



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, August 14, 2025

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | Zoom:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/84112970168> |

Call in: 8882780254 | Code: 7038773

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome.

Meeting Called to Order at 9:07 pm by Chair Medlen. Quorum Established.

Staff Present: Christina Castle-Barber, Melissa Molina, Roshunda Ward, Ali Vahidizadeh

Guests: Monisha Merchant and Christian Dean (non-voting EOC members attending remotely)

Present	Karanbir Bal, Patricia Campbell, Jessica Cisneros, Karen Coleman, Ajit Kaushal, Buffie Lafayette, Janelle Lafrades, Desire Medlen, LaTonia Peoples-Stokes, Kanwar Singh, Victor Tiglao, and Renee Zeimer
Excused	Devlyn Sewell
Absent	Nikki Lopez
Non-voting	Christian Dean, and Monisha Merchant

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

3. *CLOSED SESSION*

4. APPROVE the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 6-12-2025.

[25-3313](#)

Attachments: [EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 6-12-2025 - DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Zeimer, to approve the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 6-12-2025. The motion carried by the following vote: 10 ayes and 2 abstentions.

Motion: Campbell

Second: Zeimer

Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Medlen, Peoples-Stokes, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Lopez

Abstain: Coleman, and Singh

Result: Passed

5. APPROVE the 2026-2027 CSBG RFP. [25-3314](#)

Attachments: [RFP XXX CSB CSBG Webposting DRAFT - ccb 7-30-25](#)

Tiglao asked about citizenship status and Castle-Barber replied that we will find out more in September.

A motion was made by Kaushal, seconded by Lafayette, to approve the RFP for the 2026-2027 CSBG Funds. The motion carried by the following vote: unanimous.

Motion: Kaushal

Second: Lafayette

Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Coleman, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Medlen, Peoples-Stokes, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Lopez

Result: Passed

6. APPROVE attendees to the 2025 CalCAPA Conference. [25-3315](#)

Attachments: [CalCAPA Conference 2025](#)

Molina shared the email from CalCAPA inviting Victor to attend the Young People's Caucus at this conference. The group agreed that Victor should attend. A secret ballot vote was taken to determine who the other two that will attend will be. Cisneros and Singh will attend.

A motion was made by Tiglao, seconded by Peoples-Stokes, to approve the sending Tiglao, Singh, and Cisneros to the CalCAPA conference 2025 in Palm Springs. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

Motion: Tiglao

Second: Peoples-Stokes

Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Coleman, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Medlen, Peoples-Stokes, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Lopez

Result: Passed

7. RECEIVE June 2025 CSBG Fiscal Report for Grant # 25F-6009. [25-3316](#)

Attachments: [2025 CSBG Monthly Expense Tracking June](#)

Vahidizadeh presented the fiscal report.

This Discussion Item was received.

8. RECEIVE final report on CSBG Onsite Monitoring for 2025. [25-3317](#)

Attachments: [2025 Contra Costa Onsite Monitoring Report Final](#)

Castle-Barber presented the final onsite monitoring report for 2025.

This Discussion Item was received.

9. DISCUSS Update on CSBG Strategic Plan. [25-3318](#)

Attachments: [2022-2027 Strategic Plan - Goals and Strategies - 2025 Update to the EOC DRAFT](#)

Castle-Barber presented the update on the Strategic Plan. The EOC discussed creating a new one given the many shifts with the current administration. We will have a Roundtable and discuss priorities with our subcontractors in the fall.

This Discussion Item was received.

10. DISCUSS PRWORA Executive Order and Safety Net Cuts. [25-3319](#)

Attachments: [National Partners - HHS PRWORA Update Webinar - 07.28.25](#)
[Safety-Net-Cuts-Implementation-Timeline_NACHSA68](#)

Castle-Barber presented the PRWORA presentation received by NCAF and Safety Net Cuts presented by NACHSA. We will address these at the roundtable in the fall.

This Discussion Item was received.

11. Staff Report: Funding Updates and EOC Training Status

Castle-Barber shared the NCAF fact sheet on H.R. 3131 by NCAF and the press release by Thompson and Bonamici. Members will begin advocating using the NCAF Advocacy Toolkit sent out to members this week.

Molina presented the updated mandated training tracking sheet and urged everyone to get their training done ASAP.

This was received.

12. EOC Chair Report

Chair Medlen shared the EHSD Newsletter Article on our Community Action Month Presentation to the Board of Supervisors and discussed various convenings occurring around the county. She urged members to get involved.

13. EOC Member Reports

Tiglaio gave an update on the SNAP benefits for prolonged school closure bill that the group advocated for and indicated it is now an application process but it is close to being enacted.

14. Next Steps

Castle-Barber will obtain the letter of support for CSBG by the Board of Supervisors and share with the EOC.

15. Meeting Evaluation

None.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for September 11 at 6pm.

16. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

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

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

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