri
  - Seconded by: LeAnn Matthews
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: None
  - ABSENT: Dani Jimenez; Heather Worobey; Jazmin Ridley

### B. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) has been actively engaged in various activities and meetings. In the month of March, they held subcommittee meetings, continued working with county partners, and participated in the Homebase training for impact of stipends and taxes for public benefits. They also submitted the YAB bylaws and participated in



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restorative work with the community. The YAB celebrated their 1st anniversary on March 14th. In the coming month, they plan to collaborate with Alameda County, continue their partnership with Rainbow, and meet with the Contra Costa Health Community Education and Information team to improve their social media presence. They will also continue to participate in the Housing Needs Assessment Committee and the Housing RFP Panel. YAB is also awaiting the HUD's Youth Homeless Demonstration HDP FY 2024 NOFO award results.

### 6) Old Business

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#### A. Update: 2025 Point-In-Time Count

Presenter: Yessenia Aguilar, H3

Yessenia Aguilar presented an update on the 2025 Point-in-Time count, highlighting the successful collection of 433 surveys and thanking the volunteers and agencies for their support. Jaime Jenett added that the number of surveys gathered was statistically significant and exceeded their sample size. The team also discussed the process of data collection and the importance of the observational count.

#### B. Funding Updates

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, H3

The Housing and Homeless Services RFP is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with contracts starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> or later. Other funding updates included the NOFO CoC 2024 federal funding, which went through a temporary pause for all activities related to the fund disbursement of federal financial assistance for CoC and ESG programs but were subsequently resumed. The CoC was awarded \$22.3 million in funding for renewal projects and one new project. Some agencies have received their grant agreements, which include new compliance requirements. The City of Richmond has posted a Request For Qualifications for services supporting the unhoused, with applications due on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Applicants should register and apply through the City of Richmond's Online Bidding System [here](#). Anyone interested in receiving email notifications and updates from Contra Costa County's CoC Funding Opportunities page can sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

### 7) New Business

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#### A. (ACTION ITEM) State ESG Recommendations for FY 24/25

Presenter: Jaclyn Tummings, Department of Conservation and Development

The California Department of Housing and Community Development Department, also known as HCD, receives emergency solutions grant (ESG) funding from the Department of



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Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD), which provides funds for a variety of activities to address homelessness. The recommendations for the 2025-2026 Emergency Solutions Grant funding were presented, with an estimate of \$399,140 available. A total of six (6) applications were received and approved and a list of the agencies was shared. Almost eight percent (7.5%) will be allocated for administration and the rest for projects across homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, street outreach, and emergency shelters.

### Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the 2025/2026 Federal Emergency Solutions Grant funding amounts as recommended by the Department of Conservation and Development.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record
  - Motion made by: Mia Fairbanks
  - Seconded by: Tony Ucciferri
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: Leslie Gleason
  - ABSENT: Dani Jimenez; Heather Worobey; Jazmin Ridley

### **B. Discuss And Approve 2025 Quarter 1 Council On Homelessness Recommendations For Report To County Board Of Supervisors**

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

The Council discusses their quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors and potential recommendations. They highlight a recent successful community forum on homelessness, called Homelessness 101, held at a local library, and propose having supervisors promote future events in their district newsletters.

The meeting was interrupted by a horrific “Zoom-bombing” incident. The Council and Continuum of Care strongly repudiate the racist, anti-Black statements and lewd video shared. These incidents are intended to denigrate and cause further harm to the most vulnerable in our community and runs counter to the values our CoC holds. The Zoom component of the meeting was suspended but the in-person component continued after a short break.



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### C. Conference Reports: Youth Empowerment Summit 2025 and Housing California 2025

Presenter: Jamie Schecter, *H3*, Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*, Leon Saelee, *YAB Lead*, and Anya Kushwaha, *H3 MSW Intern*

YAB members provided a recap of their attendance at the California Coalition for Youth event in Sacramento. The summit is attended by young people, community leaders and youth services providers around California to advocate and work collectively to prevent, intervene, and end youth homelessness. The next steps for YAB includes continuing advocacy, collaboration, and using guidelines and workshops as building structure and team bonding. The Council also considers ways to incorporate youth input and expand outreach efforts across different regions of the county.

Jamie Schecter provided a brief summary of the Housing California conference in Sacramento in March. This conference has an emphasis on affordable housing developments and ending homelessness. Contra Costa County CoC presented the spotlights at the conference.

## 8) General Announcements

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### A. General Announcements:

Presenter: All members and members of the public.

- None

## 9) Pin It

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Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

- The next COH meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 1025 Escobar Street in Martinez.
- A list of upcoming meetings was shared and will also be sent via email. Calendar meeting invites to all committee meetings will be sent out to COH Council members based on the committees for which they signed up.



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## Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BIPOC	Black and Indigenous People of Color
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCYCS	Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
CDBG, CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs) and the federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
CESH	California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (state funding)
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding permanent solutions to homelessness.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG.
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCD	(Contra Costa County) Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESG and ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program) and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant CARES
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program (State funding)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HHAP	Homeless Housing and Assistance Program
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
NOFA/NOFO	Notice of Funding Availability/ Notice of Funding Opportunity
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
PWLE	People With Lived Experience of Homelessness
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income



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SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool