



## Meeting Minutes - Final

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

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Thursday, February 6, 2025

1:00 PM

Location: In person: 1025 Escobar St.,

Martinez Virtual:

<https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclf-uspzovGdR7op72t5-X4nsGdqpL-X#/registration>

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#### General Meeting

[25-419](#)

**Attachments:**

[COH Agenda w Time 2.6.25](#)

[COH Slides 2.6.25](#)

[Q4-2024 Report](#)

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

1. Roll Call and Introductions

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

**Community Member Attendance:**

- In-person: Tina Connor, Community member; Dolores White, I4C; Josie Asencio, from SDA and I4C
- Virtual: Ms. Evon Ufland, Agape's Restore & Renew Home; Barbara Aguilar, Antioch Unified School District; Manish Jain, Bay Shelter Homes; Jill Ray, BOS District 2; Christine Wetzel, Caminar; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Ishani Rasanayaga, City of Pittsburg; S Shephard, Community member; Tan Lowe, Community member; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, Community Services Bureau; Jaclyn Tummings, Conservation and Development; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Vicki Proctor, Extended Hands Ministry; Brianna Ramos, Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Anya Kushwaha, H3; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Stephanie Bodisco, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Benjamin Hernandez, Impact Justice, The Homecoming Project; Angela Corona, Lao Family Community Development; Wilanda Hughes, LFCD; Olivia King, RCD; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER, Inc.; Andrea Foti, SHELTER, Inc.; Christi Rossi, SHELTER, Inc.; Juan Florez, SHELTER, Inc.; Carmella Kowall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Teri Lundvall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Anastasia Lockwood, YAB; Leon Saelee, YAB; Amanda Aschow, Zócalo Health.

**This was read into the record.**

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|----------------|---|
| <b>Present</b> | Alejandra Chamberlain, Verneda Clapp, Sherina Criswell, Hope Dixon, Wayne Earl, Maria E Fairbanks, Carolyn Foudy, Susan Leslie Gleason, Nicole Green, Juno Hedrick, Gabriel Lemus, LeAnn Matthews, Yahel Moreno, Courtney Pal, Shawn Ray, and Heather Worobey |
| <b>Absent</b>  | Danielle Jimenez, and Tony Ucciferri  |

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).
- Barbara Aguilar, the foster and unsheltered youth liaison for Antioch 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 County. During the 2023-24 school year, Antioch Unified School District identified 420 unsheltered homeless students, with the majority living doubled up or in vehicles, and over 200 unaccompanied youth were counted countywide. The lack of severe family shelters contributes to this issue in Contra Costa County. Barbara highlighted the ongoing and urgent need for increased housing resources for vulnerable students and families.
  - Hope Dixon, a community representative on the Council, expressed gratitude for the advocacy of homeless liaisons and shared that Contra Costa College is facing similar experiences with students. Hope also emphasized the need to stand up to the current issues on immigration, homelessness, LGBTQIA+, etc., and be a collective community supporting one another.
  - Dolores White raised concerns about the Martinez refinery's impact on homeless individuals and recommended the county to perform health checks. Mia Fairbanks, COH member, responded that the Healthcare for the Homeless program has a mobile clinic presence with street medicine every Friday at Martinez Marina and will check on the homeless population for symptoms.
  - A community member proposed ideas for utilizing empty buildings and retraining homeless individuals.
  - Josie Asensio, the lead pastor of the Antioch 7th Day Adventist Church, shared that the church has created a task force on homelessness and has started a social justice project of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. The church is interested in learning more about Functional Zero and identify what groups work on it to bring it back at the religious organization level.

3. [25-420](#)

**Attachments:**                    [COH Minutes 1.9.25](#)  
    [COH Staff Report 2.6.25](#)

**A: APPROVE minutes from the January 9, 2025 Council meeting B. APPROVE staff report for the February 6, 2025 Council meeting**

**Motion:                                Leslie Gleason**

**Second:                                Green**

#### 4. Committee Report Outs: Youth Advisory Board Update

Leon Saalee presented the YAB subcommittees, which are communications, outreach and retention, and data and research. Per the recent pause on many federal grants, the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program was removed from the government's website, but the team is hopeful that the competition will resume as this program was authorized by Congress. Despite this setback, YAB is moving forward with its plans, including solidifying its 2025 core leadership roles and filling subcommittees with members. The Board also discussed its participation in various activities such as the housing needs assessment, redesign steering committee, RFP panel, and community building events. In terms of next steps, YAB is planning to submit the bylaws to the Council on Homelessness and participate in the Youth Empowerment Summit in Sacramento in March.

#### 5. Old Business: Update: Coordinated Entry Housing Needs Assessment Project

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald provided an overview of the Coordinated Entry system, which is a centralized system that serves as the front door for connecting individuals experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis to available housing resources and services within the Contra Costa County. Mary explained that the system is designed to quickly and equitably identify, assess, and prioritize individuals and families who are most vulnerable, ensuring they get connected to support as quickly as possible. Mary also discussed the project to replace the current assessment tool, the VI-SPDAT, with a more effective and equitable tool. The project, which began in August 2024, is expected to be ongoing through February 2026, and it involves document review, data analysis, stakeholder engagement. The new tool will incorporate predictive analytics and data to better assess housing needs and adapt to the community's specific needs.

#### 6. Old Business: Update: 2025 Point-In-Time Count

Yessenia thanked everyone for their participation, work, and dedication for the PIT Count. The team expressed satisfaction with the improvements made to the PIT Count process, particularly the use of pop-ups on phones alerting people when they were out of their areas and the implementation of feedback from the previous year. Participants shared their positive experiences, including the opportunity to interact with people experiencing homelessness and the sense of accomplishment from contributing to the data collection. Some ideas for future counts are to provide packages or money to homeless individuals as they wake up. The data analysis is ongoing, and results are expected by early spring. H3 thanked the team for their hard work and expressed hope for continued improvement in the process.

7.

[25-422](#)**Attachments:**      [Q4-2024 Report](#)

Jaime Jenett discussed the Quarter 4 report, which was submitted to the Family and Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors. The report highlighted the importance of ongoing funding at the state level and critical safety net services, especially in the current climate. The recommendation is described as “In alignment with the California State Association of Counties, support ongoing funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program and other critical safety net services that support people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County.” Jaime reminded COH members that they can share their ideas as to what other recommendations the Council should make to the Board of Supervisors.

## 8.      Old Business: Funding Updates

The Housing and Homeless Services RFP process is now on the stage of finalizing funding recommendations. The next steps are to send out a communication to all applicants and present the recommendations to the Family and Human Services Committee on March 10th. Jamie also discussed the challenges that many communities are facing due to the Federal Office of Management and Budget's temporary pause on all activities related to the obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance. Despite this, the Continuum of Care (COC) was awarded funding for all renewal projects, including one new project, totaling over \$22 million dollars. However, the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHTP) funding is no longer available on grants.gov, leading to uncertainty about future funding opportunities. Christy Saxton shared that H3 is having conversations with Contra Costa Department of Conservation and Development and the Housing Authority of County of Contra Costa about how this is impacting the agencies and how to prepare. H3 also shared updates on the Next Step Interim Housing Project, which aims to provide more stability to participants who are unsheltered and waiting for permanent housing. The project is currently at full capacity and is expected to increase to 38 households by the end of the month. The program is seen as a pilot with potential for replication across the county. Participants receive support services through various channels, including on-site staff. The discussion also touches on the use of shared living arrangements as a strategy to address homelessness in the expensive local housing market. Anyone interested in receiving email notifications and updates for Funding Opportunities can sign up for the newsletter [here <https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001zpQMaVU8vAygGSKiQQAmHz\\_QvSMID0ShGg\\_UfEGz8Fw2oyhhOhpPQh4Scmvsv9L6-3wLwduaoMFPbiiNUnbiEe0LOS5tVfBx16Z8EGIJAI%3D>](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001zpQMaVU8vAygGSKiQQAmHz_QvSMID0ShGg_UfEGz8Fw2oyhhOhpPQh4Scmvsv9L6-3wLwduaoMFPbiiNUnbiEe0LOS5tVfBx16Z8EGIJAI%3D).

9. New Business: APPROVE 2025 Council on Homelessness Chair and Vice Chair(ACTION ITEM)

Jaime Jenett led the discussion on the selection of the chair and vice chair selection for 2025. Jaime also outlined the responsibilities of the chair and vice chair, including providing oversight, facilitating meetings, and reviewing and approving funding applications. Nicole Green was nominated as the Chair and Juno Hedrick as the Vice Chair.

**To approve Nicole Green for Chair and Juno Hedrick for Vice Chair for Council on Homelessness for 2025**

**Motion:** Criswell

**Second:** Matthews

**Aye:** Chamberlain, Clapp, Criswell, Dixon, Earl, E Fairbanks, Foudy, Leslie Gleason, Lemus, Matthews, Moreno, Pal, Ray, and Worobey

**Aye:** **Chamberlain, Clapp, Criswell, Dixon, Earl, E Fairbanks, Foudy, Leslie Gleason, Lemus, Matthews, Moreno, Pal, Ray, and Worobey**

**Absent:** Jimenez, and Ucciferri

**Absent:** **Jimenez, and Ucciferri**

**Abstain:** Green, and Hedrick

**Abstain:** **Green, and Hedrick**

10.

[25-421](#)**Attachments:**      [2025 CoH Committees Overview](#)

Jaime Jenett discussed the various committees within the council, which are the Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing (PATH) committee, the Oversight committee, HMIS Policy committee, Funding committee, Equity committee, Governance committee, and Ad Hoc committees. Council members were encouraged to commit to at least one committee, with the understanding that once committed, they must be able to attend in-person meetings when required. The name of each committee as well as the purpose, timing of meetings, and memberships were displayed. A spreadsheet with Council member names and committee names were presented. All Council members were asked to select the committees they were interested in participating. Ad hoc committee recruitment will be done at a later date. The selections are as follows:

1. Funding committee: Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; Nicole Green; Sherina Criswell; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno.
2. Equity committee: Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Nicole Green; Sherina Criswell; Yahel Moreno.
3. Governance committee: Carolyn Foudy; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri.
4. HMIS Policy committee: Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick; Tony Ucciferri.
5. Oversight committee: Alejandra Chamberlain; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno.
6. PATH committee: Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri; Wayne Earl.

**To approve the 2025 committee and work group for Council on Homelessness****Motion:**                      **Matthews****Second:**                      **Criswell**

11.      New Business: Update: CoC Monitoring

Michele Byrnes described the CoC monitoring process that Homebase will be conducting this year, focusing on HUD requirements and best practices. The areas of focus and approach for 2025 are systemic findings from previous monitoring cycles, equity, and project corrective actions. The timeline for this process was outlined, with outreach to providers starting in February, site visits beginning in the spring, and findings presentations to Oversight and COH in the summer.

*Announcements*

- The Workforce Development Board has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for youth program services. More information can be found at this [site <https://ehsd.org/bids/request-for-proposals-rfp-1218-workforce-innovation-and-opportunity-act-wioa-title-i-youth-program-services/>](https://ehsd.org/bids/request-for-proposals-rfp-1218-workforce-innovation-and-opportunity-act-wioa-title-i-youth-program-services/).
- The Contra Costa County Probation Department's Office of Reentry & Justice (ORJ) has issued a few RFPs under legislation AB 109 to award projects for housing and employment. The award opportunities may be found at the contracting [site <https://contracostaprobation.ca.gov/about/contract\\_opportunities.php>](https://contracostaprobation.ca.gov/about/contract_opportunities.php). Additionally, Nicole Green shared that the reentry county team will attend the AB 109 summit and there are conversations about having quarterly meetings. Once the dates are confirmed, they will be shared with the team of care and service providers that work with the reentry population.
- Per HUD transition changes pertaining to CoC funded projects for housing quality standards to national standards for the physical inspection of real estate - HQS to NSPIRE, Homebase is preparing materials and resources that will highlight the differences to support the communities in this transition. Anyone with suggestions about work products and materials to cover may reach out to Mark Mora at [mark@homebaseccc.org <mailto:mark@homebaseccc.org>](mailto:mark@homebaseccc.org).
- Leon Saelee and Juno Hedrick, YAB Board members, are searching for a community partner to help produce and develop a resume workshop to present for the rest of the YAB members to incorporate best practices and include some newer tools such as AI. Anyone interested in this type of work can email [leonsaelee2003@gmail.com <mailto:leonsaelee2003@gmail.com>](mailto:leonsaelee2003@gmail.com) or may contact H3.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 6, 2025

*Adjourn*

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