



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, February 5, 2026, 1 – 3 p.m.

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

### **Council Member Attendance:**

- In-Person (18): Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Ralph Payton, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl
- Remote (0): None.
- Absent (1): Nicole Green,

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

### **Community Member Attendance:**

- In-person: Jill Ray, Board of Supervisors District 2; Marissa Wittrien, community member
- Remote: Anna Cleese, Board of Supervisors District 3; Ashley Jackson, CCCOE; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; George Turner, Community member; Irene Higgins, Community member; Rachel Rosekind, Community member; Serene Terrazas, Community member; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Ralph Payton, GRIP Community; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Danielle Jimenez, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Nicholas Carter, H3; Vi Ibarra, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Carmen Cano, LFCD; Hang Mosier, SAHA Homes; Dia Mundle, San Ramon Valley Unified School District; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia Chavez, SHELTER, Inc.; Daniel Barth, SOS Richmond; Sean Noland, Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa; Donovan Brosas, The City of El Cerrito; Paida Ndemera, Trinity Center; **19252228338**

## AGENDA ITEM

### 1) Call to Order

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#### **A. Chair starts the meeting:**

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Juno Hedrick called the meeting to order.



## 2) Introductions

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### A. Meeting Norms:

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Juno Hedrick provided an overview of 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:

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

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

### C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Juno Hedrick conducted the poll activity via Mentimeter. 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:	1 (5%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	4 (21%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	14 (74%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	1 (5%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (5%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	2 (10%)
No	17 (81%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

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

African American/Black	6 (21%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2 (7%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	5 (18%)
Hispanic/Latinx	5 (18%)
White	8 (29%)
Multi-racial	2 (7%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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## 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:

- Dia Mundle, the Foster and Homeless Youth liaison for San Ramon Valley Unified School District and also a member of the McKinney-Vento Education Council, discussed the significant challenges faced by homeless families and youth in central Contra Costa County. In the past school year, the school district identified 400 students as homeless, with one-third of them living in doubled up situations or in vehicles. These numbers continue to grow and reflect a crisis that demands urgent attention. Due to the lack of family shelters, many families are told to go out of the County to find resources, affecting their academic performance and causes emotional distress. Dia highlighted the ongoing and urgent need of expanding family shelter options and increase housing resources for vulnerable students and families in central Contra Costa County.

## 4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

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### A. APPROVE minutes from the January 8, 2026 Council meeting

### B. APPROVE staff report for the February 5, 2026 Council meeting

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Members made a motion to approve the items in the consent calendar as listed:

Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the consent calendar items as listed.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record:
  - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell.
  - Seconded by: Verneda Clapp.
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, , Ralph Payton, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
  - NOES: None.
  - ABSTAINS: None.
  - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
  - ABSENT: Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green.



## 5) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Update

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### A. Update on CoC NOFO and Funding Committee

Speaker: Mark Mora, *Homebase*, and Jamie Schecter, *H3*

Mark Mora provided the latest updates on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) competition process. The FY 2025 CoC NOFO was published on November 13, 2025. It was rescinded then re-released with updates on December 19, 2025 amid litigation filed against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by different agencies across the nation. The FY 2025 was then blocked from being implemented due to a preliminary injunction. Thus, significant program changes in the FY 2025 NOFO, including a funding cap of 30% of the Annual Renewal Demand toward permanent housing projects and service participation requirements, were no longer valid. In early January of 2026, HUD re-issued the two-year FY 2024 – 2025 CoC NOFO (originally released in 2024) which focuses on renewing existing projects a non-competitive manner with a limited amount of reallocated dollars available for new projects. The Review and Rank panel will meet in early February to finalize the project priority listing then a designee of the Council on Homelessness will do final approval. A FY 2026 NOFO is anticipated to be announced this summer and will have funding available for new projects.

## 6) Committee Report Outs

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

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative* and Anastasia Lockwood, *YAB Member and Outreach and Retention Facilitator*

Anastasia shared the different activities that YAB members accomplished in the month of January, which included bimonthly hybrid meetings with H3 and RYSE, subcommittee communications, workgroups, youth survey, national YAB space, among others. YAB welcomed new members on January 8, 2026. For 2026, YAB Board's goals will be to schedule a retreat for team building, have a strong social media presence, reconvene youth and young adult strategic planning, work on youth survey, and release some updates to the 2024 Community Needs Assessment. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB can send an email at [ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org](mailto:ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org) or call at (925) 500-3237.

## 7) Old Business

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### A. Update: 2026 Point-In-Time Count (ACTION ITEM)

Speaker: Janel Fletcher, *H3*



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The Point-In-Time (PIT) count took place in the early morning of January 29, 2026. Over 200 volunteers supported the PIT count and Janel Fletcher thanked all the volunteers for their help. The PIT count includes those experiencing sheltered homelessness in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs as well as households experiencing unsheltered homelessness in places not meant for habitation such as cars, tents, RVs, etc. In terms of next steps, H3 will collect community surveys to learn about the demographics, needs, and causes of homelessness from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community. The survey collection period is from February 9<sup>th</sup> until February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The PIT data will be submitted to HUD for review and approval and once approved, the final results will be published and presented at a COH meeting.

### B. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

- One COH member stated that she received an information notice for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program Grant where they requested two letters of support from organizations with which they are currently in communication. The grant is aimed to reduce and prevent veterans' homelessness by assisting them in overcoming employment barriers. Agencies from the private, for-profit, non-profit, and government sector can apply. H3 will look into finding some partnership between interested agencies. More information about this grant may be found at [Grants.gov's](https://www.grants.gov) website.
- Tony Ucciferri shared that The Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa (HACCC) issued a Request-for-Proposal to transition 15 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) units to the project-based voucher program. Three applications from different providers were received, Lakeside, Villa Vasconcellos, and Ohio housing programs. Due to changes to the recent tenant-based rental assistance programs, HACCC will have to return funds to HUD. Additionally, HACCC will have a waitlist for a new project-based voucher program called Nevin Plaza in Richmond with a target population to senior adults 62 years old and up. The waitlist will open on March 2nd, 2026 on the [HACCC's website](#).
- Mia Fairbanks shared that The Healthcare for the Homeless agency will start a laser tattoo removal for people who have gang tattoos, and service providers will be trained by Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. More information about the logistic on how to request the services will be shared soon.

### C. Funding Updates

Speaker: Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, *H3*

Jamie Schechter shared that the Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program, which includes the Continuum of Care (CoC) Emergency Solutions Branch, would receive over \$4.4 billion, a \$336 million increase from the previous year. The budget bill also includes language that requires HUD to renew CoC grants expiring in the first quarter of 2026 for a period of 12 months and creates a timeline for HUD to renew expiring grants throughout the year. HUD has until June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 to release the 2026 NOFO. Moreover, the Board of Supervisors



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directed the reappropriation of funds for \$9.7 million from the general fund appropriation designated for contingencies for food insecurity and other critical needs in the community in addition to \$2.8 million to be used for rental assistance programs to support emergency rental assistance and eviction prevention through the Contra Costa Crisis Center's 2-1-1 process.

The State of California approved H3's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 6 application that will provide \$6.7 million funds for interim housing and other programs in the community. The grant agreement is expected to be signed in the next few weeks. Furthermore, the Consolidated Homelessness and Housing Services program conducted applicant interviews in January from agencies that submitted proposals. The next step will be for the Family and Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors, H3, and the Department of Conservation and Development to make the final selection.

### 8) New Business

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#### A. Family and Human Services (FHS) Quarterly Report and Recommendations

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3

The Council of Homelessness has prepared the quarterly report with recommendations to Advocate to the Governor and Legislature for the following actions: 1) Restore full HHAP funding for FY 2025–26 and beyond; 2) Ensure timely distribution of the \$1 billion in HHAP funds already approved for FY 2024–25; and 3) Commit to sustained, predictable homelessness funding in future budgets. The recommendations will be sent to the Family and Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors for approval. Jaime Jenett added that these meetings are virtual and COH members can attend and participate

#### B. Update: Brown Act and Virtual Attendance

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3

Per the original Brown Act, from 2023 COH members were required to attend in person meetings unless they used a just cause exception. Effective January 1, 2026, California Senate Bill 707 (SB707) made some updates by removing the emergency circumstances rule and added a few other reasonable accommodations under just cause. These include immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse or domestic partner, military service obligations, and physical or family medical emergency, allowing members with disabilities to attend public meetings and allows them to participate remotely and count towards in person quorum. Members need to request approval from Clerk of the Board at least a week before using the first time.



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### C. Learning Corner: Community College Basic Needs Programs

Speaker: Hope Dixon, *Contra Costa College & Community Member Representative*

Hope Dixon, Basic Needs Coordinator, presented an overview of Community College School District in Contra Costa County. The district has three large campuses: Diablo Valley College, Los Madanos College, and Contra Costa College in addition to two other satellite campuses. One of them, St. Mary's, is the only college in the county with student housing. The lack of student housing creates an impact on the homeless system and the way students access services. The presentation covered information about cost of college, how to pay for college and apply for financial aid, where to find resources, challenges that unhoused students encounter and ways to support them. In addition to being able to apply for financial aid through grants and scholarships, students can also access healthcare, food, and housing pathways. Those interested in getting more information may contact Hope at [hdixon@contracosta.edu](mailto:hdixon@contracosta.edu).

## 9) General Announcements

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### A. General Announcements:

Speaker: All

- The website [EastBayworks.com](http://EastBayworks.com) is a career building resource that posts jobs and career fairs at the regional level across Contra Costa County and Alameda County. This resource is possible thanks to collaboration from different agencies such as American Job Center, Contra Costa College, LMC, among others.

## 10) Pin It

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Speaker: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- The next COH meeting will be on March 5, from 1 – 3 p.m.
- 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.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

## 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
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance



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Acronym	Definition
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