



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (15): Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
- Remote (2): Hope Dixon; Leslie Gleason
- Absent (1): Heather Worobey
- Vacant (1): City Government Representative

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

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Jaclyn Tummings, DCD; Melanie Erickson, DCD; Caoline Miller, H3; Darius Aikens, Pittsburg Police department; Dillon Baler, Upward health; Jasmine Lologo, Upward Health; Nance Rowemanns, Upward Health; Leon Salee, YAB
- Remote: Athena, Bay Area Community Services; Angela Mullen, Brentwood Unified School District; Christine Wetzel, Caminar; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Gerry, Community member; Jessika Erin, Community member; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County District 3; Kirsten Hougen, CCC EHSD CSB; Janna Evans, CCCOE; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Gina O., Contra Costa Crisis Center; Lisa Malul, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Elissa Kim, H3; Jorge Flores, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Emily Bero, Hope Solutions; Khayla DiGiorgio, Hope Solutions; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Hang Mosier, SAHA Homes; Christi Rossi, SHELTER Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER Inc.; Barb Hunt, St. Vincent de Paul of CCC; Jai De Lotto, VA CES; Anastasia Lockwood, YAB



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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:	4 (7%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	7 (32%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	21 (61%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	1 (3%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	6 (18%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	4 (12%)



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No	22 (67%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

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

African American/Black	8 (18%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5 (11%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	5 (11%)
Hispanic/Latinx	8 (18%)
White	16 (36%)
Multi-racial	2 (4%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (2%)

3) Public Comments

A. Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda

Members of the public:

- Leslie Gleason, COH member, announced that Trinity Center has launched a search for a new executive director. Anyone who is interested in applying should visit [Trinity Center's website](#).
- Angela Mullen, the foster and homeless youth liaison for Brentwood Unified School District and also a member of the McKinney-Vento Education Council, discussed the significant challenges faced by homeless families and youth in East Contra Costa County. During the 2023-24 school year, 1,300 students were identified as homeless students, with the majority living in doubled up situations or in vehicles. Due to the lack of family shelters, many families are told to go out of the County to find resources. Housing instability leads to chronic absenteeism, emotional distress, and causes a decline in their academic performance. Angela emphasized the urgent need of expanding shelter options and increase housing resources for vulnerable students and families in East Contra Costa County.
- Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3, shared the news that Valerie Slovin, a H3 staff member, has officially retired and thanked her for her dedication and continuous work of over 10 years helping people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Other members joined Mary to thank Valerie for her devotion.

4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

A. APPROVE minutes from the April 3, 2025 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the May 1, 2025 Council meeting

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

Members made a motion to approve the items 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: Wayne Earl
 - Seconded by: Tony Ucciferri
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; 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: Heather Worobey

5) Committee Report Outs

A. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*, Leon Saelee, *YAB Lead & Member*, and Anastasia Lockwood, *YAB Facilitator & Member*

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) provided a report on their activities in April and plans for May. In terms of next steps, they plan to continue their partnership with Rainbow, meet with the Contra Costa Health, Community, Education, and Information team to improve their social media presence, participate in the Housing Needs Assessment Committee, and improve collaboration with the Oversight Committee. They await the HUD's Youth Homeless Demonstration HDP FY 2024 NOFO award results. The members expressed their excitement and pride in the work they are doing, emphasizing the importance of advocacy and public speaking.

B. Nominating Committee

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

Jaime Jenett discussed the need to seek a new representative for the City Government Representative seat, as the previous representative, Jazmin Ridley, stepped down and resigned from the seat. The committee now is seeking volunteers for a Nominating Panel to review applications and recommend a new candidate for the open seat. The following COH members agreed to join: Leanne Matthews, Juno Hedrick, Dani Jimenez, and Hope Dixon.



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6) Old Business

A. Funding Updates

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, H3

The Board of Supervisors approved the recommendations for the Housing and Homeless Services per the RFP on April 15th, 2025, with nearly \$6.6 million in federal, state and local funds. All contracts will become effective July 1st, 2025 or later. For the 2024 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity federal funding update, CoC grantees have begun receiving grant agreements. Due to significant changes on the agreement language to enforce compliance with executive orders, such as prohibition to promote gender ideology and denying of services per immigration status, The National Alliance to End Homelessness recommends seeking legal counsel to review the grant documents. Per the language changes about immigration status for CoC assisted households, some agencies are questioning whether they need to go back and request proof of immigration status to people receiving services or whether that applies to new people who will receive services, as many agencies that provide services do not request proof. Jamie answered that nonprofits have had a different standard under local and state government in terms of verifying immigration details and that they utilize HMIS data to make sure eligibility is in place but clarified that the HMIS does not track citizenship status. H3 recommends continuing working with legal counsel and being informed about the process. There are also concerns about HUD's Housing First language changes, with H3 acknowledging the importance of keep enforcing this program model at the state and local level. Additionally, H3 also highlighted the new funding from Assembly Bill (AB) 109, a public safety realignment funding that all counties get from the state for housing programs. For the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 6 update, there will be three stakeholder engagement meetings to obtain input on the community's needs and help create a budget for the HHAP 6 application to the State—the application is due at the end of August. Lastly, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the entity that coordinates across the entire Federal government on homelessness, published the Federal Strategic plan and has reduced to a minimum presence and function required by law based on an executive order on March 14, 2025. Anyone interested in receiving email notifications from Contra Costa County's CoC Funding Opportunities page can sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

B. (ACTION ITEM) Discuss And Approve 2025 Quarter 1 Council On Homelessness Recommendations For Report To County Board Of Supervisors



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Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

Jaime Jenett discussed the 2025 quarter 1 recommendations for reports to the County Board of Supervisors. The Council would like to promote more of the Homelessness 101, a community forum on homelessness where members of the public can come and learn real basic information about homelessness. The next one will be scheduled in Pittsburgh. Other recommendations to send to the Board of Supervisors are to include youth's work, address the need for a cheat sheet of what the different committees are doing, and the current challenges of funding due to federal cuts and the need to raise awareness of these challenges.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the 2025 Quarter 1 Council on Homelessness Recommendations for the report to the County Board of Supervisors.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Dani Jimenez
 - Seconded by: Mia Fairbanks
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; 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: Heather Worobey

C. Conference Reports

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, *H3*

Jamie Schechter shared the recent presentation that H3 did at the Corporation for Supportive Housing Annual Conference in Chicago, in collaboration with Alameda County, where they shared the training sessions and resources that Contra Costa County uses to support providers in their community. H3, in partnership with Hope Solutions, also had a strong representation at the Housing California conference, where they presented on their El Portal Place project and discussed the use of AB 109 funding. The team expressed excitement about their innovative projects and the recognition they have received from attendees for their work.



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7) New Business

A. Update: System Performance Measures

Presenter: Jamie Schechter and Kimberly Thai, H3

Kimberly Thai went over the HUD System Performance Measures (SPM), which were established in 2015. The SPM is an annual report used at the federal level to determine funding for the CoC at a local level, identify trends, understand impacts for program or policy changes, and guide decision-making. The SPM is guided by seven key measures with Measure 6 focusing on prevention outcomes and is only applicable to high-performing communities. The meeting also covered how to use the findings to understand changes over time, set goals for the CoC, and the importance of considering changes in funding sources and priorities. The conversation ended with a discussion on the data presented, including the number of returns to homelessness, the number of homeless persons, employment and income growth, and exit destination data.

B. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

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

H3 reminded COH members to use this space to share any updates. A question was raised to find out if they were part of any other council, board, or advisory group that speaks to the work around homelessness. A council member answered [1:26:09] that she belongs to the Alameda County CoC Outreach Access and Coordination Committee so it could be an opportunity to share what they are doing and how it relates to this work. Alejandra Chamberlain, COH member, mentioned that there is a group that will be formed soon to discuss AB 2083, which involves probation, child welfare, behavioral health as well as The County Office of Education and Regional Center. Mia Fairbanks is also on the Healthcare for the Homeless Board and they will be undergoing a site visit and evaluation by their funder. Mia will have some flyers with more information about who can access those services at the next meeting. Hope Dixon shared that she could bring in information about the Reimagine Richmond project where they work on reimagining community safety with police oversight, and the Rock project, a mental health crisis line for low level emergency calls. Hope Dixon also mentioned that the City of Richmond is recruiting for a community intervention specialist and details about the job opportunity may be found at the [City of Richmond's website](#). For AB 109, Nicole Green shared that there will be an online summit on June 4th and it will be open to all county programs (H3, CoC, behavioral health, etc.). COH members will be asked to confirm if they have a report out they would like to share when the email about quorum goes out.



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C. Learning Corner: Presentation about the Opioid Response

Services and Program

Presenter: Elissa Kim, *Behavioral Health Services, Opioid Response Services and Program*

Elissa Kim, the Opioid Response Coordinator, presented data on drug overdose deaths and emergency department visits, with data showing that drug overdose emerged as the leading cause of death among residents aged 25-54, highlighting the impact on different regions and communities. She emphasized the need for a comprehensive response to address the issue, which affects people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses. News articles about recent incidents in neighboring counties were shared, emphasizing the importance of prevention within their own community. The Access Line provides outpatient services, medication-assisted treatment, detox facilities, and recovery support services. She highlighted the importance of treatment, particularly for those struggling with substance use disorders, and mentioned the availability of bilingual services. Elissa also introduced the Opioid Response Team, which engages with vulnerable populations to provide support and connect them with treatment and recovery services. She emphasized the need to break the stigma surrounding harm reduction and substance use, and mentioned the availability for the public to obtain naloxone and fentanyl test strips in vending machines. The Syringe Service Program provides sterile supplies, prevention supplies as well as education and testing for STIs and HIV. Elissa encouraged collaboration with other organizations to support the community and the need to improve outreach. Anyone needing support or information may email the team directly at AODOPIOIDResponse@cchealth.org or call at 925-335-3330.

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 June 5th, 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