



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (11): Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Wayne Earl
- Remote (5): Tony Ucciferri (as community member, unable to vote)
- Absent (4): Carolyn Foudy; Juno Hedrick; Nicole Green; Verneda Clapp; Yahel Moreno

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

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Jill Ray, BOS District 2; Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch; Sarani Soto, ILS; Bianca Berrios, SPIRIT program; Victoria Fairchild, SPIRIT program
- Remote: Ms. Evon Ufland, Agape's Restore & Renew Home; La Tanya Johnson, Caminar; Lynna Magnuson, Caminar; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Sonja Shephard, Community member; Lucie Johnova, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Jaclyn Tummings, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; Melanie Erickson, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, Contra Costa County EHSD; Teresa, Contra Costa County EHSD; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Stephanie Bodisco, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Emily Bero, Hope Solutions; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; Wilanda Hughes, Lao Family Community Development; Phil Arnold, NAMI Contra Costa; Rena Moore, Safe Return Project; Ricka Davis-Sheard, Share Community; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER Inc.; Andrea Foti, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia-Bella Chavez, SHELTER Inc.; Juan Florez, SHELTER, Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER Inc.; Teri Lundvall, Winter Nights; Heaven Walker, YAB member; 15104595689



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AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

A. Meeting Norms:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett 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. Due to a Zoom bombing, the virtual meeting format has been changed from “meeting” to “webinar” format and the difference of features was explained.

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

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

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

C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett 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:	0 (0%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	5 (23%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	17 (77%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	0 (0%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (5%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	6 (27%)



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No	15 (68%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

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

African American/Black	5 (15%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3 (9%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	3 (9%)
Hispanic/Latinx	5 (15%)
White	13 (38%)
Multi-racial	4 (12%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)

3) Public Comments

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

Members of the public:

- None.

4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

A. APPROVE minutes from the August 7, 2025 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the September 4, 2025 Council meeting

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Members made a motion to approve the items in the consent calendar as listed:

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the consent calendar items as listed above.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Mia Fairbanks
 - Seconded by: Dani Jimenez
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: Heather Worobey



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- ABSENT: Juno Hedrick; Carolyn Foudy; Nicole Green; Verneda Clapp; Yahel Moreno

5) Committee Report Outs

A. Nominating Committee

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

The nominating committee is in the process of recruiting applications for 2026 open seats on the Council on Homelessness. The Nominating Committee met to recommend revisions to the recruitment materials. Jaime reviewed the proposed changes to the application materials and scoring rubric. There will be 11 open seats and the seat positions were shown as well as names of members whose seats are expiring. Jaime then recruited Council members to serve on the Nominating Panel which will review and score applications. The following council members expressed interest in being part of the nominating panel: Hope Dixon, LeAnn Matthews and Sherina Criswell.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To review and approve revisions to the Council on Homelessness member application materials as recommended by the Nominating Committee AND approve the COH members listed above for the Nominating Panel.
- Discussion:
 - Since there were no virtual council members present to vote, the approval for voting was made as a whole group.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell
 - Seconded by: LeAnn Matthews
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Juno Hedrick; Carolyn Foudy; Nicole Green; Verneda Clapp; Yahel Moreno



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B. Funding Committee: CoC NOFO Work Group

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase*

Mark provided an update on the Funding Committee CoC NOFO Work Group, which is tasked with improving the CoC-NOFO competition process in preparation of a possible 2025 CoC NOFO competition. The group has convened to discuss possible revisions to the renewal project scoring tool and a policy which prioritizes high-performing renewal projects over new projects. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 16th and 30th to further discuss these topics.

C. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Caroline Miller, H3 and Heaven Walker, YAB member

The Youth Advisory Board provided an overview of YAB's August activities, including bi-monthly meetings, Welcome Week events at colleges — where a total of 15 young people with lived experience of homelessness were interested and wanted to connect — and participation in an RFP panel for transitional housing. YAB is also working on ongoing strategic planning efforts and its involvement in planning the Homeless Awareness Month. Additionally, the Data and Research Subcommittee kicked off in early September and is preparing for the Youth Point-in-Time count. YAB continues to seek new members for 2026. Caroline also noted that HUD is expected to re-release the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program NOFO soon. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB may send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org.

6) Old Business

A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- Mia Fairbanks shared that the Health Care for the Homeless Governing Board is recruiting for the Community Advisory Board where the purpose is to expand services to clients on the streets as part of the medical outreach. Meetings are once a month on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. -12 30 p.m. In addition, the same Governing Board is recruiting people with lived experience who have received care from the program and is visiting some shelters to share the position with clients. Rides to the meetings and lunch will be provided to the participants.
- Hope Dixon expressed her disappointment for the pausing of California Assembly Bill 90 (AB-90), which is a legislation for safe overnight parking for California community college students. The bill is no longer moving forward this year due to its significant cost. Hope shared that the bill might come back year after year, making relevant to colleges



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and legislation that this program needs to be funded. As a way to think about solutions, Hope will be presenting at two conferences soon and may be reaching out to some partners to discuss collaboration and support in co-presenting some of the great work that has been happening and as part of a lot of interest at the community college level.

- Jaime Jenett stated that the Early Implementation of Basic Needs Centers report, which is a college case-study, has been released and it contains a lot of great information as well as partners we already worked with.
- The Stand Down on the Delta event will have the homeless outreach team and HUD-VASH team participating on-site to screen veterans for the programs. Veterans will receive services such as medical, dental, housing, job placement, etc. The event will take place from September 12 - 15th at the Fairgrounds in Antioch, CA.

B. Funding Updates

Presenter: Shelby Ferguson, H3

The Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) application for Round 6 was submitted on August 29. The HHAP Round 7 is intended for appropriation in FY26-27 for a budget of 50% of round 6 allocation. A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Services program will be released next month. Moreover, there has not been any update on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill that increases for the Continuum of Care program. Congress has until October 1 to pass a reconciled version or enact a continuing resolution, which would maintain current funding levels. Lastly, Shelby invited Contra Costa County's residents to fill out the Community Impact Fund (previously known as ARPA funding) survey to find out about community needs and preferences around funding priorities. Jill Ray added that the ARPA dollars were intended for COVID relief, and the Board of Supervisors have allocated \$1 million per district — there are five districts total — with each supervisor holding a community forums in their communities. To receive news about funding opportunities, please sign up on the [Contra Costa County Health's website](#).

7) New Business

A. Learning Corner: SPIRIT Program (Behavioral Health Service Provider Individualized Recovery Intensive Training)

Presenter: Victoria Fairchild and Bianca Berrios, *Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services, Office for Consumer Empowerment*

Bianca Berrios, a 2023 SPIRIT graduate and co-instructor, shared her personal journey from addiction to recovery and her transformation through the SPIRIT program, which helped her regain confidence and pursue higher education. Victoria Fairchild, a 2016 SPIRIT graduate, also shared her path from being homeless to becoming a co-instructor,



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highlighting the program's role in her recovery and career development. The SPIRIT program, a 9-unit college course at Contra Costa College, provides training in behavioral health for individuals with lived experience ages 18 and above. The course aims to build skills in peer support, career development, and personal wellness, with a focus on recovery and resilience. Participants receive an educational allowance, internships, and ongoing support from the vocational team. The application process is rigorous, with six staff members reviewing each application to ensure authenticity and readiness for the program. The course emphasizes self-awareness, empowerment, and career opportunities within Contra Costa County's behavioral health system. To learn more about the SPIRIT program and how to apply, please visit the [Contra Costa County Health's website](#).

8) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

- Wayne Earl announced plans for a Homelessness Memorial event, with the next planning meeting scheduled for September 10th. Anyone interested in being part of the planning process can fill out the Zoom's [registration form](#). The official announcement can be found at the [Contra Costa CoC's website](#).
- Bessie Scott highlighted the success of the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) program and thanked Contra Costa County' staff for their collaboration. The ERF program has helped 33 people, including 19 dogs where all rooms have their own dog crate. Hope Solutions is on the site and is assisting clients with housing, document readiness, jobs, etc.
- Ricka Davis-Sheard, Executive Director of Share Community, shared that the program has moved its mobile shower location at the Veterans Memorial Building in 403 6th Street and encouraged attendees to spread the word about the new site.
- Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla shared that the Head Start and Early Head start program are currently recruiting children 0-5 throughout the county. Parents with children who are interested in applying may do so by filling out a [form](#) on the CSB Connect's website.
- The Homelessness 101 has sessions at the Antioch Library on September 13th and one in Walnut Creek, thanks to the partnership with the county library system.
- HUD-VASH is hiring of two social workers in Martinez.



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9) Pin It

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- The next COH meeting will be on October 2nd, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 2120 Diamond Blvd. in Concord.
- 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.



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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



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Acronym	Definition
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