



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, February 12, 2026

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | Zoom:

<https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/84112970168> | call

in: 8882780254 | Meeting ID: 841 1297 0168

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

Present

Karanbir Bal, Patricia Campbell, Jessica Cisneros, Christian Dean, Ajit Kaushal, Buffie Lafayette, Janelle Lafrades, Nikki Lopez, Desire Medlen, Monisha Merchant, Tu'Liisa Miller, LaTonia Peoples-Stokes, Devlyn Sewell, Kanwar Singh, Victor Tiglao, and Renee Zeimer

Non-voting

Karen Coleman

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Medlen called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Quorum Established.

Staff Present: Jen Quallick, Chief of Staff for Chair Anderson, Christina Castle-Barber, Roshunda Ward, and Michael Morris.

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

No public present.

3. APPROVE the EOC Business Meeting Minutes for 1-8-2026.

[26-503](#)

Attachments:

[EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 1-8-26](#)

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Cisneros, to approve the EOC Business Meeting minutes of 1-8-2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion:

Lopez

Second:

Cisneros

Aye:

Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Miller, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Abstain:

Peoples-Stokes

Result:

Passed

4. RECEIVE the November and December 2025 Fiscal Reports for Grant #25F-6007. [26-504](#)

Attachments: [CSBG Nov 2025 Final PDF](#)
[CSBG Dec 2025 Final PDF](#)

Morris presented the November and December 2025 Fiscal Reports for Grant #25F-6007
Tiglao asked if Lao Family Community Impact is on track to spend down their contract, to which Ward answered that they are on track, but the reimbursement requests have been wrong which has delayed their reimbursement

This Discussion Item was received.

5. RECEIVE an overview of the 2025 CSBG Annual Report. [26-505](#)

Attachments: [2025 CSBG Annual Report](#)

Castle-Barber presented the 2025 CSBG Annual Report.

Lopez asked why so few seniors are served than are represented in the community at large to which Castle-Barber replied that the Head Start numbers skew the percentages as we serve so many children 0-5.

This Discussion Item was received.

6. RECEIVE the 2025 CSBG Onsite Subcontractor Monitoring Report [26-506](#)

Attachments: [CSBG Onsite Monitoring 2024-2025](#)
[2024-2025 CSBG Site Visit Overview -](#)

Castle-Barber noted that there were no findings during the 2025 CSBG Onsite Subcontractor Monitoring Report

Miller asked about the H3 impact with Bay Area Legal Aid, to which Castle-Barber explained their intertwined relationship

Lafrades, Lafayette, Medlen shared their experience at their onsite visit

Lao Family Services:

Job training/preparation for Limited English speaking population, low-income, West County residents

Some barriers their clients face: wishing more employers would take on English-language learners, AI use in interviews don't get the full depth of the applicant, needs web developer/social media volunteers for their organization

Improvement recommendations: there were plenty of mistakes on their invoice reimbursements, which results in delayed reimbursement

We got to sit in on an interview preparation workshop

This Discussion Item was received.

7. APPROVE attendees to the 2026 CalCAPA Advocacy Day on May 13 and 14. [26-507](#)

Attachments: [2026 CalCAPA Advocacy Day](#)

Secondary Motion - Mover: Lafrades; Seconder: Campbell - to send Kanwar to the one day event at the capitol. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Zeimer, seconded by Lopez, to approve sending Miller and Kaushal to the two-day CalCAPA Advocacy Day event. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Zeimer
Second: Lopez
Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Miller, Peoples-Stokes, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer
Result: Passed

- 8. DISCUSS plans for 2026 Community Action Month. [26-508](#)

Attachments: [COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH 2026](#)

Castle-Barber shared the plans for Community Action Month with the board presentation tentatively scheduled for May 19.

The EOC decided to have a Roundtable where each agency shares their current work and new and innovative practices. This meeting will be held on May 21 and will replace the May EOC meeting regularly scheduled for 14, which is Advocacy Day in Sacramento.

This Discussion Item was received.

- 9. RECEIVE presentation on Vital Conditions for Health and Wellbeing Framework. [26-509](#)

Attachments: [Vital Conditions Framework](#)

Castle-Barber presented the Vital Conditions for Health and Wellbeing Framework
 Lopez pointed out the upcoming BART station closures and the lack of a warming center in Antioch
 Zeimer pointed out the intersectionality of all of these points

10. Staff Report

Castle-Barber shared about the update on Health and Human Services funding. Ward received the LIHEAP funding. Ward shared that we receive about \$4 million and they are typically expended in about four months, so new changes will be implemented to stretch those dollars, working with CAP OC to do this, looking to spend about \$200k a month.

11. Chair Report

none

12. EOC Member Reports

Coffee with Ken and Tim - Friday, Feb 27 (10AM-11:30AM), Skylinks - Buchanan Field Golf Club.
 Merchant suggested to invite transportation entity (CCTA) to roundtable, sales tax expert for our meeting.
 Lopez shared about the SAVE Act and encouraged members to oppose this bill.
 Cisneros shared AB1627 by Assemblymember Avila-Farias and the Housing Town Hall.

13. Next Steps and Meeting Evaluation

Add the Vital Conditions as talking point to the Roundtable Discussion

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 12, 2026 at 6pm.

14. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

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

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