



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Final

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, January 9, 2025

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | Zoom:

[https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/82552125332?](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/82552125332?pwd=bkxieNSsrbVlArRgWsBFzfNGP5BoJ3.1)

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call in: 8882780254 code: 812185

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

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Medlen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Staff Present: Roshunda Ward, Melissa Molina, and Michael Morris

Present

Karanbir Bal, Clearnise Bullard, Patricia Campbell, Jessica Cisneros, Ajit Kaushal, Janelle Lafrades, Nicola Lopez, Desire Medlen, LaTonia Peoples-Stokes, Devlyn Sewell, Kanwar Singh, Victor Tiglao, and Renee Zeimer

Absent

Karen Coleman, Buffie Lafayette, and Monisha Merchant

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

Monisha Merchant was on Zoom as a member of the public.

3. APPROVE the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 12-12-24

[25-37](#)

Attachments:

[EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 12-12-24 - DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Lafrades, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote: unanimous.

Motion:

Lopez

Second:

Lafrades

Aye:

Bal, Bullard, Campbell, Cisneros, Kaushal, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Peoples-Stokes, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent:

Coleman, Lafayette, and Merchant

Result:

Passed

4. RECEIVE the November 2024 Fiscal Report for Grant 24F-3007 including amendments.

[25-38](#)

Attachments: [CSBG Nov 2024 Fiscal Report for 24F-3007](#)

Morris presented the budget updates for Grant 24F-3007.

This Discussion Item was received.

5. PRESENT and DISCUSS Shared Humanity Indicators to Achieve the Community Action Vision. [25-39](#)

Attachments: [ACAV-Toolkit- Shared Humanity Indicators](#)
[Shared Humanity Indicators Word Cloud](#)

Zeimer asked the methodology of the Shared Humanity Indicators, to which Medlen answered that it's a way to prioritize what could be a more restricted funding options in the near future through our own individual perspectives on each word.

Commissioners agreed to move forward with the ranking of the Shared Humanity Indicator words to create a word cloud.

Commissioners read the summaries for each word and anonymously and individually ranked the words. The result of the overall ranking was: 1) Equity, 2) Opportunity, 3) Belonging, 4) Hope, 5) Dignity, 6) Liberation.

6. HEAR reports from Onsite Monitoring Visits to date.

- Singh shared his experience at Opportunity Junction and talked about the different programs they provide, such as technology classes
- Zeimer asked Singh what the Opportunity Junction's greatest need was, to which Singh answered that he would provide more funding for their healthcare program
- Lopez shared her experience with hiring former Opportunity Junction interns
- Medlen shared that her aunt's employer Dow Chemical has also hired Opportunity Junction, and Molina added that CSBG has as well
- Zeimer mentioned that OJ has a post-employment support that is crucial
- Cisneros shared her experience at St. Vincent de Paul, talked about their workforce development programs, and highlighted their shelter for mothers and children, and mentioned that their area of most need is their bandwidth
- Ward added that St. Vincent de Paul helps people with histories of drug addiction rehabilitate back into the workforce
- Lopez asked about the eligibility of St. Vincent de Paul's programs, to which Molina, Ward, and Cisneros answered that they are open to anyone who walks in

7. Staff Reports : CalCAPA Advocacy Day

- CalCAPA Advocacy Day is on April 2nd and 3rd.
- 10 people are attending, including staff.
- Ward walked the EOC through the contents of the 2025 Homeless Outreach Backpacks, which includes a solar power bank charger that was shared at a Walnut Creek forum on homeless as a major need.
- Zeimer thanked staff for their coordinating with regional organizations to find the greatest need items among homeless population.
- Cisneros asked when staff is giving away the backpacks, to which Ward answered that staff brings four backpacks to each onsite visit.

8. Chair Report

No report this month.

9. EOC Members Reports

- Zeimer shared that on January 10th and January 20th 6-8pm Know Your Rights training sessions with Contra Costa Immigrants Alliance, January 14th at 9am Board of Supervisors that Scales Preston will be inaugurated as the first African American woman elected to the Board of Supervisors
- Ward mentioned that she, Ajit, Zeimer attended her informal community inauguration
- Kaushal mentioned that we should recognize the wildfires in Southern California and added that maybe the county can help them

10. Next Steps

None.

11. Meeting Evaluation

Good and productive.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 13 2025 at 6pm.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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For Additional Information Contact: Christina Castle-Barber 925-608-8819