



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, March 13, 2025

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | Zoom:

[https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/87597737980?](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/87597737980?pwd=2Xw3ua2C4IuCWfnyb3copyKBVbd5uu.1)
[pwd=2Xw3ua2C4IuCWfnyb3copyKBVbd5uu.1](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/87597737980?pwd=2Xw3ua2C4IuCWfnyb3copyKBVbd5uu.1)
| 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. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Medlen called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Staff Present: Christina Castle-Barber, Roshunda Ward, Melissa Molina, Michael Morris, and Ayalew Lidente

Public Present: Monisha Merchant on Zoom

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

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVE the February 13, 2025 EOC Business Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Zeimer, seconded by Kaushal, to approve the Minutes of 2-13-2025 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

Motion: Zeimer

Second: Kaushal

4. RECEIVE the Fiscal Report for January 2025 for CSBG Grant 24F-3307 with three amendments.

Morris presented the fiscal report and stated that we are on track to spend down our grant. Roshunda shared that all demands are in and the subcontractors have expended 100% of their funds.

This Fiscal Report was received.

5. RECEIVE Advocacy Day Updates and APPROVE list of legislation for which to advocate.

Castle-Barber shared the list of state legislators for Contra Costa County along with the constituents that will be attending Advocacy Day. Still waiting to schedule two legislators. Castle-Barber shared the following legislation for consideration by EOC: AB 249 - Ramos, AB722- Avila-Farias, AB986 - Lee, SB 18 - Rubio, SB 33- Cortese, SB 411 Perez, AB736

-Wicks, and SB 417 - Cabaldon.

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Lafrades, to approve the advocating for SB 411 (Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025), AB 249 (Youth Specific Housing), and AB 722 (reentry housing). The motion carried by the following vote: unanimous.

Motion: Lopez

Second: Lafrades

6. RECEIVE update on the GRIP and Loaves and Fishes Public Hearings.

Ward presented the GRIP Public Hearing results and the group that attended the one at Loaves and Fishes shared their experience and deep gratitude to Loaves and Fishes for providing an extra dinner and outdoor set up after their building flooded.

This Public Hearing Report was received.

7. RECEIVE presentation on the Key Findings from the 2025 Community Assessment.

Lidete gave a presentation based on the Key Findings from our 2025 Community Assessment. Castle-Barber explained that this data, paired with the results of the four listening sessions (public hearings), will be used to chose priorities for the Community Action Plan next month.

The Key Findings from the 2025 Community Assessment was received.

8. DISCUSS and APPROVE the 2026-27 Community Action mission and vision statements.

Castle-Barber reviewed the current vision and mission and shared examples of other statements. For the mission statement, the EOC preferred to use language about investing in the community rather than empowering. Focus on return on investment for addressing the root causes of poverty through funding and partnerships. The EOC liked the staff prompt for the vision statement and preferred to delete the word "creating" at the beginning. It was agreed that Castle-Barber will send out reworked vision and mission statement by email and will collect all input for consideration and approval at the April meeting. Thus, the approval was tabled.

This approval of the vision and mission statement was tabled to next month.

9. Staff Report

Castle-Barber gave a Head Start update. Molina gave an update on the Make Parenting a Pleasure training coming up and also gave instructions to the members that are attending Advocacy Day with respect to their travel arrangements and a reminded to keep all receipts to get reimbursed.

10. Chair Report

Medlen reminded all to call their federal legislators daily!

11. EOC Member Reports

No reports.

12. Next Steps

Molina will send out Lidete's presentation to the group and Castle-Barber will send out reworked mission and vision statements. Tiglao will work on talking points for the legislative visits and will send by March 27.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 10 at 6pm..

13. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Concord, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

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

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