



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## AGENDA

### African American Holistic Wellness Hub Feasibility Study Steering Committee

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**Monday, May 5, 2025**                      **5:30 PM**                      **1026 Escobar Street, 238/239, Martinez, CA 94553 |**  
**<https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/85976003835> | Call-In: 214 765 0478 Access code:**  
**2188046**

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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
2. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action for the March 10, 2025 meeting of the African American Holistic Wellness Hub Steering Committee, with any necessary corrections. [25-1673](#)  
**Attachments:** [AAHWRH Steering Committee Record of Action 3.10.25\(draft\)](#)
3. RECEIVE and DISCUSS final update on the African American Wellness and Resource Hub Feasibility [25-1674](#)  
**Attachments:** [AAHWRH SteeringCommittee - 5.5.25 Project Awards-Jan2025](#)
4. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

There are no future meetings scheduled.

Adjourn

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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 1026 Escobar Street, 2B, Martinez, CA 94553, 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: Peter Kim ([peter.kim@oresj.cccounty.us](mailto:peter.kim@oresj.cccounty.us))



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 25-1673

**Agenda Date:** 5/5/2025

**Agenda #:** 2.

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Advisory Board: African American Wellness Hub Steering Committee

Subject: RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action for the March 10, 2025 meeting of the African American Holistic Wellness Hub Steering Committee, with any necessary corrections.

Presenter: Peter Kim

Contact: [peter.kim@oresj.cccounty.us](mailto:peter.kim@oresj.cccounty.us)

Information: RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action for the March 10, 2025 meeting.

Referral History and Update: County Ordinance requires that each County body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the decisions made in the meetings.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Staff recommends approving the Record of Action for the March 17, 2025 meeting of the Equity Committee, with any necessary corrections.

**African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub (AAHWRH) Steering Committee**  
Record of Action for Monday, March 10, 2025

**Attendance:**

**Steering Committee Members:**

- In-person (CAO Building, Martinez): **Patt Young; Vanessa Blum; Jacqueline Smith,**
- In-person (Black Parent Resource Center, Richmond): **Sheryl Lane;**
- In-person (Urban Tilth, Richmond): **Chinue Fields; Zelon Harrison;**
- In-person (Genesis Church, Antioch): **Desirae Herron, Ashley Green; Rohanna Moore;**
- In-person (Pittsburg): **Taylor Sims**
- Absent: **Phil Arnold; Alfonzo Edwards; Mark McGowan**

**County Staff:**

- In-person: **Peter Kim, Kendra Carr, Co-Directors, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ)**
- Online: **Jill Ray, BoS District 2 Representative; Alejandra Sanchez, BoS District 4 Representative; Emann Ahmed, Equity Analyst, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ); Jessica Travenia, Equity Analyst, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ)**

**Public Attendees:**

- In-person:
- Online: **Kerby Lynch (Ceres Policy Research); Ryan Drake Lee (Ceres Policy Research); Randi Dean (Ceres Policy Research); Alisha Semplar; Andrea McBride Foster; Anthony Randolph; Bryan Canty; Debra Vinson; Henderson; Cheryl Sudduth; Jamie; Lenisha Williama-Bekheet; Liliana Gonzalez; Lisa; Mary Taylor; Odessa Lefrancois; Shantell Owens; Sharronda; Singbren; Susan Hlidreth; Traci Fuqua; YWFC; Stephanie Taddeo; Willie Robinson; Kimberly Payton; Benisa Berry; Tamisha Walker; Kirsten Johnson Bell; Sheenna Glover; Delta Veterans Group; Anabel Kasembe; Tonia.**

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

*(Staff announced that meeting would begin once a quorum of members were in attendance.)*

*Staff convened meeting at 5:40 PM, took a roll call attendance, and welcomed those in attendance. With 7 members in attendance, we achieved quorum. Staff reviewed the meeting agenda.*

**2. RECEIVE and APPROVE Record of Action for the February 10, 2025 meeting of the Steering Committee for the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub Feasibility Study, with any necessary corrections.**

**Public Comment:**

*N/A*

*Vanessa Blum made a motion to receive and approve the Record of Action. Taylor Sims seconded the motion. All members (7 present) voted yes. Item was moved.*

**3. RECEIVE and DISCUSS presentation on the draft proposal of the African American Wellness and Resource Hub Feasibility Study, and DETERMINE the next steps for the feasibility study proposal.**

*Dr. Kerby Lynch of Ceres Policy Research, offered an update on their almost-final feasibility study report, including summary of need and purpose, process and methods, analysis of data, findings, and recommendations. See attached draft report and PPT slide deck for details.*

*Invited feedback and questions from the Steering Committee to further inform and refine the recommendations before final submission to Equity Committee. Encouraged people to email her with questions or suggestions: [klynch@cerespolicyresearch.com](mailto:klynch@cerespolicyresearch.com).*

*Highlights from the presentation are below:*

- *Community engagement and community leadership remains at the core and center*
- *Private and public funding needed for long-term sustainability*
- *Joint Powers Authority structure to provide governance, accountability and oversight*
- *Services must be comprehensive and holistic, catered to meet needs of Black communities, and prioritize critical health needs (Black people lead in almost every category of highest risk for chronic health issues that lead to premature death.*
- *Facility options must include fiscal feasibility, and will rely upon leveraged County-owned spaces*

*Proposes the Steering Committee extend its service and function beyond the feasibility study; to continue to support the process by contributing oversight, strategic thought partnership, and content expertise.*

*Phased-Approach to Establishing a Wellness Hub Model*

- *Phase 1: Immediate Action – Mobile & Distributed Services*
  - *Extend and expand steering committee role and function*
  - *Dedicated street teams & mobile units to deliver services in high-priority communities where most needed*
  - *Continue funding of grassroots, community-based services currently being funded by ORESJ*
  - *Design, fund, operationalize JPA structure*
- *Phase 2: Expanding Infrastructure & Network Building*
  - *Establish satellite service locations throughout East and West County (libraries, faith-based centers, community spaces)*
  - *Investment in collaborative networks (i.e. West County Collaborative)*
  - *County-funded service contracts*
- *Phase 3: Permanent Holistic Wellness Center*

- *Centralized, fully-equipped wellness hub (recommend 1650 Cavallo Road, Antioch; a County-owned resource for long-term sustainability, that is accessible to an impacted community)*
- *Support and ensure service provision through sustained investment from County and other public and private sources; include contracting with CBO's, as well as leveraging County services*
- *Developed based on data-driven service utilization insights*
- *Joint Powers Authority:*
  - *CCH, EHSD, Library, Public Works, ORESJ, City of Antioch, City of Pittsburg, City of Richmond, and CBOs*
  - *Ensure transparent accountability and long-term funding*
- *Equity and Accountability Measures*
  - *Community Advisory Board*

**Next Steps:**

- *Equity Committee 3/17*
- *BOS vote TBD*
- *Confirm feasibility of extending and expanding Steering Committee involvement*

**Discussion:**

*Jacqueline Smith: the report reflects the feedback and insights and concerns offered here at Steering Committee as well as the Community Cafes/Town Halls, two of which I attended. I appreciate that the report really tries to incorporate the many diverse set of perspectives.*

*Patt Young: I echo a lot of what Jacqueline offered, I particularly appreciate the intentionality in incorporating community voice and the attention to long-term sustainability. This can be a model for other jurisdictions.*

*Vanessa Blum: I appreciate the amount of time and effort taken to have as many town halls and listening sessions, the large number of surveys collected, and the very thorough and thoughtful process taken to assemble this plan, timeline, and all elements of the process that leads up to a permanent hub.*

*Zelon Harrison: I appreciate Ceres Policy Research and ORESJ both to center healing in this process, and all the effort of the steering committee to prioritize our Black communities in all our feedback and suggestions.*

*Rohanna Moore: really appreciate the amount of hear tand care put into the process, reflecting what we were looking for, and I am encouraged by this report.*

*Desirae Herron: the level of Black excellence that Ceres has shown from beginning to end is truly commendable, you've thought of all angles and levels of concern, and remains a For Us By Us effort.*

*Chinue Fields: I echo all that has been said and can only add that prior to Ceres' involvement, there was division and disagreement, but since Dr Lynch's participation and her spirit has truly squashed much of that dissension and brought us along a very long way from that time.*

*Sheryl Lane: I agree, and appreciate that so much has been done in such a short amount of time; Thank you Dr Lynch for being on the ground and in the community to engage so many. We recognized where the outreach fell short (i.e. elders) and then made intentional effort to address that. I also acknowledge the work of those in the East County who started this advocacy to get this work started, and I appreciate the JPA proposal as well as the multi-phased approach as a realistic exopectations. I would like to continue to lift up and support all the efforts already happening and doing good work.*

*Taylor Sims: Just chiming in to express my appreciation and to agree with what has been said already.*

**Public Comment:**

*Shantell Owens: I agree with the comments so far, want to express my support for Dr Lynch and this report; the feasibility study lifts up voices of 4000 voices and it is hard to refute the wisdom offered. I look forward to the continued work ahead.*

*Traci Fuqua: Thank you for all your work on this. I like the phased approach because it allows us to get the work started sooner than later. I offer and avail myself to you all to help move the work forward.*

*Cheryl Sudduth: I want to reiterate the point that we need to look to existing Black-led organizations for their expertise, and cautious us to not let the County determine or limit who delivers these services without the expertise or perspective of the Black community and Black service providers.*

*Tumani Drew: I look forward to learning how this will come to life and also want to emphasize the importance of making the hub and services accessible to West County residents, so I'm curious how the mobile services will work.*

*Benisa Berry: I commend the steering committee on getting this work to this point, and I am not surprised at the excellent job that Dr Lynch has done based on my previous experience with her. I am happy that there is openness to expanding the scope beyond just mental health services. I am also unclear how the services will reach all parts of the County, beyond East County. I like the proposal to have a community oversight body, it's important that Black community members continue to weigh in and provide direction.*

*Willie Robinson: I have been fairly active throughout this process, and I express kudos to the steering committee, and appreciate the way Dr Lynch has ensured an equitable and fair process. I lead the NAACP West County Branch, and we will continue to take a close look and support this project over the long haul with particular attention to how young black males are served.*

*Susan Hildreth: I support the plan as presented. I am a resident of District 2 and co-hosted a zoom on the project for District 2 residents, primarily Rossmoor. I created a JPA in Sacramento years ago and am NOT volunteering, it was challenging. Although I think we do not have as much need in District 2 as other parts of the country, I want to support this effort as an ally and a community member who sees a healthy and inclusive community as a critical value for our county.*

**Public Comments (via Chat):**

*Alisha Semplar: Thank you, Dr. Lynch and Steering Committee for centering community input by conducting surveys, listening sessions and the highly informative townhalls. I will be supporting community members/listening session attendees with preparing for public comment at BoS in April and May and look forward to date specifics.*

*Tamisha Walker: Thank you for the breakdown of the community engagement data and the recommendation of an oversight body to follow the implementation of this project closely. I'm interested more in what cities can do to support sustainability.*

*Debra Vinson: Thank you Dr. Lynch and the Steering Committee. 4K surveys is amazing. Appreciate all the work and dedication to the community.*

*Vanessa Blum made a motion to receive the update. Patt Young seconded the motion. All members (10 present) voted yes. Item was moved.*

**4. Public Comment**

*No comment.*

**5. DETERMINE the date, time, and location of future meetings**

*The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 14, 2025 from 5:30-7:00 PM.*

*The meeting will take place at County Administration Building at 1026 Escobar Street, 2nd Floor, Martinez, CA 94553. Additional locations to be confirmed when agenda is posted.*

**6. Adjourn**

*Staff adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.*





# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 25-1674

**Agenda Date:** 5/5/2025

**Agenda #:** 3.

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Advisory Board: African American Holistic Wellness Hub Steering Committee

Subject: RECEIVE and DISCUSS final update on the African American Wellness and Resource Hub Feasibility Study.

Presenter: Peter Kim

Contact: [peter.kim@oresj.cccounty.us](mailto:peter.kim@oresj.cccounty.us)

Information: Present a final update on the AAHWRH Feasibility Study which was presented by Dr. Kerby Lynch of Ceres Policy Research to the Board of Supervisors on April 15, 2025.

Referral History and Update: The study was presented to Board of Supervisors on April 15, 2025.

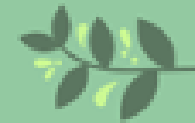
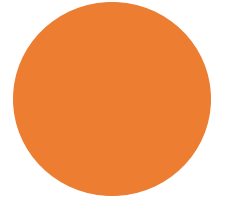
Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s): None.

# Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

Dr. Kendra Carr, Co-Director  
Peter Kim, Co-Director

Contra Costa County

May 5, 2025



Office of Racial  
Equity & Social  
Justice

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

# African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub Implementation Plan Update

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On April 15, 2025, Ceres Policy Research presented their final feasibility study report to the Board of Supervisors.

Their report included a comprehensive community needs assessment and recommendations toward a three-phase implementation plan that proposes:

- Phase 1: Immediate activation of mobile services and leveraging of County-led rapid-response services that target high-need groups such as elders, unhoused, geographically isolated, etc. (\$2.87M)
- Phase 2: Engage and fund CBO's to fill service gaps by delivering dispersed "satellite" services through a sub-regional approach that prioritizes high-need Districts 5 and 3. (\$2.74M)
- Phase 3: Establish a physical site in Antioch, CA by 2028 that delivers medical, mental health, social and economic support through co-location of County and community services (\$3.6M)
  - Total implementation budget for initial 3 phases: \$9.21M

Recommended first steps include:

- Hire an implementation lead (e.g. executive director) within 90 days
- Expand and extend Steering Committee role/function to Oversight and Advisory Body
- Activate rapid-response services by Jan 2026

# African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub

## Implementation Plan Update (continued)

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Board of Supervisors directed the ORESJ to return to Equity Committee for further direction, with goal of returning to full Board by June or July 2025 with a fully developed and actionable implementation plan that builds off the Ceres Policy Research report, and that also addresses the following:

- Conduct an inventory analysis of existing County-run services and programs that support and/or prioritize the improved health and wellness of African American communities and individuals.
- Explore sub-regional approaches that meet the unique strengths, needs and concerns of the diverse African American communities and their respective needs throughout the County's supervisorial districts.
- Prioritize recommendations for investment of the current approved allocation of \$7.5 million to initiate efforts and services toward establishing a hub, and propose a long-term sustainability plan that includes non-County funding sources.
- Propose a governance structure other than a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that allows for more flexibility and nimbleness in establishing formal partnerships with stakeholders, encourages shared responsibility, and prioritizes community leadership and partnership.
- Propose an approach to securing an entity and/or staff to carry out the implementation of services and establishment of a hub that does not include hiring new County employees.

# African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub

## Implementation Plan Update (continued)

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Since receiving direction from the Board of Supervisors on April 15, 2025, ORESJ has:

- Created and shared a survey with County departments requesting information on services and programs that prioritize and serve vulnerable groups within African American communities, with an eye towards what is immediately available, as well as uncovering gaps and what may be missing. Have begin receiving those responses.
- Initiated contact and conversation with local/regional organizations with expertise and success in implementing community-embedded, community-led health and wellness centers to learn of concrete implementation steps, lessons learned, and potential funding opportunities.
- Explored models and processes to fast track the establishment of an independent 501c3 non-profit organization that can independently hire an executive director and other staff to carry out the day-to-day implementation and coordination of services.
- Drafted bylaws and structure for a Community Advisory Body to oversee the creation and implementation of a hub.
- Provided an update at the May 2, 2025 Equity Committee meeting.

# African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub

## Update on \$1M Allocation for Existing Services

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- All fourteen service MOU's have been finalized and processed with projects/services beginning May 1, 2025.
- East Bay Community Foundation is administering the contracts on behalf of the County and are responsible for program monitoring, reporting, and processing of invoices and payments.
- See attached list of funded organizations with short description of the projects.

# Questions or Comments

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice  
1026 Escobar Street, Suite 2B  
Martinez, CA 94553

Kendra Carr, Co-Director

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# AWARDS TO INCREASE AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND RESOURCES (2025)

Priority Service Category	Awardee	Award	Cities Served	Project Description
<b>Maternal/Infant Health</b>	Breast Friends Lactation and Support Services	\$100,000	Richmond, San Pablo, Pittsburg, Antioch	This project will bridge the gap in lactation care for African American pregnant and breastfeeding moms and families, prioritizing breastfeeding education, offering peer support, and addressing health disparities that most impact African American families.
	Black Girls Mental Health Collective Foundation	\$76,000	Richmond, San Pablo, Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point	A culturally responsive, trauma-informed program providing perinatal mental health support, maternal health provider training, and community engagement for African American mothers in Contra Costa County to improve mental wellness and reduce health disparities.
<b>Behavioral Health</b>	Healing Spot Counseling Center Inc.	\$76,000	Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley, Discovery Bay, Pittsburg, Bay Point	Healing Spot Counseling Center, Inc. provides culturally responsive mental health services for African American residents who face barriers accessing community support services. The comprehensive approach includes crisis stabilization, individual counseling, and group therapy, delivered by licensed clinicians of color who understand community trauma and needs.
	Equity for Black Women and Girls	\$50,000	Richmond, San Pablo, Hercules, Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point	Sister Circles create safe spaces for Black women and girls to connect, share their experiences, and network. They address critical issues such as domestic violence and mental wellness, while fostering support, growth and community. These circles empower participants to heal and face challenges with resilience.
	NAMI Contra Costa	\$50,000	Antioch	The "I'm a Winner!" Program is designed to improve outcomes for African American youth, utilizing a holistic, faith-based, affirmative strategy. Through partnerships with schools and faith centers to address disparities and eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline, the program acknowledges the harm experienced by students and their families and offers empowering tools in a safe environment.
<b>Food/Housing Insecurity</b>	Grace Arms of Antioch	\$76,000	Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley, Pittsburg, Concord	Grace Closet, Pantry and Grace House provides essential services to individuals and families facing financial challenges, homelessness or food insecurity. These programs offer free food, clothing, and a supportive environment for those who are unemployed, underemployed or reliant on government assistance. Grace Closet serves the community bi-weekly, ensuring individuals not only receive basic necessities but also experience dignity and encouragement in difficult times.



# AWARDS TO INCREASE AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND RESOURCES (2025)

	Genesis Church	\$50,000	Antioch	Genesis Grocery Share Program/Elevate provides fresh produce and groceries the under-resourced residents of Antioch. Groceries are distributed on site every Saturday and are delivered to the elderly on Fridays.
	The Black Neighborhood	\$50,000	Richmond, San Pablo	The Black Neighborhood's Holistic Wellness and Food Security Initiative provides food distribution, trauma-informed healing workshops, and a community conference aimed at enhancing wellness, security, and recovery within African American communities, particularly those impacted by systemic violence and food insecurity in both East and West Contra Costa County.

Community Healing	Healthy Hearts	\$76,000	Pittsburg	The Healthy Hearts Community Healing and Resilience project will provide support for community healing from police trauma and poverty within Pittsburg's El Pueblo housing development, a historically Black underserved community.
	Centered Care Wellness	\$50,000	Antioch	Transforming Chronic Care Management for Veterans through Telehealth Innovation provides veterans with accessible, personalized telehealth services to manage chronic health conditions and improve overall well-being.
	Miles Hall Foundation	\$50,000	Countywide	Miles of Connections, Healing and Belonging Community Outreach Services is a community-building initiative to engage Black residents across Contra Costa County. Leveraging their trusted relationships, the Miles Hall Foundation will foster participation, belonging and healing by promoting all of the African American Wellness Hub's critical services and ensuring the community knows how to access and benefit from them.

Youth Development	1 Hundred Years Project	\$76,000	Richmond, Antioch	1 Hundred Years Enterprise is a credible messenger-led program to support positive youth development among justice-involved African American youth in Contra Costa County. Mentors with lived experience will provide intensive support for 28 youth and their families.
	Genesis Church	\$50,000	Antioch	Peer to Peer Youth Trauma Healing Groups addresses complex trauma inflicted upon African American youth in small healing groups. These facilitated groups provide a safe space of transparency without judgement.
	Improve Your Tomorrow	\$50,000	Brentwood, Pittsburg	Pathways to Success at Liberty and Black Diamond High Schools will deliver culturally responsive mentorship and social emotional learning to empower young Black men. This program fuses academic support, emotional wellness resources, and career guidance to address systemic challenges and build pathways to educational and personal success.