



**9. Toolkit: Updates and Next Steps**

**10. Memorial Event: Updates and Next Steps**

**11. Next Steps**

The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 4th.

Adjourn

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 2600 Stanwell Drive, #200, Concord during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at [www.contracosta.ca.gov](http://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: [contracostacoc@cchealth.org](mailto:contracostacoc@cchealth.org)



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

---

**File #:** 26-2865

**Agenda Date:** 6/30/2026

**Agenda #:**

---

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Slides and Work Plan

Presenter:

Contact:

Information:

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):



# HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH COMMITTEE

6.30.26

# INTRODUCTIONS

Jaime Jenett, H3

# WHO IS IN THE ROOM?

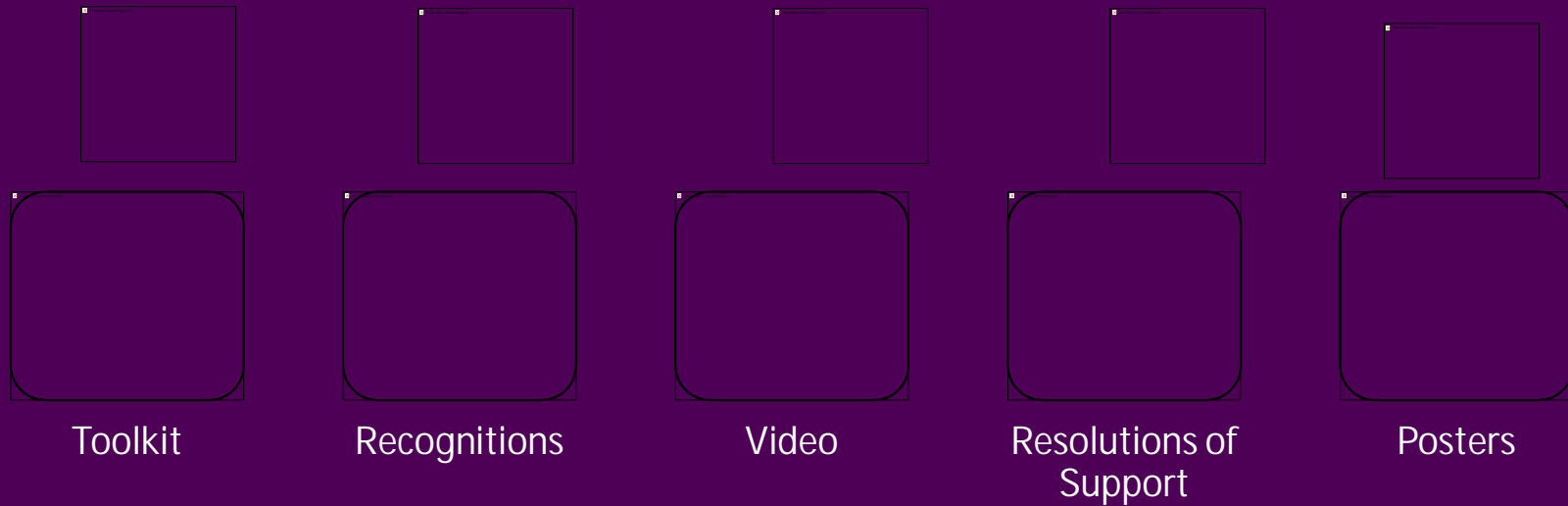
- Helps us assess how we're doing with recruitment
- We will not share out individual responses!

# RECAP WORK TO DATE

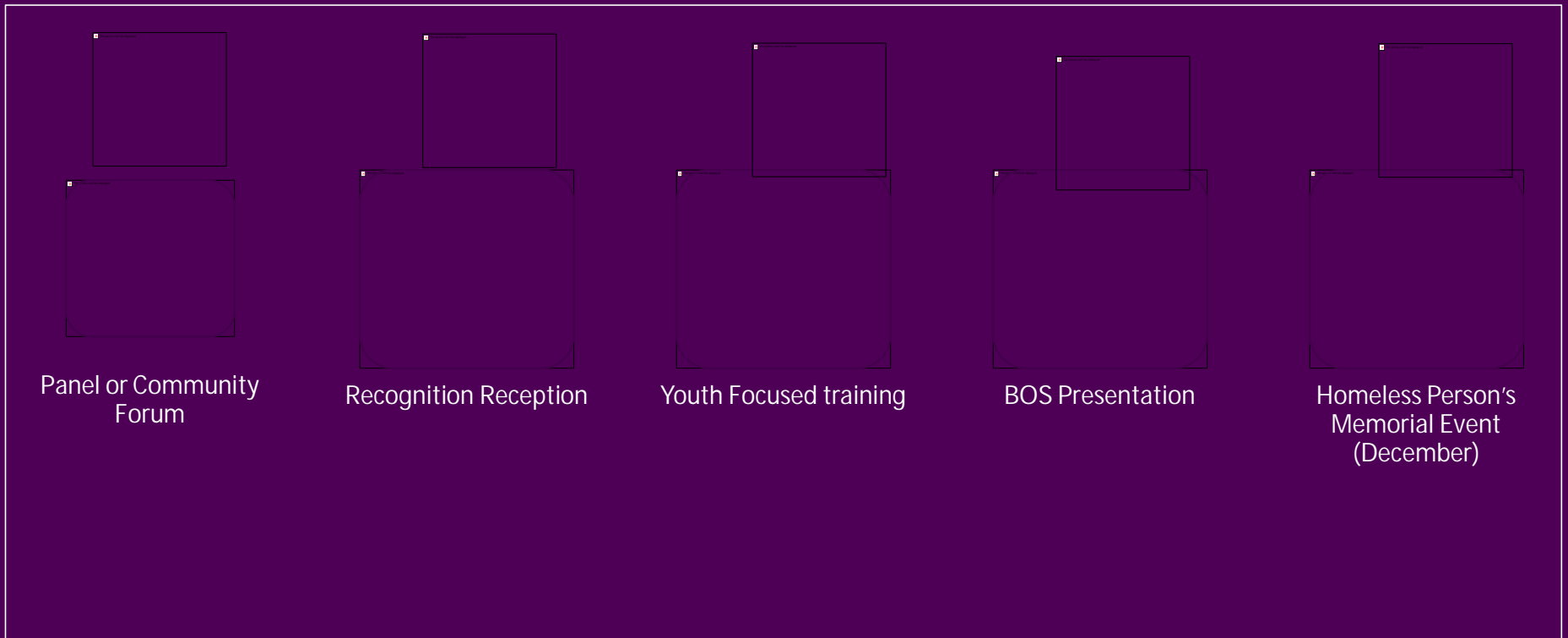
## PURPOSE OF HAM

- Provide information
- Celebrate wins
- Amplify voices
- Highlight gaps
- Encourage action

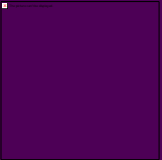
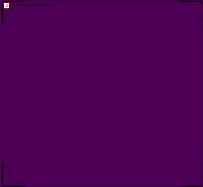

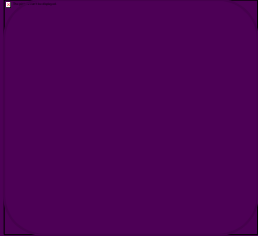
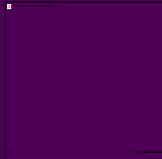
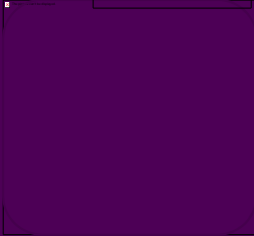
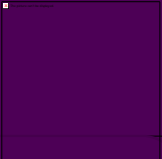
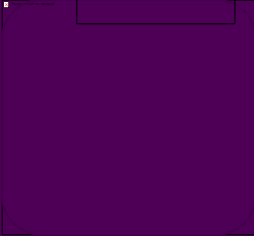

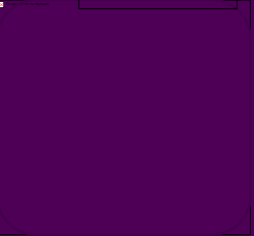
# DECISIONS ON MATERIALS/TOOLS FOR 2026



# DECISIONS ON EVENTS FOR 2026



The image displays five event options for 2026, arranged in a single row. Each option consists of a placeholder image (a square with a small 'x' in the top-left corner) and a label below it. The labels are: 'Panel or Community Forum', 'Recognition Reception', 'Youth Focused training', 'BOS Presentation', and 'Homeless Person's Memorial Event (December)'. The entire grid is enclosed in a thin white border.

 	 	 	 	 
Panel or Community Forum	Recognition Reception	Youth Focused training	BOS Presentation	Homeless Person's Memorial Event (December)

# JULY MEETING

Recognition: Finalize categories for COH approval at July meeting

Resolutions: Finalize for COH approval at July or August meeting

Community Forum Decide if doing

Memorial Event: Decide on committee level of involvement

Recognition event: Identify members for planning group

Toolkit: Finalize categories

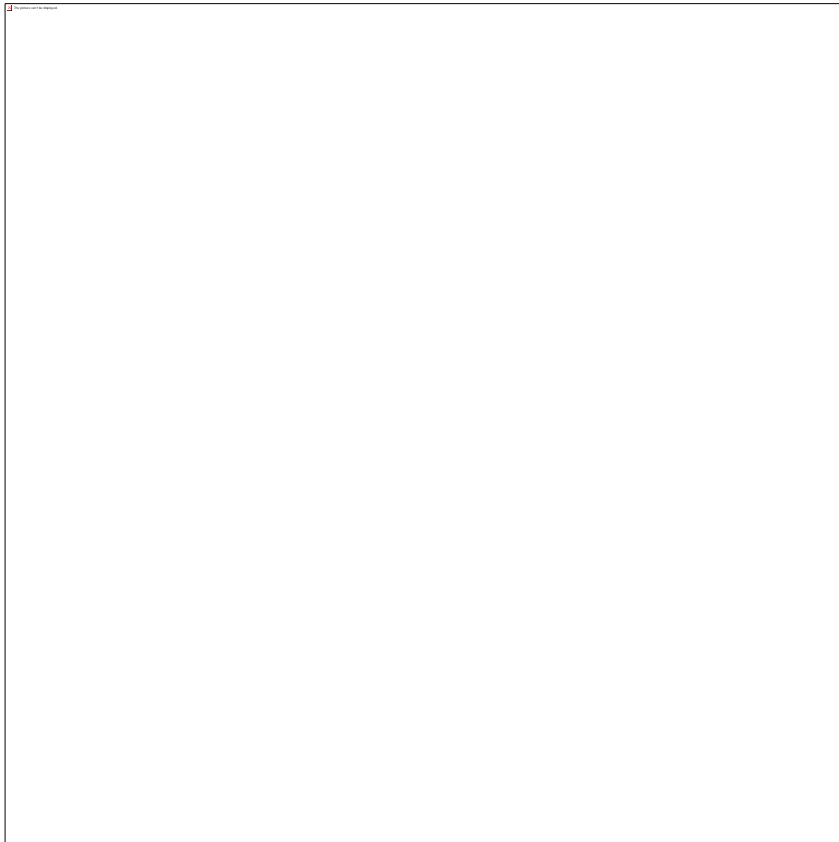
Video/Posters Decide on theme

# RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT (ACTION ITEM)

Updates, Decisions and Next Steps



# 2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PRESENTATION



# REVIEW DRAFTS

## ACTION ITEM

Approve the Homelessness Awareness Month and Homeless Person's Memorial Resolutions of Support to be sent to the Council on Homelessness for approval.

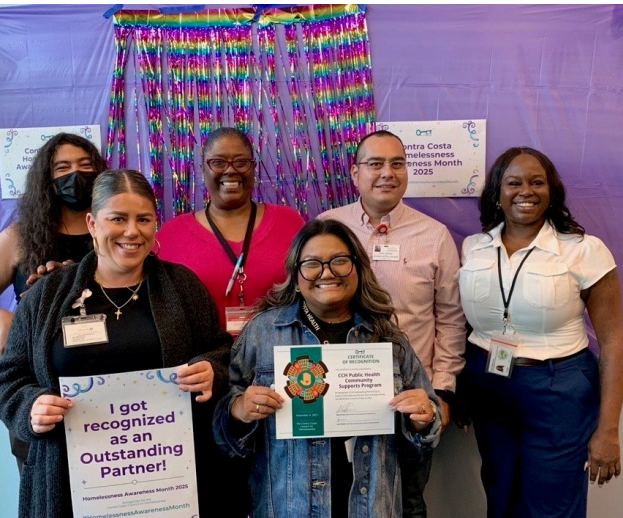


# RECOGNITIONS (ACTION ITEM)

Updates, Decisions and Next Steps



# RECOGNITIONS



# 2025 RECOGNITIONS

## Outstanding Housing Provider

- 13 nominations

## Outstanding Volunteer

- 16 nominations

## Outstanding Partnership

- 45 nominations

## Phoenix Rising

- 16 nominations

# KEY COMPONENTS OF RECOGNITIONS

Categories

Definition and  
eligibility

How to Make  
Meaningful

How to  
Recognize/Honor  
nominees

# CATEGORIES

June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting ideas

- Remove Housing Provider category?
- Add Youth related category?

# DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting ideas

- Tighten definitions and eligibility?

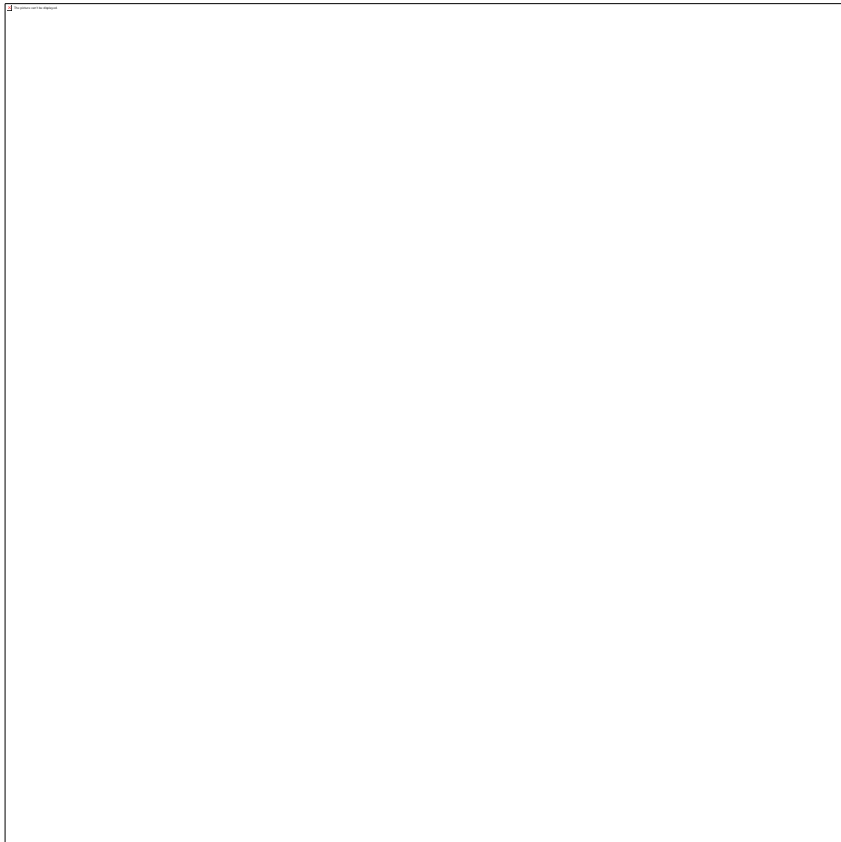
# IDEAS TO ADD MEANING TO RECOGNITIONS

## Recognitions

- Tighten application forms
- Add Supervisor/Elected Official Recognition campaign

## Reception

- Move from individual name announcements to “spotlight stories”
- “Roll of honor” wall or installation
- Recognize groups/categories rather than individuals
- Only recognize Phoenix Rising in person
- For Partners Category
  - Representative only



# REVIEW DRAFTS

# PROPOSAL

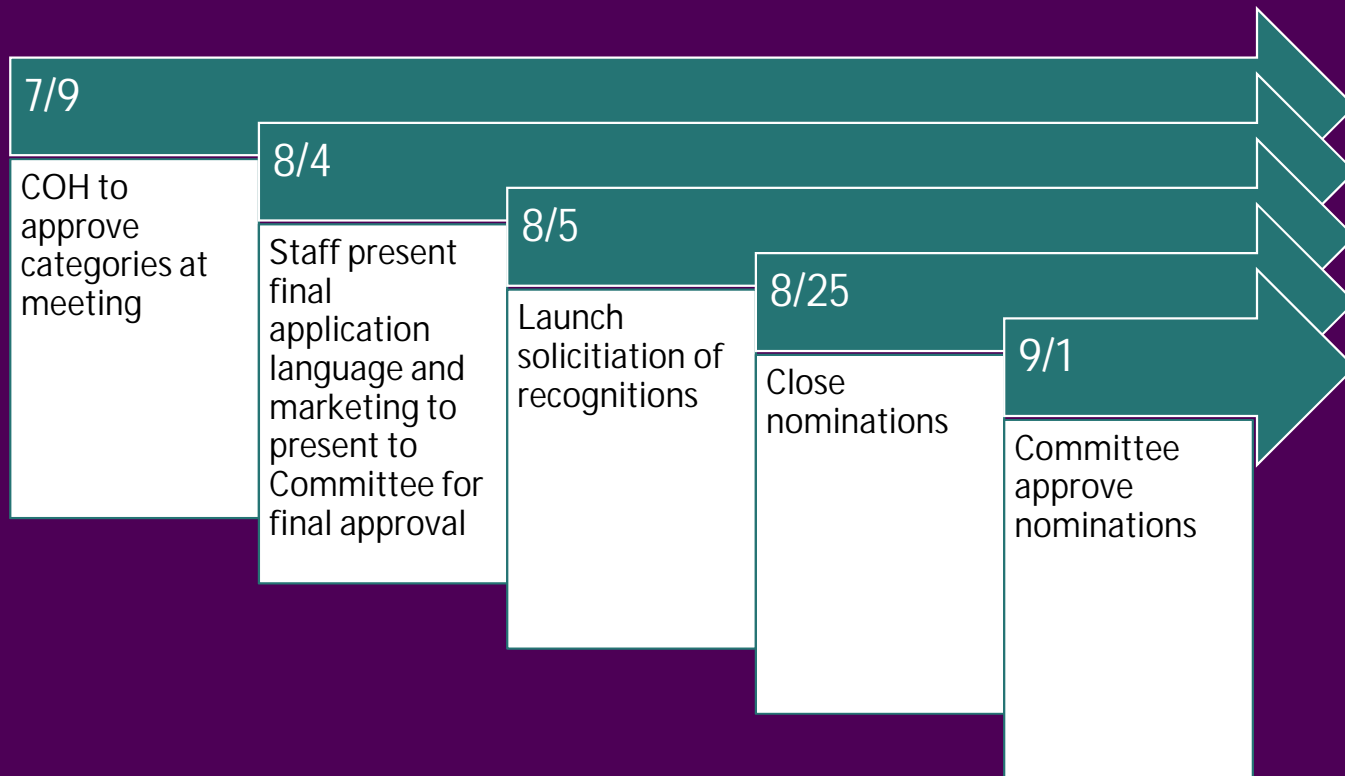
- Keep existing categories
- Accept proposed revisions
- Continue to work on ideas for reception as we launch nomination forms
- COH to approve categories at 7/9/26 meeting
- Staff to refine application language and marketing to present to Committee 8/4.
  - Launch 8/5 – close 8/25

# ACTION ITEM

Approve the Recognition Categories and Nomination information as presented to be sent to the Council on Homelessness for approval at 7/9 COH meeting.



# NEXT STEPS: RECOGNITIONS



# RECEPTION

Updates and Next Steps

# PLANNING GROUP

- Location
- Best Way to Honor Nominees
- Agenda
- Decorations

# COMMUNITY FORUM

Discuss and Decision

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## Past Forums

- Panel Presentation of Adult People With Lived Experiences (2021)
- Recognition Ceremony and Panel Discussion with Adult People With Lived Experiences (2022)
- Panel Discussion with Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience (2024)

## Proposed for 2026

- Forum on Older Adult Homelessness in partnership with Area Commission on Aging, Choice in Aging, Older Adult Mental Health and others

# TO DECIDE: COMMUNITY FORUM

- Ok to move forward with older adult theme?
- Any takeaways WE want to have from that?
- Who wants to work on this?

# VIDEO AND POSTERS

Update and Next Steps

# PAST VIDEO THEMES

Year	Title	Length	Topic	Notes
2020	<a href="#">Contra Costa Homelessness Awareness Month 2020</a>	2:25	System responding to challenges	No voice over
2021	<a href="#">H.O.P.E: Hearing Other People's Stories</a>	5:03	Questions with Answers	No voice over
2022	<a href="#">R.O.O.T.S: Reflecting on Our Truth and Stories</a>	3:57	Questions with answers, same 5 people	No voice over
2023	<a href="#">Challenging Myths About Homelessness</a>	2:23	Myth/Truth	Voice over
2024	No Video	N/A	N/A	N/A
2025	<a href="#">Contra Costa Homelessness Awareness Month</a>	2:25	Challenges and successes	CEI support, voice over

# TO DECIDE: VIDEO

- Themes
  - Question and answer?
  - Myths and truths?
  - Challenges and successes?
  - Snapshots from existing success stories?
- Who wants to work on video project?
  - Refine theme
  - Help pick stories/photos
  - Help pick music
  - Maybe mock it up0

# POSTERS




*Photographer: John ...*

*My favorite place is being with friends and family, entertaining, cooking, music, having parties and dancing, singing and celebrating and worshipping God.*


*Tina*




CONTRA COSTA  
COUNCIL  
ON HOMELESSNESS

2025  HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH


*"I got a place. I got my own bed. I got everything."*  
- Jerrold



**HEALING STARTS WITH A DOOR**



CONTRA COSTA  
HEALTH



CONTRA COSTA  
COUNCIL  
ON HOMELESSNESS

# TO DECIDE: POSTERS

- Themes
  - Same as video or separate?
- Who wants to work on poster project?
  - Help pick quotes/photos
  - Graphic design skills?

# TOOLKIT

Update and Next Steps

# 2025 TOOLKIT SECTIONS

## LEARN

Data

Connecting to  
Services

Voices of People With  
Lived Experience

## ACT

Events

How to Help

Social Media Tools

## CELEBRATE

Recognitions

# TO DECIDE: TOOLKIT

- Do we want to change any categories?
- Who wants to partner with staff to refine contents?

# HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL EVENT

Update and Next Steps



# 2025 HOMELESS PERSON'S MEMORIAL EVENT


**Contra Costa County**  
**2025 Homeless Person's Memorial Event**  
 (Virtual and in Person)  
**Friday, December 19, 2025**  
**11:00 am until 1:00 pm**  
 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) 40 Voices Hub  
 1020 East Tregallas, Antioch, CA 94509

Join us as we honor those who have died homeless in the last two years. Our program includes a Reading of Names and a Water Ceremony for the Unnamed. Lunch will be provided after the event.

Register at <https://forms.gle/HBdd3SYE7dQAJm9>  
 Send names of those who have died to <https://forms.gle/ksuQ1dwwKT2jzrR7>  
 Questions email: [contracostaco@ochealth.org](mailto:contracostaco@ochealth.org).

Event is cohosted by City of Antioch, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, NAMI Contra Costa, Safe Organized Spaces Richmond and Antioch's Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. —MLK Jr.





# UPDATES

- Trinity Center is lead organizer
- Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays from 10 am – Noon
- Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - ? @ SoS Richmond

# NEXT STEPS

## IMPORTANT NEXT STEP!

- Identify COH member to facilitate discussion of and adoption of resolutions and categories at 7/9/26 COH meeting

# NEXT STEPS BEFORE 8/4

## 1st Tuesdays from 2 – 4 pm

- 8/4
- 9/1
- 10/6
- 11/3

## Staff

- Reach out to people re: sub-project work groups
- Draft materials for 7/9/26 COH meeting
- Launch recognition nominations after approved

## Attendees

- Subgroups meet
- Spread the word about the meetings!

# AUGUST 4TH MEETING

Community Forum Report back on progress

Memorial Event: Report back on progress

Reception Set August planning meeting date

Recognitions: Present recognition application forms and marketing

Resolutions: Finalize for COH approval at August meeting

Toolkit: Finalize categories

Video/Posters Decide on theme

## Homelessness Awareness Month Workplan 2025

Month	Task	Person Assigned	Due Date	Status
June	COH: approve HAM Working group	COH	6/5	
	Set up first meeting	Jaime Jenett	6.25	
	WG: Recruit community members to join	Jaime Jenett		
	<b>HAM Committee WG meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recap past work</li> <li>• decide on activities</li> <li>• recognition categories</li> </ul>		6/2	
	<b>HAM Committee meeting: (July)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Forum: decide if doing</li> <li>• Memorial Event: decide on level of involvement, solicit anchors</li> <li>• Recognition event: approve planning group</li> <li>• Recognition: Review and approve categories</li> <li>• Resolutions: Review input and finalize</li> <li>• Toolkit: review and set categories</li> <li>• Training: discuss with Caroline</li> <li>• Video and posters: Set theme and subgroup members</li> </ul>		6/30	
July	<b>COH posting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition categories for approval</li> <li>• Resolutions for approval</li> </ul>		7/2	
	<b>COH meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Recognition Categories</li> <li>• Approve Resolutions</li> </ul>		7/9	
	<b>Subgroups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Event/Forum: meet this month if moving forward with this</li> <li>• Video/Poster: meet</li> <li>• Reception: set August planning meeting date</li> <li>• Memorial group: meet</li> </ul>			

## Homelessness Awareness Month Workplan 2025

<b>August</b>	COH Meeting: •		8/6	
	HAM Committee WG meeting: • Community Forum: if doing, update • Memorial Event: decide on level of involvement, solicit anchors • Recognition event: update on planning • Recognition: Review and approve categories • Resolutions: Review input and finalize • Toolkit: review and set categories • Training: discuss with Caroline • Video and posters: Set theme and subgroup members		8/4	
	Recognitions: Start soliciting nominees	Jaime Jenett	8/5	
	Toolkit: Solicit content, continue updating documents	Jaime Jenett		
	CoC Learning Hub: start planning			
	Video: meet, start mapping ideas		Week of 8/4	
	Video: start soliciting content			
	Memorial: Get first meeting on the books			
<b>September</b>				
	Recognitions: Close solicitation	Jaime Jenett	8/25	
	HAM Committee: • Post Nominations		8/28	
	HAM Committee: • Recognitions: APPROVE • Toolkit: update	All	9/1	

## Homelessness Awareness Month Workplan 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video: update</li> <li>• Memorial Event: update</li> <li>• discuss CoC Learning Hub</li> </ul>			
	<b>COH MEETING:</b> Update materials to reflect recognitions approved by HAM Committee	JJ	9/1	
	<b>COH Meeting:</b>	Jaime Jenett	9/3	
	Memorial Event: planning work group meets			
	COH: post materials for COH approval of Recognition nominees	Jaime Jenett	9/26	
<b>October</b>	<b>COH Meeting:</b> Vote to approve Recognition Nominees	COH	10/1	
	<b>HAM Working Group:</b> meet to approve toolkit, video, and CoC Panel plan		10/6	
	Launch Materials		10/26	
	BOS: finalize BOS presentation materials and speakers		Week of 10/26	
	<b>COH:</b> post entire package for 11/5 meeting		10/30	
	<b>HAM Working Group:</b>			
	<b>BOS:</b> send materials		10/30	
<b>November</b>	HAM Committee: recap Learning Hub, prep for BOS presentation and plan for Memorial		11/3	
	<b>COH meeting:</b> Present all materials		11/5	
	<b>BOS:</b> Presentation with Resolution for HAM and Memorial	?	11/17	
	CoC Learning Hub?			

# Homelessness Awareness Month Workplan 2025

<b>December</b>	HAM Committee:			
	Memorial Event		12/19?	

- Working group members:**
- Video Working Group:**
- CoC Community Meeting Working Group:**
- Memorial Working group:**



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

---

**File #:** 26-2866

**Agenda Date:** 6/30/2026

**Agenda #:** 4.

---

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Resolutions of Support: Updates, Decision and Next Steps (ACTION ITEM)

Presenter:

Contact:

Information: The Council and community members use resolutions of support to agendize homelessness on public meeting agendas in November.

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Review and approve proposed edits to HAM and Homeless Persons' Memorial Day resolutions of support.

# Resolution Declaring November Homelessness Awareness and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month

**WHEREAS**, November is recognized nationally as Homelessness Awareness Month, and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month, a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by adults, youth and young adults, and families experiencing homelessness and to mobilize community-wide efforts toward lasting solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020<sup>1</sup>, underscoring systemic housing challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness in Contra Costa County is driven primarily by the lack of affordable housing, with 33,329 low-income renter households in Contra Costa County not having access to an affordable home in 2024<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, according to *The Opportunity to Change: A Community Needs Assessment for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness*, an estimated 13,506 young people are experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, driven by factors such as aging out of foster care, family conflict, a lack of affordable housing, and systemic disparities including racism, homophobia, and transphobia<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, looming federal cuts to permanent housing programs scheduled to take effect in 2027, combined with proposed reductions to Medicaid and CalAIM supportive services in the pending state budget, threaten to significantly destabilize the local homelessness response system; and the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that Contra Costa County may lose as much as \$8 million in permanent housing resources—placing as many as 400 formerly homeless residents at risk of losing their housing, including a substantial number of domestic violence survivors and seniors who rely on these supports; and **WHEREAS**, renters needing to earn \$45.37 per hour—more than 2.4 times the City of Richmond’s minimum wage—to afford the average monthly rent of \$2,375<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2026 in Contra Costa County, there were only 4,427 temporary and permanent housing beds for persons experiencing homelessness, a stark shortfall compared to the scale of need across our communities<sup>5</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>2</sup> [Contra-Costa Housing Report 2026.pdf](#)

<sup>3</sup> Aronson, M., Giannone, C., Nawabi, S., & Braimah, N. (2024). *The opportunity to change: A community needs assessment for youth and young adult homelessness in Contra Costa County*. Contra Costa Health Services, Health, Housing, and Homeless Services. [638648533798100000](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Contra-Costa Housing Report 2026.pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> Contra Costa Health. (2026). [[Contra Costa County 2026 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT](#)]

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa County's 24% increase in temporary and permanent housing beds<sup>6</sup> over the past two years reflects a sustained commitment to expanding shelter and housing solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, racial disparities persist, with Black/African American/African households and people with Multiple Races were over-represented in the CoC relative to the county population (4x and 3x, respectively)<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** 66% of unsheltered people surveyed as part of Contra Costa's 2026 Point in Time Count experienced being made to move by city workers or law enforcement within the past year<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** research shows that criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis and deepens existing racial inequities<sup>9</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, since 2020, Contra Costa has seen an 79% increase in households with minor children, a 69% increase in seniors aged 65+, and a 53% increase in Transition Aged Youth (ages 18–24) accessing homeless services<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa Continuum of Care unites over 50 organizations, jurisdictions, and individuals committed to preventing and ending homelessness through coordinated housing, health, and support services; and

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa Continuum of Care is committed to promoting evidence-based practices to achieve permanent housing outcomes for the most vulnerable in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Action Board, composed of youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County, is actively leading and amplifying the voices of YYA, informing the Contra Costa Continuum of Care, and providing leadership and guidance in collaboration with community stakeholders to end YYA homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council on Homelessness, staffed by Contra Costa Health, serves as both an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and the planning entity for the Continuum of Care, welcoming public engagement and collaboration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2026 as Homelessness Awareness Month and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month in Contra Costa County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board affirms its commitment to building and sustaining a well-resourced, coordinated, and person-centered Continuum of Care that meets the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness.

---

<sup>6</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>7</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>8</sup> Contra Costa Health. (2025). [Contra Costa County 2025 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT] <https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000>

<sup>9</sup> DuBois, N., Herbert, C., & Sowards, E. M. (2025, February). *Criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis: Research shows*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. [CriminalizingWorsensTheCrisis\\_NAEH\\_2-4-25.pdf](#)

<sup>10</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

# Resolution Declaring November Homelessness Awareness and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month

**WHEREAS**, November is recognized nationally as Homelessness Awareness Month, and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month, a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by adults, youth and young adults, and families experiencing homelessness and to mobilize community-wide efforts toward lasting solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020<sup>1</sup>, underscoring systemic housing challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness in Contra Costa County is driven primarily by the lack of affordable housing, with 33,329 low-income renter households in Contra Costa County not having access to an affordable home in 2024<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, according to *The Opportunity to Change: A Community Needs Assessment for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness*, an estimated 13,506 young people are experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, driven by factors such as aging out of foster care, family conflict, a lack of affordable housing, and systemic disparities including racism, homophobia, and transphobia<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, looming federal cuts to permanent housing programs scheduled to take effect in 2027, combined with proposed reductions to Medicaid and CalAIM supportive services in the pending state budget, threaten to significantly destabilize the local homelessness response system; and the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that Contra Costa County may lose as much as \$8 million in permanent housing resources—placing as many as 400 formerly homeless residents at risk of losing their housing, including a substantial number of domestic violence survivors and seniors who rely on these supports; and **WHEREAS**, renters needing to earn \$45.37 per hour—more than 2.4 times the City of Richmond’s minimum wage—to afford the average monthly rent of \$2,375<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2026 in Contra Costa County, there were only 4,427 temporary and permanent housing beds for persons experiencing homelessness, a stark shortfall compared to the scale of need across our communities<sup>5</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>2</sup> [Contra-Costa Housing Report 2026.pdf](#)

<sup>3</sup> Aronson, M., Giannone, C., Nawabi, S., & Braimah, N. (2024). *The opportunity to change: A community needs assessment for youth and young adult homelessness in Contra Costa County*. Contra Costa Health Services, Health, Housing, and Homeless Services. 638648533798100000

<sup>4</sup> [Contra-Costa Housing Report 2026.pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> Contra Costa Health. (2026). [[Contra Costa County 2026 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT](#)]

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa County’s 24% increase in temporary and permanent housing beds<sup>6</sup> over the past two years reflects a sustained commitment to expanding shelter and housing solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, racial disparities persist, with Black/African American/African households and people with Multiple Races were over-represented in the CoC relative to the county population (4x and 3x, respectively)<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** 66% of unsheltered people surveyed as part of Contra Costa’s 2026 Point in Time Count experienced being made to move by city workers or law enforcement within the past year<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** research shows that criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis and deepens existing racial inequities<sup>9</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, since 2020, Contra Costa has seen an 79% increase in households with minor children, a 69% increase in seniors aged 65+, and a 53% increase in Transition Aged Youth (ages 18–24) accessing homeless services<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa Continuum of Care unites over 50 organizations, jurisdictions, and individuals committed to preventing and ending homelessness through coordinated housing, health, and support services; and

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa Continuum of Care is committed to promoting evidence-based practices to achieve permanent housing outcomes for the most vulnerable in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Action Board, composed of youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County, is actively leading and amplifying the voices of YYA, informing the Contra Costa Continuum of Care, and providing leadership and guidance in collaboration with community stakeholders to end YYA homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council on Homelessness, staffed by Contra Costa Health, serves as both an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and the planning entity for the Continuum of Care, welcoming public engagement and collaboration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2026 as Homelessness Awareness Month and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month in Contra Costa County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board affirms its commitment to building and sustaining a well-resourced, coordinated, and person-centered Continuum of Care that meets the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness.

---

<sup>6</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>7</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>8</sup> Contra Costa Health. (2025). [Contra Costa County 2025 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT] <https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000>

<sup>9</sup> DuBois, N., Herbert, C., & Sowards, E. M. (2025, February). *Criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis: Research shows*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. [CriminalizingWorsensTheCrisis\\_NAEH\\_2-4-25.pdf](#)

<sup>10</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

## RESOLUTION NAMING DECEMBER 21, 2026 NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

In recognition of the lives lost and the ongoing crisis of homelessness, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors seeks to honor the memory of those who died without housing and to recommit to lasting solutions that affirm dignity, health, and housing for all.

**WHEREAS**, December 21, 2026 marks the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, symbolizing the hardships faced by individuals living without shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2026 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day; and

**WHEREAS**, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020, underscoring systemic housing challenges<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness increases risk of illness, injury, and premature death, with non-elderly homeless individuals facing a mortality rate 3.5 times higher than their housed peers—comparable to housed individuals two decades older in age<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, dozens of Contra Costa residents experiencing homelessness lose their lives each year, and each loss underscores the urgent need for stable housing, health care, and community support; and

**WHEREAS**, drug and alcohol-related accidental deaths represented the highest cause of mortality in this group, followed by natural causes and other accidents<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, impending federal reductions to permanent housing programs beginning in 2027, coupled with projected cuts to Medicaid, SNAP and other essential health and stabilization services will disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness, making it more difficult to access the broad range of care needed to maintain their health, engage in employment, and achieve housing<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa County calls on government agencies, faith communities, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and residents to recognize the urgent need to

---

<sup>1</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>2</sup> *Life and Death at the Margins of Society: The Mortality of the U.S. Homeless Population*, Meyer, Wyse, Logani (2023)

<sup>4</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>5</sup> Rabell, L. (2025, April). *Homelessness and Medicaid: What's the connection?* National Health Care for the Homeless Council. [https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homelessness-and-Medicaid-Whats-the-Connection\\_.pdf](https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homelessness-and-Medicaid-Whats-the-Connection_.pdf)

address homelessness through sustained collaboration, compassion, and advocacy;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the Council on Homelessness, serving as both an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and the planning body for the Continuum of Care, coordinates the county's strategy toward ending homelessness and encourages active community participation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health, Housing, and Homeless Services Division of Contra Costa Health is committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring through an integrated system of housing and support; and

**WHEREAS**, a [Homeless Persons' Memorial](#) event will be held on **Friday, December 19, 2025** coordinated by **Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, NAMI Contra Costa and Safe Organized Spaces Richmond**, offering space to honor lives lost; and

**WHEREAS**, by gathering in remembrance and solidarity, the community can affirm its commitment to meaningful change and honor the humanity of every neighbor lost to homelessness; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors hereby declares December 21, 2026 as **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** in Contra Costa County—to honor those who have died without shelter, to encourage collective reflection and engagement, and to strengthen our commitment to housing solutions rooted in dignity, equity, and hope.

**RESOLUTION NAMING DECEMBER 21, 2026 NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS’  
MEMORIAL DAY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

In recognition of the lives lost and the ongoing crisis of homelessness, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors seeks to honor the memory of those who died without housing and to recommit to lasting solutions that affirm dignity, health, and housing for all.

**WHEREAS**, December 21, 2026 marks the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, symbolizing the hardships faced by individuals living without shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2026 as National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day; and

**WHEREAS**, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020, underscoring systemic housing challenges<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness increases risk of illness, injury, and premature death, with non-elderly homeless individuals facing a mortality rate 3.5 times higher than their housed peers—comparable to housed individuals two decades older in age<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, dozens of Contra Costa residents experiencing homelessness lose their lives each year, and each loss underscores the urgent need for stable housing, health care, and community support; and

**WHEREAS**, drug and alcohol-related accidental deaths represented the highest cause of mortality in this group, followed by natural causes and other accidents<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, impending federal reductions to permanent housing programs beginning in 2027, coupled with projected cuts to Medicaid, SNAP and other essential health and stabilization services will disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness, making it more difficult to access the broad range of care needed to maintain their health, engage in employment, and achieve housing<sup>5</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>2</sup> *Life and Death at the Margins of Society: The Mortality of the U.S. Homeless Population*, Meyer, Wyse, Logani (2023)

<sup>4</sup> 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

<sup>5</sup> Rabell, L. (2025, April). *Homelessness and Medicaid: What’s the connection?* National Health Care for the Homeless Council. [https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homelessness-and-Medicaid-Whats-the-Connection\\_.pdf](https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homelessness-and-Medicaid-Whats-the-Connection_.pdf)

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa County calls on government agencies, faith communities, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and residents to recognize the urgent need to address homelessness through sustained collaboration, compassion, and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council on Homelessness, serving as both an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and the planning body for the Continuum of Care, coordinates the county’s strategy toward ending homelessness and encourages active community participation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health, Housing, and Homeless Services Division of Contra Costa Health is committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring through an integrated system of housing and support; and

**WHEREAS**, a [Homeless Persons’ Memorial](#) event will be held on **Friday, December 19, 2025 coordinated by Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, NAMI Contra Costa and Safe Organized Spaces Richmond**, offering space to honor lives lost; and

**WHEREAS**, by gathering in remembrance and solidarity, the community can affirm its commitment to meaningful change and honor the humanity of every neighbor lost to homelessness; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors hereby declares December 21, 2026 as **National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day** in Contra Costa County—to honor those who have died without shelter, to encourage collective reflection and engagement, and to strengthen our commitment to housing solutions rooted in dignity, equity, and hope.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

---

**File #:** 26-2867

**Agenda Date:** 6/30/2026

**Agenda #:** 5.

---

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Recognitions: Updates, Decision and Next Steps (ACTION ITEM)

Presenter:

Contact:

Information: As part of HAM, the COH solicits nominations for outstanding people, projects, etc and then recognizes them in November. Multiple revisions are being proposed to categories from last year due to feedback received.

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s): Review and approve proposed changes.

Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026

## Outstanding Housing Provider

Section	2025	2026
Description	<p>As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize <b>those landlords, property management companies, and other housing operators that create permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness</b> in Contra Costa County through the Outstanding Housing Provider category.</p> <p>Outstanding efforts towards providing permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can be demonstrated in a number of ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of time involved in providing units/rooms</li> <li>• Number of units/rooms; and/or</li> <li>• Quality of units/rooms rented</li> </ul>	<p>The Outstanding Housing Provider category recognizes <b>landlords, property managers, housing operators, and organizations</b> that create and maintain <b>safe, stable, and accessible housing opportunities</b> for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County.</p> <p>This award honors providers who demonstrate <b>exceptional commitment</b>, whether by offering units, reducing barriers, maintaining high quality housing, partnering with service providers, or consistently supporting residents' success. These individuals and organizations play a crucial role in the housing-first response to homelessness and strengthen our community by expanding housing options.</p>

**Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026**

<p>Eligibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person or company must rent units/rooms in Contra Costa County to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This may             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and cares, halfway houses and transitional housing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Person or company may nominate themselves.</li> </ul>	<p>Nominees must meet all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate <b>housing units or rooms in Contra Costa County</b> that they rent to people <b>at risk of or experiencing homelessness</b>.</li> <li>• Provide <b>permanent or transitional housing</b>, which may include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and care homes, halfway houses, or transitional programs.</li> <li>• Demonstrate <b>one or more</b> of the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commitment to renting units consistently over time</li> <li>○ Meaningful number of units/rooms offered</li> <li>○ High quality of units/rooms, responsiveness to tenants, and good property stewardship</li> <li>○ Reduced barriers to entry (e.g., flexible screening, fair consideration)</li> <li>○ Partnership with service providers or system partners</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Providers may be individuals, companies, faith-based operators, organizations, or site-based housing programs.</li> </ul>
--------------------	--	---

**Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026**

<p>Nomination Form</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe nominee’s outstanding contribution to ending homelessness. Please include any information available on length of involvement in housing people affected by homelessness, number of units/rooms rented to individuals and/or families facing homelessness, quality of units/rooms rented, etc.</li> <li>2. Describe the difference that the Nominee’s service makes to individuals facing homelessness. Who was positively affected and how? Who values the work of the nominee and why?</li> <li>3. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Housing Type(s) Provided (required):</b> Describe the housing offered (e.g., shared housing, single-site units, rooms, sober living, transitional housing, board-and-care, etc.).</li> <li>2. <b>Service to People Experiencing Homelessness (required):</b> Explain how the provider supports people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Include any flexible practices, partnerships, or commitment to reducing barriers.</li> <li>3. <b>Quality and Consistency (required):</b> Describe the quality of the units/rooms, maintenance practices, responsiveness, and length of time they have provided units to the homelessness system.</li> <li>4. <b>Impact (required):</b> Share specific examples of how this provider has made a significant difference — whether through number of units, support for tenants, collaboration with case managers, crisis responsiveness, or innovative practices.</li> <li>5. <b>Additional Notes (optional):</b> Highlight anything else that sets this provider apart.</li> </ol>
------------------------	--	---

Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026

## Outstanding Partnership

Section	2025	2026
Description	<p>As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to <b>recognize partnerships that support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness</b> through the Outstanding Partnership category. Partnerships can be with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those facing homelessness), and businesses.</p>	<p>The Outstanding Systems Partnership category recognizes <b>two or more organizations</b> that have worked together in a <b>formal, ongoing collaboration</b> that strengthens the homelessness response system. Recognized partnerships should demonstrate <b>shared goals, coordinated work, and measurable improvements</b> in the lives of people facing homelessness.</p> <p>This category focuses on <b>deep, high-impact partnerships</b> rather than informal collaborations or one-time joint activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The partnership must support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County in some way, but does not have to only serve people facing homelessness.</li> <li>• Partnership may nominate itself.</li> </ul>	<p>To be eligible, a partnership must meet all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involves two or more organizations (e.g., government agencies, nonprofits, CBOs, health or behavioral health providers, faith-based organizations, or businesses) working together in an established collaboration.</li> <li>• Has been active for at least 12 consecutive months.</li> <li>• Demonstrates clear, documented impact on people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County.</li> </ul> <p>Shows one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-sector collaboration</li> <li>• Coordinated service delivery or integrated care</li> <li>• Systems--level improvements (policy, process, data sharing, workflows)</li> </ul> <p>Innovations that expand access, reduce barriers, or improve outcomes</p>

**Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026**

<p>Nomination Form</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of the Partnership</li> <li>2. Who are the key partners? Please highlight if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.</li> <li>3. How does the partnership support people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County?</li> <li>4. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Partner Organizations (required):</b> List all primary partner organizations involved in this collaboration.</li> <li>2. <b>Length of Partnership (required):</b> Provide the start date (month/year) and describe how long the partners have been collaborating.</li> <li>3. <b>Description of the Partnership (required):</b> Summarize the purpose of the partnership, what the partners do together, and how they coordinate their work.</li> <li>4. <b>Impact on People Experiencing Homelessness (required):</b> Describe the partnership's outcomes. Where possible, include specific examples such as increased placements, reduced barriers, improved coordination, or innovative approaches.</li> <li>5. <b>Why This Partnership Should Be Recognized (optional):</b> Explain what makes this partnership exceptional, unique, or especially impactful.</li> </ol>
------------------------	---	---

Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026

## Outstanding Volunteer

Section	2025	2026
Description	<p>As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize <b>individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer efforts</b> through the Outstanding Volunteer category.</p> <p>Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of involvement;</li> <li>• Strong concentration of service; and/or</li> <li>• Impact of efforts to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.</li> </ul>	<p>The Outstanding Volunteer category honors individuals or groups whose voluntary, unpaid service meaningfully enriches the lives of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Contra Costa County. Volunteers may contribute through direct service, community support, resource distribution, mentoring, advocacy, organizing, or any other form of sustained, impactful involvement.</p>
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominee must volunteer in Contra Costa County</li> <li>• The volunteer activity must be without pay</li> </ul>	<p>Nominees must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer <b>within Contra Costa County</b> in a non-paid capacity.</li> <li>• Support people <b>experiencing or at risk of homelessness</b>, either directly or indirectly.</li> <li>• Demonstrate one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Length of service</b> (sustained involvement over time)</li> <li>○ <b>Concentration of service</b> (significant commitment in a shorter period)</li> <li>○ <b>Impact of service</b> (notable outcomes, consistency, or influence)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contribute through any setting including nonprofit organizations, community groups, faith communities, local initiatives, mutual aid networks, public programs, or independent volunteer efforts.</li> </ul>

**Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026**

<p>Nomination Form</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe nominee’s outstanding volunteer service(s). Please include any information available on length of involvement, concentration of service or impact of efforts</li> <li>2. Describe the difference that the Nominee’s service makes to individuals facing homelessness. Who was positively affected and how? Who values the work of the nominee and why?</li> <li>3. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Nominee Name:</b></li> <li>2. <b>Nominee Contact (if available):</b></li> <li>3. <b>Type of Volunteer Contribution (individual or group):</b></li> <li>4. <b>Volunteer Activities in Contra Costa County (required):</b> Describe the volunteer roles, responsibilities, activities, or contributions supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>5. <b>Length and/or Intensity of Involvement (required):</b> Explain how long the nominee has been volunteering or describe the depth of their involvement.</li> <li>6. <b>Impact of the Nominee’s Volunteer Service (required):</b> Provide specific examples showing how the nominee has enriched the lives of people facing homelessness — through support, connection, leadership, advocacy, reliability, or other contributions.</li> <li>7. <b>Additional Strengths or Qualities (optional):</b> Share any qualities that make the nominee exceptional (e.g., compassion, creativity, perseverance, problem solving, community building).</li> </ol>
------------------------	---	---

Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026

## Phoenix Rising

Section	2025	2026
Description	<p>As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize <b>individuals with a lived experience of homelessness</b> who have demonstrated outstanding courage, strength and/or resilience through the Phoenix Rising category. The Phoenix is a bird that rises up again and again from the ashes. It embodies courage and resilience through its journey or flight.</p>	<p>The Phoenix Rising Award category recognizes individuals with lived experience of homelessness who demonstrate extraordinary courage, resilience, and/or personal strength at any stage of their journey. This recognition is for people who are currently experiencing homelessness, are in the process of securing stability, or have already moved into housing. Like the Phoenix that rises again and again, this award celebrates individuals who continue to persevere, rebuild, and move forward despite challenges.</p>
Eligibility	<p>Nominated people must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County.</p>	<p>Nominees must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County</b>, or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently <b>live, work, or contribute</b> in Contra Costa County</li> <li>• Be <b>anywhere in their journey</b>, including those who are currently unhoused, in shelter, in temporary or interim housing, or in permanent housing.</li> <li>• Demonstrate courage, resilience, determination, personal growth, or positive influence on others, whether through everyday perseverance, supporting peers, engaging in community or advocacy efforts, or inspiring others by example.</li> </ul>

**Recognition Categories 2025 v Proposed 2026**

<p>Nomination Form</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does this person have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County?</li> <li>2. Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated courage, strength and/or resilience.</li> <li>3. Anything you wish to share that was not covered above. Nominee’s comments or comments from recipients are also welcome.</li> <li>4. Can you get written permission (text or email is ok) to share this person's name publicly?</li> <li>5. If no, we will edit the story to remove identifying information. Is this acceptable to you?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Connection to Contra Costa County (required):</b> Explain how the nominee meets eligibility (lived experience in Contra Costa County, or experienced homelessness elsewhere and now lives, works, or contributes here)</li> <li>2. <b>Resilience and Growth (required):</b> Describe the obstacles they have overcome and the personal growth they have demonstrated.</li> <li>3. <b>Impact on Others (required):</b> Share how the nominee has inspired, supported, advocated, or positively influenced others.</li> <li>4. <b>Community Engagement or Leadership (optional):</b> Note any volunteerism, advocacy, peer leadership, or community contributions.</li> </ol>
------------------------	---	--

# Ways to improve Recognition Event

## 1. Ways to Redesign the In-Person Recognition

Below are methods that keep things meaningful *and calm*.

### **A. Move from individual name announcements to “spotlight stories”**

Instead of reading every single name, you highlight:

- 2–3 short stories per category
- A collective acknowledgment of all nominees

Everyone still feels honored, but the room stays focused and the pace is controlled.

Example script: “Please join me in honoring the incredible 27 partners nominated this year. We want to highlight three stories that exemplify the spirit of this category...”

Names appear on screen/in program — not read aloud.

### **B. Introduce a “roll of honor” wall or installation**

Create a large, high-quality visual display people can visit throughout the event:

- A printed banner or wall with all nominee names
- Posters by category
- A “hall of gratitude” installation with quotes, photos, logos
- Or a digital display on loop in lobby

This shifts recognition from the stage to a space where people can reflect quietly.

### **C. Recognize groups/categories rather than individuals**

For example:

- Invite *all* volunteers in the room to stand.
- Invite *all* housing providers to stand.
- Invite *all* partnerships reps to stand.

You acknowledge them collectively, which reduces chaos but feels powerful.

### **D. Use “representatives” on stage rather than all members of a partnership**

For Partnership nominees:

- Invite 1–2 people per partnership up  
NOT entire multi-agency teams.  
This massively reduces the logistical tangle.

## 2. Ways to Use Media Without the Hectic Feeling

### A. Convert the PowerPoint into a curated video

Instead of flipping through dozens of slides, create:

- A 4–7-minute montage
- Music + photos/logos
- Each nominee listed once
- Highlighted quotes woven in

This keeps energy high and removes the stress of slide timing, crowd movement, and name reading.

### B. Use QR codes at the event

Each table gets a QR code linking to the full nomination booklet.

Attendees explore stories at their pace.

On stage, you focus on meaningful highlights.

### C. Use short video clips featuring a few nominees

1–2 minutes each, especially Phoenix Rising voices.

Other categories get mentioned in the video montage, but not individually interviewed.

## 3. Ways to Extend Recognition Beyond the Event

This reduces the burden the day *of* and still honors everyone richly.

### A. Supervisor/Elected Official Recognition Campaign

You already mentioned this — it's a GREAT idea.

How it could work:

- After nominees are confirmed, divide them by district.
- Provide each Supervisor with a recognition packet + template social posts + talking points.
- Supervisors record 20–30 second congratulatory videos.

- You release these videos weekly during Homelessness Awareness Month.
- Nominees get certificates signed by Supervisors (or Board Chair).

This expands recognition significantly *beyond* the event.

### **B. Publish a beautifully designed “Recognition Booklet”**

You already have a toolkit — make this booklet a centerpiece.

Include:

- Quotes
- Photos (if consented)
- Descriptions
- Inspiring snippets

You can debut the booklet at the event and distribute physical copies.

### **C. Social media “story spotlights” throughout November**

Each day or week:

- Highlight a nominee on social
- Include a quote from their nomination
- Tag their organization if appropriate
- Celebrate their work

This gives long-lasting recognition without crowding the in-person event.

## **4. A Recommended Event Flow**

Based on your goals, here’s a flow that keeps things meaningful and low-stress:

- 1. Welcome + big-picture gratitude**
- 2. Theme framing — “Collective Rising,” “Partners in Community,” etc.**
- 3. Phoenix Rising Recognition (full in-person spotlight)**
  - These stories are usually the most emotionally powerful
  - They deserve in-person honor without rushing
  - Use short videos or in-person remarks
- 4. Volunteer Recognition**

- Stand-up recognition for all volunteers
- Share 1–2 highlight stories
- Video montage or slide with all names

#### 5. **Housing Provider Recognition**

- Stand-up recognition for all providers
- Spotlight 1–2 exceptional partnership or barrier-reducing stories
- Photo of all nominees together

#### 6. **Partnerships Recognition**

- Acknowledge the large number
- Screen a video/slide montage
- Invite each partnership to send **one representative** to the stage for a group photo
- No individual name reading

#### 7. **Closing remarks + unveiling of Recognition Booklet + QR code**

Keeps things smooth, meaningful, and inclusive.

## 5. How to Handle the Large Partnerships Category

This is the trickiest one — here are the best options:

### **Option A: “Representative only” recognition**

Each nomination selects 1 person to represent them on stage. You acknowledge the *partnership*, not the individuals.

### **Option B: “Partnership clusters”**

Group nominations into:

- Cross-sector collaborations
- Direct service teams
- Systems-level collaborations

Recognize each cluster, not each partnership.

### **Option C: “Gallery walk” or “Impact wall”**

Have posters or stations around the event with:

- Partnership descriptions
- Photos/logos
- Key accomplishments

People mingle and learn — no rush on stage.

**Option D: Recognition video + group photo**

Show all partnership names in a montage.

Invite all reps for a **single** photo at the end.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

---

**File #:** 26-2868

**Agenda Date:** 6/30/2026

**Agenda #:** 7.

---

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Community Forum: Discuss and Decision

Presenter:

Contact:

Information: The COH has hosted a variety of community forums as part of past HAMs.

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s): Review agendas from past community forums



# CoC Learning Hub: R.O.O.T.S- Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories

The Contra Costa Continuum of Care (CoC) Learning Hubs are biannual topic specific stakeholder meetings designed to increase learning about issues related to homelessness.

**Monday, November 14, 2022; 1:00 pm – 3:00 PM**

**ZOOM REGISTRATION:**

[https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/join/9PT\\_nipGBImoEXHe](https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/join/9PT_nipGBImoEXHe)

**IN PERSON LOCATION:** County Administration Office, 1025 Escobar Conf. Rm 110A, Martinez

## AGENDA

Agenda Item	Presenter	Time
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	- Juno Hedrick, Council on Homelessness Chair	2
<b>Recognition Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thriving in the Face of Homelessness</li> <li>• Volunteer</li> <li>• Landlord</li> </ul>	- Juno Hedrick, Chair and Jo Bruno, Vice Chair	30
<b>Panel Discussion: R.O.O.T.S- Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories</b>	- Moderators: Keva Dean, Community Representative and Wayne Earl, Faith Community Representative - Panelists: Candace Wade, Debbie Thomas, Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick	70
<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	- Moderators: Keva Dean, Community Representative and Wayne Earl, Faith Community Representative - Panelists: Candace Wade, Debbie Thomas, Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick	15
<b>Closing</b>	- Juno Hedrick, Council on Homelessness Chair	3



# CoC Learning Hub: “H.O.P.E. (Hearing Other People’s Experiences) Beyond Homelessness”

The Contra Costa Continuum of Care (CoC) Learning Hubs are biannual topic specific stakeholder meetings designed to increase learning about issues related to homelessness.

**Monday, November 8, 2021; 1:00 pm – 3:00 PM**

Meeting link: <https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/84943539480>

Join by Phone: +1 669 900 6833 Meeting number: 849 4353 9480

## AGENDA

Agenda Item	Presenter	Time
<b>Video</b>	-	
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	- <i>Lindy Johnson, Council on Homelessness Chair</i>	1:00 pm (10 mins)
<b>Panel Presentation by People With Lived Experience of Homelessness</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Is there anything you want to share about what led to you becoming homeless?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loren, yes</li> <li>• Jo, not sure               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays in getting approved for SSI</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Juno</li> <li>• Lori</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>What worked for you and what didn't work for you while you were experiencing homelessness?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hard: bathrooms. Car getting repossessed- almost got towed. Not feeling safe- someone trying to break into car while sleeping</li> <li>• Helped: Community Connect. 211</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Loren:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard: not enough income. Waiting for disability approval for VA (5 year).</li> <li>• Helped: getting the \$ and then got housing voucher (VASH). Veteran housing case manager-</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Juno Hedrick, <i>Youth Representative, Council on Homelessness</i></li> <li>- Jo Bruno, <i>Consumer Representative, Council on Homelessness</i></li> <li>- Loren Dalbert, <i>Workforce</i></li> <li>- Lori McLemore, <i>Resident Empowerment Project</i></li> <li>- Jaime Jenett, <i>Moderator</i></li> </ul>	1:10 (50 mins)



helped find landlord, checked in 1x month

**3. What do you wish you had gotten that you didn't get?**

- Jo
  - Housing
  - Wished that legal case had been heard instead of delaying it 18 months. Would have been approved for SSI.
- Loren
  - Getting disability benefits sooner than 5 years.
  - Access to VA mental health services earlier (have to have a dx from VA doctor to get VA MH services) or been in particular theater of combat. Could get basic medical care but couldn't get income or MH support for 5 years until got that approval for MH services.

**4. What motivated you to keep going?**

- Jo
  - Faith (blind faith), what saved her was the ability to love somebody again. Love created is darkest times. Work was NOT the motivator!
- Loren
  - Kids. Son was with him for a big part of it. Had belief that situation would get better and that it would change. And it has! Been an agent of that change. A lot of him is walking new path laid before him.

**5. What do you want people to know about experiencing homelessness**

- It's savage out there.
- No one feels safe out there.
- Resilience is exhausting
- Constant assaults- racism, sexism, homophobia
- Tired of the trauma
- Sex industry- survival

<p><b>6. What does it mean for you to share your experience? How has it changed your life? What helped you be able to tell your story?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It’s motivating. Peer support- that’s what’s going to create new policy and help someone through a crisis. Was writing policy while she was homeless.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Loren             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being homeless helped him be able to tell his story. Second time being homeless after coming from relatively stable situation. A lot of his beliefs were superficial- revealed when became homeless. Got rid of American Shame and pressure to keep up with the Jones’. Has no shame.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>7. Why is PLE perspective important?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loren             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to be part of these conversations. EHV process. Need to have PLE at</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jo             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing about us without us</li> <li>• Lives experience is how laws are made</li> <li>• Peer support is about telling your story</li> <li>• “System” doesn’t have a message of hope. Our stories do.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>All</b></li> <li>- Jaime Jenett, <i>Moderator</i></li> </ul>	<p>2:00 pm (15 mins)</p>
<p><b>Breakout Sessions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Break out into small groups</li> <li>- Select one notetaker and/or reporter</li> <li>- Discuss and answer questions below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All</li> </ul>	<p>2:15 pm (20 mins)</p>
<p><b>Report Out</b></p> <p>1. How were you inspired by the panel discussion?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All</li> </ul>	<p>2:35 pm (25 mins)</p>



## CONTRA COSTA CONTINUUM OF CARE

2. What is one action you want to see decision makers take? 3. What is your personal call to action?		
<b>Closing</b>	- <i>Lindy Johnson, Council on Homelessness Chair</i>	3:00 pm