



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

Recording link: Available by email request to CChomelessscouncil@cchealth.org

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (16): Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
- Remote (1): Juno Hedrick
- Absent (1): Dani Jimenez
- Vacant (1): City Government Representative

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
- Remote: Ms. Evon Ufland, Agape's Restore & Renew Home; Bullard Clearnise, BACS; RHamilton, BACS; Christine Wetzels, Caminar; La Tanya Johnson, Caminar; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Ajani Cox, Community Member; Heaven, Community Member; Elizabeth Keller, Contra Costa County; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County District 3; Janna Evans, CCCOE; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Khougen, EHSD; Stephanie Booth, EHSD; Brianna R, FLY Program; Allison Mabbs, Focus Strategies; Kat Jacobs-Crotta, Focus Strategies; Brendi Velasquez, Focus Strategies Lived Experience Consultant; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Jacqueline, H3; Maria D. Dominguez, H3; Michelle Richardson, H3; Natalie Siva, H3; Rochelle Barbosa, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Steve McNutt, H3; Todd Peterson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Elizabeth Verdin, Hope Solutions; Emily Bero, Hope Solutions; Khayla DiGiorgio, Hope Solutions; LLee, ILS Health; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; ; Julie, LSS NorthCal; Jill Ray, Office of Supervisor Candace Andersen; Jared Murti, Partnership for the Bay's Future; June, RCD Housing; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER Inc.; Christi Rossi, SHELTER Inc.; Cynthia-Bella Chavez, SHELTER Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER Inc.; Jai De Lotto, VA CES; Leon Saelee, YAB; Jeff O'Hearn, White Pony Express.



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AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

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

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

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. Due to a Zoom bombing incident at the April meeting, the virtual meeting format has been changed from “meeting” to “webinar” format and the difference of features was explained.

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:	3 (13%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	8 (35%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	12 (52%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	1 (4%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	2 (8%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	2 (8%)



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No	21 (81%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

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

African American/Black	4 (12%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3 (9%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	0 (0%)
Hispanic/Latinx	7 (21%)
White	15 (45%)
Multi-racial	3 (9%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)

3) Public Comments

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)

A. APPROVE minutes from the May 1, 2025 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the June 5, 2025 Council meeting

C. APPROVE members for the 2025 Nominating Committee: Carolyn Foudy, Hope Dixon, Nicole Green, Tony Ucciferri

D. APPROVE members for the 2025 Homelessness Awareness Month Committee: Nicole Green, Rina Criswell, Wayne Earl

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

For item A, the following changes to the May 1 meeting minutes were requested and amended for section 7.b:

- a) Alejandra Chamberlain, COH member, shared that she is part of a cross-agency workgroup that is meeting to support the implementation of AB 2083. The group includes representatives from Probation, Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, the County Office of Education, and the Regional Center, and is focused on improving coordination of services for children and youth with complex needs.
- b) Courtney Pal was the COH member referenced and who made the comment in section 7.b.

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



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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; Heather Worobey; 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

5) Committee Report Outs

A. Nominating Committee

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

The Nominating Panel, conformed by Dani Jimenez, Juno Hedrick, and Leanne Matthews, reviewed and scored applications for the City Government Representative seat. A total of four applications were received. The names and city they represent was shown on a slide. The nominating panel recommended Bessie Marie Scott for the City Government Representative seat. The next step will be to get the approval from the Board of Supervisors, likely at their June 24th meeting.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve Bessie Marie Scott as the candidate for the City Government Representative as recommended by the Nominating Panel to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for official approval for Council on Homelessness membership.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Wayne Earl
 - Seconded by: Sherina Criswell
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason;



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Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno

- NOES: None
- ABSTAINS: None
- ABSENT: Dani Jimenez

B. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

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

Juno Hedrick provided an update on the Youth Action Board's activities in May. The YAB continues to meet regularly, with communications and outreach being particularly active in planning social media and event participation. In addition, YAB members are participating in the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Community Strategic Planning, including action step workgroups. They are also involved in the Contra Costa Health Youth and Young Adult Transitional Housing RFP process. Juno shared upcoming priorities, including presenting key findings from the YYA Needs Assessment to support Measure X funding recommendations, continuing participation in various committees, and preparing for the release of the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program NOFO.

6) Old Business

A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

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

The following COH members gave the following updates:

- Wayne Earl shared that The Multi-faith Action Coalition, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, and Hope Solutions hosted a workshop on reimagining sacred land for affordable housing on May 20th at the Christ the King Church in Pleasant Hill. The workshop featured case studies of Hope Village in Walnut Creek, which is located on land owned by Grace Presbyterian Church, and the Village of Hope in Pittsburg, showcasing how faith organizations can use underutilized land for affordable housing with prefabricated cottages and supportive services. Some of the challenges discussed included denominational concerns, fundraising capital campaigns for smaller parcels, and utility setup such as PG&E. Wayne emphasized the importance on collaboration and community engagement. Some of the participants included the Mayor of Walnut Creek, Pastor Mark Burnham, Pastor Christy Dick, and the Vice Mayor from Pittsburgh, Dionne Adams. A white paper on the topic was shared for faith leaders to consider. More information about this project may be found at the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition's [website](#). Wayne shared a link about the grand opening of Hope Village, which can be found at the Hope Solutions's [website](#). The Faith-Owned Land for Housing Solutions document may be found at The Bays's Future [website](#).



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- Tony Ucciferri stated that the project-based voucher program is opening up 16 different waitlists on June 30th, with seven being designated to seniors and nine to families. The waitlist will close on July 24th, 2025. One of the new construction properties will be available for immediate housing in November 2025. Some of the preferences to be considered for applicants will be to live in or work in Contra Costa County, having been involuntarily displaced, or be a veteran. Senior programs are targeted to the elderly ages 62 years of age or older to qualify and family housing being open to anyone under 62. The Housing Authority's Sign-Up Waitlist notification form may be found at its [website](#).
- Alejandra Chamberlain made a follow-up update regarding the interagency collaboration of AB 2083 that brings together agencies from Probation, Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, the County Office of Education, and the Regional Centers. The workgroup is in the process of updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and has been discussing intervention and preventative strategies for children in the foster care system and experiencing trauma, with housing being a key focus. Alejandra highlighted the importance on how we are looking at vulnerable populations and thinking about our children and youth who are experiencing homelessness with the intent of them not going into systems of child welfare, probation, and so forth. An email invitation from the workgroup to H3 will follow to discuss future collaboration efforts.
- Sherina Criswell shared the devastating news of the closure of Job Corps, an agency that prepares youth for job readiness, and will likely result in an increase of unhoused youth and young adults needing assistance.

B. Funding Updates

Presenter: Jamie Schecter, H3

Jamie Schecter provided an update on the re-released of HUD COC Built Notice of Funding Opportunity. In Fall 2024, the CoC submitted the Hope Solutions' Village of Hope project but was later taken down to comply with the new executive orders. H3 will put out a Letter-of-Interest announcement to seek applicants who would like to submit a project in addition to re-submitting Village of Hope project under the new NOFO requirements. The application process is fast paced with projects due by June 26th. It was also announced that the Transitional Housing for Transition Aged Youth Request for Proposal will be coming out soon. H3 has revised some of the language per federal requirements changes. The team also discussed the HUD COC collaborative application debrief, highlighting that while they didn't achieve the highest score, they still performed well with a score 3 points higher than the median score. The highest scores that were received came from the system performance measures section, particularly the Point-In-Time count. HUD did not provide a full debrief report, but Homebase has provided a document with great information, which will be shared at the Oversight Committee.



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7) New Business

A. Stakeholder Feedback: Contra Costa County Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness

Presenter: Allison Mabbs, *Focus Strategies*

Allison Mabbs, from Focus Strategies, presented on the County Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness, explaining the project's focus on improving cross-departmental collaboration to address homelessness. The plan includes the input and contribution of Brendi Velasquez, who brings the voice of lived expertise as a consultant. Brendi introduced herself and shared her vast experience and the work she does in the community. The presentation included the project purpose and background, objective, the Home Regional Action Plan, timeline, and purpose of input sessions and interviews. A variety of engagement opportunities for feedback have taken place, from input sessions, key informant interviews, to written comments. Anyone with questions may contact Allison Mabbs directly at allison@focusstrategies.net.

B. Stakeholder Feedback: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 6 and Behavioral Health Services

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, *H3*

Jamie Schechter presented an overview of the HHAP 6 Action Plan, emphasizing the need for public input sessions and coordination between various county departments and behavioral health services. The Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant is funded from the State of California's Housing Community Development Department, and its main so focus is to sustain investments towards long-term sustainability of housing and supportive services as well as to prioritize permanent housing solutions. The application due date is August 29, 2025. The application components are regional partners roles and responsibilities, system performance measures improvement plan, funding plans to sustain interim housing and permanent housing, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the CoC. A new section on the HHAP-6 application is to address policies for addressing encampments.

Adam Down, Program Manager for Behavioral Health Housing Service Housing and Support Services Administration, gave a brief account on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and its implementation in Contra Costa County as part of a larger behavioral health transformation initiative. The act will allocate significant funding for housing interventions and behavioral health services, which will take effect in July 2026. Its goals include improving access to care, increasing accountability and, allocating significant funding for



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housing interventions and behavioral health services. The funding allocation for BHSA is described with 90% going to counties and 10% to the state. The county's portion is divided into housing interventions (30%), full-service partnership programs (35%), and behavioral health services and supports (35%). Adam explained the need to gather feedback from stakeholders and incorporate new regulations into their integrated plan. The group discussion focused on challenges in accessing housing for individuals with behavioral health needs and the importance of improving cross-departmental collaboration to address homelessness. Challenges include access to housing for individuals with severe mental health and substance use, particularly for high-need populations like homeless individuals, transition-age youth, and women with children. They recognized the existing gaps in services, including the lack of residential drug treatment programs and the need for better integration of housing and mental health services. It was emphasized the importance of preventative work with children. In terms of helping unsheltered people affected from encampment sweeps, H3 has a new housing site called Rick Doug Commons to house people from coordinated entry referrals. To learn more about how to connect to behavioral health services in Contra Costa, please visit the Contra Costa Health's [website](#). To read about previous funding awarded to Contra Costa County, please visit the Contra Costa Health/Newsroom section [here](#).

8) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Presenter: All members and members of the public.

- None

9) Pin It

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

- The next COH meeting will be on July 10th, 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