



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024, 1 pm – 3 pm

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (10): Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Gabriel Lemus; Jo Bruno; Juno Hedrick; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
- Remote (1): Jazmin Ridley
- Absent (8): Alejandra Chamberlain; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jai De Lotto; Janae Thomas; Leslie Gleason; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri

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

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Laronette Perry, CCH: AODS; Jaclyn Tummings DCD.
- Remote: Karen McBride, BACR; Tamekia Moss, BACR; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, Community Services Bureau; Janna Evans, Contra Costa Adult School; Jaclyn Tummings, Contra Costa County; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Gina Bills, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Heather Worobey, Department of Veterans Affairs; Kelsey Mayeda, DVC, San Ramon Campus; William Smith, Faith in Action East Bay; Brianna Ramos, Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Kate Horsting, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Natalie Siva, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Kristin Kane, Kaiser Permanente; Angela Corona, Lao Family Community Development; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; Desiree Rushing, NAMI; Peter Myers, Office of Supervisor Burgis; Valarie Sanders, PUSD; Christi Rossi, SHELTER, Inc.; Janel Fletcher, SHELTER, Inc; Sarah White, SHELTER, Inc.; Stacy Hart, SparkPoint; Barb Hunt (Barbara Hunt), St. Vincent de Paul; Vee Clapp, WDBCCC; Carmella Kowall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Awura Dzidzornu, SRP; John West, YAB

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
1:00	1. <u>Call to Order</u> – Chair starts the meeting	a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
- Wayne Earl called the meeting to order.		
1:00	2. <u>Public Comment</u> – Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda.	a. Members of the public



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- Valerie Sanders, Mckinney-Vento Education Council member and a support counselor in a foster homeless liaison for Pittsburgh Unified School District, shared her experiences and concerns about homelessness among children and youth. She highlighted the challenges faced by these individuals, where the program is finding that at least 10-15 families per week are dealing with evictions and lack of access to basic necessities such as food and clothes, among others. Data from the County points out that 2,975 students are experiencing homelessness during the school year. Valerie also mentioned her role in identifying and supporting homeless children and youth, and her efforts to connect them to necessary services. She expressed her appreciation for organizations like the Mckinney-Vento Education Council and emphasized the importance of continued support for these vulnerable populations.
- Desiree Rushing reminded everyone about the memorial for the unsheltered on December 20th at the Walnut Creek Library. More information about how to RSVP is on agenda item # 7, New Business section.

1:05	3. <u>Introductions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hybrid Meeting Norms b. Roll call of Council members and introduction of guests c. Poll – Who’s in the room? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i> b. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i> c. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
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- a. Wayne Earl 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. Wayne Earl conducted a roll call of Council members and invited guests to introduce themselves in the chat.
- c. Wayne Earl 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:

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

Answer: This is my first meeting: 1 (4%)
 I’ve attended some meetings: 9 (35%)
 I’ve attended a lot of meetings: 16 (62%)
 I prefer not to answer: 0 (0%)

2. Question 2: Do you have lived experience of homelessness?

Answer: Yes, currently 2 (8%)
 Yes, within the past 7 years 2 (8%)
 Yes, more than 7 years ago 4 (17%)
 No 16 (67%)
 I prefer not to answer 0 (0%)

3. Question 3: What best describes your racial identify?



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<p>Answer: African American/Black 8 (22%) American Indian/Alaskan Native 2 (5%) Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian 3 (8%) Hispanic/Latinx 8 (22%) White 13 (35%) Multi-racial 3 (8%) I describe myself in another way 0 (0%) I prefer not to answer 0 (0%)</p>		
1:20	<p>4. <u>Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. APPROVE minutes from the November 7, 2024 Council meeting. b. APPROVE staff report for the December 5, 2024 Council meeting. c. APPROVE scheduling 2025 Council on Homelessness Orientation and Meeting on the same date: January 9, 2025, 1-4pm 	<p>a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i></p>
<p>Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To approve the consent calendar items as listed above. • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None. • Procedural Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion made by: Nicole Green ○ Seconded by: Deanne Pearn ○ AYES: Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno ○ NOES: None ○ ABSTAINS: Gabriel Lemus ○ ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jai De Lotto; Janae Thomas; Leslie Gleason; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri 		
1:25	<p>5. <u>Committee Report Outs- report outs from each of the committees below.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Point-in-Time Count Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE Point-In-Time Count Methodology as recommended by the Point-In-Time Count Committee b. Equity Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE 2025 Equity Committee work plan as recommended by the Equity Committee c. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yessenia Aguilar, <i>H3</i> b. Jaime Jenett, <i>H3</i> c. Caroline Miller, <i>H3</i> and Juno Hedrick, <i>Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor</i>



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a. Point-in-Time Count Committee:

Yessenia explained the concept of the Point-in-Time Count, an event designed at understanding homelessness in the community and collecting data to track trends and address emerging needs. She explained that the count is a one-night observational count that takes place every January, where volunteers perform an observational count of people experiencing homelessness. Yessenia also outlined the two main parts of the count: the shelter population count that will take place on January 29th and the unsheltered population count that will be in the morning of January 30th, from 5:30 to 9 AM. The team will use phone technology such as Geographic Information System (GIS) to make the process streamlined. Volunteers are encouraged to attend the trainings, help prepare materials, and check the volunteer assignment request tool and PIT hub where all the information needed can be found. The POST PIT Survey will be distributed two weeks after the PIT Count and surveys will be distributed in shelters, service sites, and other service providers. There are three training opportunities for volunteers to attend in different times and locations and email requests can be sent to ContraCostacoc@cchealth.org.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the Point-In-Time Count Committee methodology as recommended by the Point-In-Time Count Committee
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Jo Bruno
 - Seconded by: Mia Fairbanks
 - AYES: Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Gabriel Lemus; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jai De Lotto; Janae Thomas; Leslie Gleason; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri

b. Equity Committee:

Jaime reported that the Equity Committee has developed their work plan for the upcoming year—the workplan was shared in the meeting packet. Some of the annual priority plan includes monitoring metrics, providing input to CoC policies and procedures, developing an equity dashboard, and working on partnerships. The committee also identified primary audiences for their work and goals with committee and workgroup activities.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the 2025 Equity Committee work plan as recommended by the Equity Committee.



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- Discussion:
 - Deanne Pearn highlighted the importance of starting with data to measure equity and ensure equitable access and outcomes across all services funded by the CoC.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Nicole Green
 - Seconded by: Dani Jimenez
 - AYES: Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Gabriel Lemus; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jai De Lotto; Janae Thomas; Leslie Gleason; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri

c. Youth Advisory Board (YAB):

Juno Hedrick reported on the progress and future plans of the Youth Action Board (YAB). The YAB has been working on various projects, including a Homeless Awareness month reception, a youth panel, and improving YAB only spaces and community building. The YAB has also been preparing for the housing services Request For Proposal (RFP) panel and has been working on improving its membership, bylaws, and leadership roles. A highlight of the meeting was the successful Youth Young Adult (YYA) Panel, which featured six youth with lived experience.

1:50	6. <u>Old Business</u> a. Funding Updates	a. Jamie Schecter and Christy Saxton, <i>H3</i>
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a. Funding Updates:

Applications for the Consolidated Housing and Homeless Services Request for Proposal (RFP) is now closed and a total of 20 applications were received. Panelists are now reviewing application where they are receiving ongoing assistance, including office hours and one-on-one technical assistance support. Interviews for eligible applicants will happen in the month of January. Anyone interested in receiving email notifications and updates for Funding Opportunities can sign up for the newsletter [here](#). Additionally, H3 and Hope Solutions submitted the project Village of Hope, a 16-unit permanent supportive housing project in Pittsburg targeting transition age youth (18-24) with disabling conditions, for the CoC Builds NOFO program—the team hopes to hear from HUD soon. The last update includes the selection of Housing Consortium of the East Bay as the program to run the Bridge Housing project to provide services in Central County. Services are expected to begin in Winter 2025; prospective residents have been screened and there is now a waitlist.

1:55	7. <u>New Business</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Board of Supervisors’ Advisory Board Reports b. Homeless Persons’ Memorial Event c. (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE extending Council on Homelessness term for Gabriel Lemus as Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative through 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jamie Schecter, <i>H3</i> b. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i> c. Jaime Jenett, <i>H3</i>
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	<p>d. Reflections from Outgoing Members</p> <p>e. Recognize Outgoing Council Members: Jo Bruno, Deanne Pearn, Janae Thomas, Jai De Lotto, and Iman Novin</p>	<p>d. Outgoing Council Members and Jaime Jenett, <i>H3</i></p> <p>e. Jaime Jenett, <i>H3</i></p>
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a. 2024 Council on Homelessness Work Plan Check-In:
 Jamie reminded members that the COH committee provides two reports to the Board of Supervisors: one is the annual COH report, and the other one is Triennial report. The reports were included in the meeting packet for anyone to review them.

b. Homeless Persons’ Memorial Event:
 Wayne invited members and the public to the Homeless Persons’ Memorial event on December 20th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Walnut Creek Library. The event will be both in-person and via Zoom, and attendees can register [here](#). Names of those to be remembered may be submitted to ContraCostacoc@cchealth.org.

c. APPROVE extending Council on Homelessness term for Gabriel Lemus as Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative through 2025:
 COH members discussed the opportunity of extending Gabriel Lemus's term as the Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator Representative to another year as his term was up for this year. The Board of Supervisors has already granted permission to allow this extension. The same was decided to have the lived experience seat expire in three years as opposed to two years.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the extending Council on Homelessness term for Gabriel Lemus as Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Mia Fairbanks
 - Seconded by: Jo Bruno
 - AYES: Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: Gabriel Lemus
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jai De Lotto; Janae Thomas; Leslie Gleason; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri

d. Reflections from Outgoing Members:
 Jo Bruno reflected on her work and contributions over the past four years as the Lived Experience Advisor seat member. Jo highlighted her involvement in numerous committees and working groups,



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and the influence her lived experience has had on policy changes. Jo also shared her concerns about the reducing barriers for people with lived experience and other so that they can participate and vote in meetings virtually. She emphasized the importance of building relationships between different groups and provide better support to people with lived experience by providing fair compensation for their work and in a timeline manner. Jo shared her future involvement in this work as co-facilitator in the All-Home Emerging Leaders Program and youth advocacy for Contra Costa, among others.

e. Recognize Outgoing Council Members: Jo Bruno, Deanne Pearn, Janae Thomas, Jai De Lotto, and Iman Novin:

The meeting was a heartfelt farewell to several outgoing members of the Council on Homelessness. Most current COH members expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve and shared their experiences and growth during their time on the council. They also acknowledged the challenges and successes they faced, and the impact they had on the community. The conversation ended with a sense of hope and optimism for the future, as the council members expressed their commitment to continue working together to address homelessness in their community.

2:37	8. <u>Announcements</u>	a. All
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- a. General Announcements:
- Deanne Pearn announced the grand opening of a new cottage community, a six-unit property for homeless seniors in Walnut Creek, on December 10th.
 - Deanne Pearn shared that there is a lot of progress on the homeless youth project called Hope Village in Pittsburgh for 2025. It is the first of its kind in Contra Costa County with a lot of new models, technology, and funding. This project is made possible thanks to the faith community partner, Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek.
 - Jo Bruno shared that Delta Peers is doing a winter drive throughout the month of December where they are collecting blankets, jackets, beanies, socks, gloves, and all of the sorts for winter necessities. There's also a request for small electronics such as batteries and hygiene stuff.
 - Wayne Earl mentioned that for the week of Christmas, the Bay Area Rescue Mission will be hosting Christmas dinners all week long and will be open to the public at 200 McDonald Avenue, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday, through Wednesday, December 21st through the 25th. More details about this event may be found [here](#).
 - The Holiday Extravaganza event, hosted in West County, will be distributing toys to around 150 individuals on December 14th.
 - Barb Hunt, from St. Vincent de Paul, shared information about the of Contra Costa County Workforce Development program. Its 25-week program begins on December 6th and provides employment and training for those with barriers, including homelessness, past incarceration, and addiction. The program has had great results in a span of six months having helped 195 people. Flyer and registration page can be found at this [site](#).
 - H3 announced the grand opening of the South County Family Justice Center in Danville on December 10th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.



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2:42	9. <u>Pin It</u>	a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next COH meeting will be on January 9th, 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.		



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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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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