



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 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; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
- Remote (4): Dani Jimenez; Juno Hedrick; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks
- Absent (0):

**Staff Attendance:** Jaime Jenett, H3; Jamie Schecter, H3; Alex Michel, Homebase; Mark Mora, Homebase; Michele Byrnes, Homebase; Tania Morales, Homebase

### Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Jared Murti, City of Pinole; Daniel Busch, EHSD; Jilly Ray, Supervisor Anderson's Office
- Remote: Adam Hudson, BACS; C. Bullard, BACS; Michelle Albert, Bay Legal; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Sonja Shephard, Community Member; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County District 3; Janna Evans, CCCOE; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Kimberly Thai, H3; Natalie Siva, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Stephanie Bodisco, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Carmen Cano, LFCD; Julie Clemens, LSS NorCal; Elizabeth Yin, LWA; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Andrea Foti, SHELTER Inc.; Cynthia-Bella Chavez, SHELTER, Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER Inc.; Abby Shamelashvili, Trinity Center; Nathan Pereyra, Trinity Center; Anastasia Padilla, YAB; Amanda Aschow, Zócalo Health

## 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.



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## 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. 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:	0 (0%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	5 (22%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	18 (78%)
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	1 (4%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	3 (13%)
No	19 (79%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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

African American/Black	4 (13%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4 (13%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	2 (7%)
Hispanic/Latinx	3 (10%)
White	13 (43%)
Multi-racial	2 (7%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	2 (7%)

### 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 June 5, 2025 Council meeting**

**B. APPROVE staff report for the July 10, 2025 Council meeting**

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

Members made a motion to approve the items per the changes listed 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: Wayne Earl
  - Seconded by: Verneda Clapp
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: Dani Jimenez
  - ABSENT: None



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## 5) Committee Report Outs

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

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

The Youth Advisory Board provided an update on their current activities, including subcommittee meetings, participation in the Housing Needs Assessment Committee, and involvement in community strategic planning. They continue to hold bi-monthly hybrid meetings at H3 offices and report out to the Oversight Committee. YAB is working on three action steps derived from their strategic plan, with Anastasia Padilla and Juno Hedrick coordinating these efforts. Juno highlighted the June activities such as participating in the YAB Pride proclamation at the Board of Supervisors' June meeting and presenting key findings from youth and adult needs assessments to support Measure X/ARPA funding recommendations. For July, the team plans to prepare for the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program re-release, participate in training sessions, increase YAB coordinator capacity for peer support, and present needs assessment findings at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB may send an email at [ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org](mailto:ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org). Anastasia Padilla shared her experience with the foster system and her work with YAB. Nicole Green encouraged attendees to join the strategic planning efforts with youth.

## 6) Old Business

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### A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

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

The following COH members gave the following updates:

- Jaime Jenett welcomed Bessie Scott as the new City Government representative.
- Nicole Green shared a flyer about the event called First Page New Chapter tutoring that will take place in Pittsburgh for youth ages 12 through 18. All interested youth may attend either or both events on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 11am–1:00pm or August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. RSVP is available at the First Page New Chapter's [website](#). Nicole Green also shared another event called Words with the Police on July 17<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in Pittsburgh. There will be resources available for community members from Behavioral Health Department and La Clinica. Any other organization that has resources guides that they want to share with the rest to the community may send them directly to H3 for distribution.



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- Contra Costa College will host a resource fair about immigration with the participation from many organizations on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Agencies and organizations will offer free legal consultations, education about know your rights, and family preparedness.
- The City of Antioch will host a Homelessness 101 event at the city's library on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.
- Wayne Earl shared that the Bay Area Rescue Mission will have a school supply giveaway event on August 2, from 10 a.m. –2 p.m. in McDonald Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. In addition to free backpacks filled with school supplies, attendees can get haircuts, food, clothing, giveaways, etc. Tabling opportunities will also be available. Flyers and how to RSVP will be shared soon.
- Tony Ucciferri announced that The Housing Authority's project-based voucher program has 16 units. The waitlist will remain open until July 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. The Housing Authority's Sign-Up Waitlist notification form may be found at its [website](#).

### **B. Update: Housing Support Program**

C. Presenter: Jamie Schecter, *H3*

Jamie Schecter reported that Contra Costa County received an allocation of nearly \$3 million for the Housing Support Program (HSP, also known as Housing WORKS!) for fiscal years 2025-2026, with a request submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDESS) for the full amount. The HSP data for FY 2024–2025 showed that 190 families were served, with 31 in eviction prevention and 159 in Rapid Rehousing programs. If awarded, HSP will continue to provide direct financial assistance to CalWORKs HSP families.

### **D. Funding Updates**

Presenter: Jamie Schecter, *H3*

Jamie Schecter discussed the submission of the Village of Hope Project application under the COC Builds NOFO competition, with results expected at the end of October. H3 posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) notice for Transitional Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY), with applications due July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The official RFP may be accessed on the Contra Costa Health's website [here](#). Additionally, The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-PLUS) RFP, a federal funding for similar services with a quick turnaround timeline of two weeks. Agencies interested in applying for this fund may reach out to H3 to receive support for the application. The Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP-6) program is due on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with stakeholder feedback session on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The HHP-7 State budget for FY 2026-2027 will include \$500 million, a substantial decrease from previous years, and that \$100 million in encampment resolution funding was available for various cities and the county.



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Jamie concluded by sharing that there are some expected impacts on Medicaid per the Federal budget approved by Congress in early July.

Jamie also reported that HUD has reversed their previous commitment to a two-year funding cycle for Continuum of Care (COC) programs, instead planning to release a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that would require reapplication for all funding. If this NOFO is released, it may prioritize street outreach and behavioral health services, though specific details are not yet available. It was emphasized that while local control will still influence priorities, the COH committee needs to prepare for potential changes to funding structures and encouraged participants to contact their representatives to express concerns about the funding changes. H3 has already reached out to its funding committee members to be prepared to convene in case NOFO drops. Jamie recommended members to sign up for [The National Alliance to End Homelessness \(NEAH\)'s newsletter](#) to receive federal budget updates.

### **E. Update: CoC Monitoring**

Presenter: Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*

Michele Byrnes presented the results of the 2025 compliance monitoring process with reviewal of eight agencies and 20 projects. They found overall positive compliance with previous recommendations, particularly noting improvements in timekeeping systems across agencies. The areas of improvements identified were grant spend-down progress and fair housing policies, with recommendations made for agencies to access technical assistance and update their fair housing policies. The names of the eight agencies were shown as well as the monitoring timeline.

## **7) New Business**

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### **A. (ACTION ITEM) DISCUSS and APPROVE 2025 Quarter 2 Council on Homelessness Recommendations for Report to County Board of Supervisors**

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

Jaime Jenett discussed the upcoming Council on Homelessness quarterly recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors as: 1) Continue to advocate for ongoing support for people who lose eligibility for services and other resources due to federal and state policy decisions; and 2) Share Annual Report and Point-In-Time Count reports and open seats on the Council on Homelessness with your constituents. In terms of COH membership and open seats, about half of current seats will expire in December and recruitment will begin in September.



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### Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the recommendations for the Q2 COH report to the FHS Committee of the Board of Supervisors.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record:
  - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri
  - Seconded by: Sherina Criswell
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: None
  - ABSENT: None

### **B. Learning Corner: AB 109 Programs Update**

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, *H3* and Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Jamie Schechter and Nicole Green presented updates on AB 109, a California law shifting responsibility for nonviolent and non-serious sexual offenders from state prisons to local county jails and probation departments per the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States that prisons violated the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment due to inadequate medical and mental health services and overcrowding. The legal requirements for spending were shared. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a 15-member body of community stakeholders that is formally responsible for advising the AB 109 Community Corrections Partnership, with Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) being responsible for making AB 109 policy and budget recommendations to the Public Protection Committee (PPC). The one-time AB 109 funding allocation to H3 was shared with priorities given to housing, employment, and rehabilitation services. Part of next steps include implementing all services in FY 2025-2026, ongoing coordination with re-entry partners, data sharing exploration, and ongoing updates to CAB.

### **8) Update: 2025 Point-In-Time Count**

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Presenter: Janel Fletcher, *H3*

Janel Fletcher provided an overview of the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) count for homelessness in Contra Costa County, which was conducted at the end of January. Data showed that there is a 26% decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness



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on a given night (725 fewer individuals). Part of the methodology used were through HMIS or via survey for non-HMIS participating programs for sheltered count and observational count conducted by volunteers from the community, partner agencies, and CORE for the unsheltered count. The 2025 PIT count included survey questions about displacement experience (e.g., if program participants were offered services when they were required to move). The data collected will help determine funding for homelessness initiatives.

### 9) General Announcements

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#### A. General Announcements:

Presenter: All members and members of the public.

- None

### 10) Pin It

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

- The next COH meeting will be on August 7<sup>th</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