



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

Recording link: Available by email request to CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (12): Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; LeAnn Matthews; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl
- Remote (2): Juno Hedrick; Yahel Moreno
- Absent (5): Hope Dixon; Jazmin Ridley; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green

Staff Attendance: Jaime Jenett, H3; Jamie Schecter, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase; Tania Morales, Homebase.

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Steven Whitwell, Bay Area Rescue Mission; Jaclyn Tummings, DCD; Melanie Erickson, DCD; Sarathi Soto, Independent Living Systems (ILS)
- Remote: Anna Cleese, Board of Supervisor - District 3; Angela Mullen, Brentwood Union; Lynna Magnuson, CAMINAR; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, Community Services Bureau; Janna Evans, Contra Costa Adult School; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County; Colleen Awad, Contra Costa County District 4; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Jai De Lotto, Department of VA; Ralph Payton, Greater Richmond Interfaith Program; Anya Kushwaha, H3; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Ernesto Robles, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; K. Patrice Williams, Hazels Tranquility Place; Calvin Chang, John Muir Health; Kristin Kane, Kaiser Permanente; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; Yadira Zapata, Martinez Unified School District; Serina Hersom, Northern California Family Center; Thomas Fulton, Northern California Family Center; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER Inc.; Brandon Wirth, SHELTER Inc.; Christi Rossi, SHELTER Inc.; Sarah Spector, SHELTER Inc.; Shayne Kaleo, SHELTER Inc.; Mary Vradelis, Trinity Center; Jeff O'Hearn, White Pony Express; Carmella Kowall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Teri Lundvall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Amanda Aschow, Zócalo Health.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Juno Hedrick called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

A. Meeting Norms:

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Juno Hedrick went over the hybrid meeting norms and guidelines to help ensure that meetings are conducted in a safe and respectful environment that encourages participation and inclusivity.

B. Roll call of Council members and introduction of guests:

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Juno Hedrick conducted a roll call of Council members and invited guests to introduce themselves in the chat.

C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Juno Hedrick conducted the poll activity called “Who is in the room?” with the purpose of getting a sense of who is attending the meeting. The poll was conducted via Zoom poll. All answers are anonymous, and the results are provided below:

- **Question 1: How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?**

This is my first meeting:	6 (21%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	7 (24%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	16 (55%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

- **Question 2: Do you have lived experience of homelessness?**

Yes, currently	2 (7%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	2 (7%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	4 (14%)
No	21 (72%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

- **Question 3: What best describes your racial identify?**

African American/Black	1 (3%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4 (12%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	3 (9%)
Hispanic/Latinx	6 (18%)
White	18 (53%)
Multi-racial	1 (3%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)

3) Public Comments

Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda

Members of the public:

- Yadira Zapata, the foster and homeless youth liaison for Martinez Unified School District and also a member of the McKinney-Vento Education Council, discussed the significant challenges faced by homeless families and youth in Central Contra Costa County. During the 2023-24 school year, the school district identified 1,200 unsheltered homeless students, an increase from previous months, with the majority living in doubled up situations or in vehicles. Due to the lack of family shelters, many families are told to go out of the County to find resources. Housing instability affects students in many ways such as chronic absenteeism and difficulty concentrating, which causes a decline in their academic performance. Yadira highlighted the ongoing and urgent need of expanding shelter options and increase housing resources for vulnerable students and families in Central Contra Costa County.

4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

- A. APPROVE minutes from the February 6, 2025 Council meeting**
- B. APPROVE staff report for the March 6, 2025 Council meeting**
- C. APPROVE adjustments to the 2025 Council on Homelessness Committee and Work Group Members**

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Members made a motion to approve the items above as a whole group:

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the consent calendar items as listed above.
- Discussion:
 - None.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Dani Jimenez
 - Seconded by: Wayne Earl
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: Tony Ucciferri.
 - ABSENT: Hope Dixon; Jazmin Ridley; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green

5) Committee Report Outs

A. Oversight Committee

Presenter: Wayne Earl, Faith Community Representative

- i. **(ACTION ITEM)** APPROVE 2025 Oversight Committee work plan as recommended by the Oversight Committee

Wayne Earl explained the purpose of the Oversight Committee, which is to review and assess the development, implementation, and improvement of the Continuum of Care as well as of Coordinated Entry and HMIS systems. The committee has three main responsibilities: 1) to monitor the regular operations of the continuum of care with an emphasis on performance standards; 2) to explore and recommend the improvements to the coordinated entry system with focus on equity and effective prioritization of the housing resource; and 3) to ensure strong feedback loops and homeless response systems through the CoC complaint process and written standards. The conversation ended with a discussion on the coordinated entry system revamp and the importance of measuring success in this work. The end-of-the year goal is to create priorities for 2025 and close any pending policy items.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the 2025 Oversight Committee work plan as recommended by the Oversight Committee.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: LeAnn Matthews
 - Seconded by: Shawn Ray
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

- NOES: None
- ABSTAINS: None
- ABSENT: Hope Dixon; Jazmin Ridley; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green

B. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor

Juno Hedrick provided an update on the YAB's recent activities, including participation on ongoing subcommittee meetings, collaboration with Rainbow Community Center and Housing services RFP panels, and continuous work on bylaws review. YAB is planning to submit the bylaws to the Council on Homelessness by March 31st and is awaiting the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration HDP FY 2024 NOFO to be released. YAB members participated in the Youth Empowerment Summit earlier this month where they met with other YAB organizations across the state along with other youth members.

6) Old Business

A. Update: 2025 Point-In-Time Count

Presenter: Yessenia Aguilar, H3

Yessenia reported on the progress of the Point-in-Time count surveys, with multiple agencies conducting surveys to collect demographic data on homeless individuals. The survey responses help with funding policy decisions and service planning. Trainings are provided to staff on how to download the app, how to use the app using the survey, how to track gift card distributions, and information about how to engage safely with individuals experiencing homelessness. The survey deadline has been extended to help reach the goal of collecting at least 500 surveys. Additionally, the team is also working with the GIS team to ensure that the survey on the 123 app is working properly, while also keeping a live track of all the surveys that are coming in.

B. Funding Updates

Presenter: Shelby Ferguson, H3

The Housing and Homeless Services RFP process, previously known as Measure X, is finalizing funding recommendations, which will be presented to the Family and Human Services Committee on March 10th. Applicants have received notifications about their funding status. In addition, the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program for round 6 was released on February 24th, 2024, with applications due on August 29. The total allocation for amount is \$6.7 million, which is an increase from HHAP round 5 allocation. H3 will seek stakeholder engagement to build the application. The full NOFA packet can be found at the HCD's website [here](#).



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

The Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion and Development Initiative, also known as PATH cited, also released an announcement for additional funding. This initiative provides additional funding to Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and providers who do community support capacity building and infrastructure. Applications are due on May 2nd, 2025. The selection criteria is restricted to active ECM or community support providers through Medi-Cal. More information can be found at the HCS's [website](#).

7) New Business

A. (ACTION ITEM) State ESG Recommendations for FY 24/25

Presenter: Jaelyn Tummings, Department of Conservation and Development

The California Department of Housing and Community Development Department, also known as HCD, receives emergency solutions grant (ESG) funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD), which provides funds for a variety of activities to address homelessness. The funding amount for fiscal year 2024-25 totals \$304,250, which will be used for rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, and street outreach programs. Back in October 2024, HCD put up a Request for Proposal (RFP) and a total of five applications were received. The approved agencies are existing programs that HCD currently funds with ESG funding and have the capacity and experience to work with these funds. A total of 40% of funds must be dedicated to rapid rehousing and \$8,367 will be allocated towards project administration. The recommendations will go to the Board of Supervisors on March 25th, 2025 for approval.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve state ESG funding recommendations for FY 24/25 proposed by the Department of Conservation and Development.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Verneda Clapp
 - Seconded by: Shawn Ray
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Hope Dixon; Jazmin Ridley; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

B. Discussion: Reaffirming Council Commitment to Serving Vulnerable Populations

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

The Council discussed the impact of recent federal actions on vulnerable populations served by their system of care. A list of specific impacted population was shared. Jaime Jenett went over the equity statements and commitments at the county, health department, and Council on Homelessness levels. The Council remains committed to serving vulnerable populations and will do so within its role as an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors. The discussion also touched on the impact of federal actions on federal employees and agencies. The conversation ended with a discussion on how to continue serving vulnerable populations and how to maintain services despite the potential challenges. In terms of next steps, the Equity Committee will keep discussing this topic in the March committee work group meeting, and the April COH meeting will allow more time for discussion followed by making a recommendation for Family and Human Services report in May.

C. Learning Corner: How to Find and Read Council Meeting Material Select 2025 Council on Homelessness Chair and Vice Chair

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

Jaime Jenett did a live demo of the new system where agendas and meeting minutes are posted, called Legistar. The new format is less user-friendly, but it includes meeting Zoom link, location, staff reports and more detailed information.

8) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Presenter: All members and members of the public.

- Tony Ucciferri shared that two properties with project-based vouchers are in the leasing phase in partnership with Coordinated Entry and the VA. Valley Village in Pinole has eight families and veterans that will be assisted as well as Rick Judd Commons in Concord, which also will be leasing up 13 vouchers that will help families with their rent.
- Jamie Jenett introduced information about a new "Homelessness 101" pilot program in partnership with the county library system. The first meeting will be at San Pablo Public Library and the main idea is for community members to know what is happening at the county level and how to connect people to services. This information can be found at the [Contra Costa County Library's website](#). The plan is to do one meeting per quarter in



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

different regions of the county. Anyone interested in having this program at another site may contact Jaime Jenett at Jaime.Jenett@cchealth.org.

9) Pin It

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor

- The next COH meeting will be on April 3rd, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 1025 Escobar Street in Martinez.
- A list of upcoming meetings was shared and will also be sent via email. Calendar meeting invites to all committee meetings will be sent out to COH Council members based on the committees for which they signed up.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BIPOC	Black and Indigenous People of Color
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCYCS	Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
CDBG, CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs) and the federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
CESH	California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (state funding)
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding permanent solutions to homelessness.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG.
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCD	(Contra Costa County) Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESG and ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program) and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant CARES
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program (State funding)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HHAP	Homeless Housing and Assistance Program
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
NOFA/NOFO	Notice of Funding Availability/ Notice of Funding Opportunity
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
PWLE	People With Lived Experience of Homelessness
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool