CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP NOTES
Thursday August 21, 2025, 11:30AM – 1:00PM

COMMITTEE PURPOSE:
The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to review and assess the development, implementation, and improvement of the CoC, Coordinated Entry System, HMIS Database, and system outcomes.

HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING VIA ZOOM:
Working Group (VIRUTAL ONLY) Link to register:
https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-2urDssGdzVjZhCYrYEYtBPv6TuzAce
How to Join the Meeting Via Call-In: 1- 669-900-6833 / Meeting ID: 831 8462 0638

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTERS
11:30am (10 min)	**Welcome & Introductions** a. Welcome b. Review agenda c. Introductions d. Mentimeter - Who's in the Room?	- Wayne Earl, *CoH* - Jamie Schecter, *H3* - Riley Meve, *HB*
Notes:	● Attendance: Alejandra, Anastasia Lockwood, Brittany Ferguson, Chela Schuster, Claire Burrus, Courtney Pal, Cynthia Chavez, Claire xx, Deanne Pearn, Desiree Rushing, Jacqueline Franco, Janel Fletcher, Marjorie Oliver, Mia Fairbansk, Sandra Rivera, Stephanie Bodisco	
11:40am (5 min)	**2025 Meeting Logistics** a. Cmte vs. Work Group Mtg b. 2025 Meeting Schedule Update	- Wayne Earl, *CoH*
Notes:	● RM went over the webinar and meeting format and explained the difference. The committee meeting for next month will be in person. ● Brief review of the 2025 meeting schedule.	
11:45am (5min)	**Announcements** a. Open period for announcements on items not listed on the agenda.	- Courtney Pal, *CoH* - Members of the public
Notes:		

- CP shared that she is part of the working group of the Nonprofit Housing Association. There will be a webinar that will discuss best practices on September 18th at 11 am. CP shared the registration link in the chat.

11:50am (5 min)	**June Meeting Recap** a. Provide June meeting recap; meeting minutes will be approved during October 2025 meeting	- Courtney Pal, *CoH*

Notes:
- CP provided a quick summary of the June Oversight Committee meeting discussion. The main items of discussion were shown and it included the PIT annual report.

11:55am (35min)	**CES Updates** a. General CES Updates (10min) b. Coordinated Entry Housing Needs Assessment Replacement & Redesign, Project Update (25min) Link to Coordinated Entry Policies & Procedures	- Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, *H3* - Chela Shuster, *Focus Strategies*

Notes:
- CS and CB reviewed the Coordinated Entry system redesign updates. The methodology, predictors with machine learning identifying prolonged homelessness used, limitations, findings from the predictors being: a) employment and income by household type; b) health condition such as physical disability – this as being a yes or no question on the VISPDAT; c) homelessness history – like prior episodes of homelessness; d) and causes of homelessness – such as abuse or trauma and in particular for adults who have suffered domestic violence and for families was rent increase; e) system involvement – justice system involvement for all households, school education for adults, and foster care history for families; f) service utilization – such as hospitalization. Other insights that were found was that households that say in transitional housing are a predictor of prolonged homelessness as well as unknown responses or data not collected as a possible indicator or as a possible disconnect between client and assessor. More information will be shared as the project continues and anyone with questions may reach out to claire@focusstrategies.net and chela@focusstrategies.net
- As part of next steps there will be a revisit of the question design and analyze responses that are predictors by key demographic groups, race, ethnicity and key subpopulations who are seeking services in the system, structure of the assessment tool and points assigned to it. The development of the Housing Needs Assessment will also be piloted and implemented. The tool will be finalized and then rolled out in the community.
- Comment: It is important to start to capture how early homelessness is happening to know the untold story about youth assessment that we don't get to see such as when a student turns 18.
  - MJF: Some of the questions are asked to the parents that might help to disseminate some of this such as asking parents if they were part of the foster care system when they were young.

	○ CS: Clarified that they would look at the data asking previous history of homelessness in the past from two years past but will think about more in-depth analysis into the history and past of an individual.	
12:30pm (15min)	**Program Models & Performance Standards Updates** a. Contra Costa Health, Change Agent Fellowship Link to Program Models & Performance Standards	- Shelby Ferguson, *H3*

Notes:
- SF went over the change agent fellowship program that she has completed and mentioned the improvements being made on the project such as increasing participants' exits to CARE centers with a focus on equity. The participant exit rate data goal is to be increased by 35% exit rate. The staff knowledge data survey results were also shared. Part of next steps is to continue implementing the training series and manual and expand the trainings to other programs like shelters.

12:45pm (10min)	**YAB Update**	- Juno Hedrick, *CoH/YAB* - Anastasia Lockwood, *YAB*

Notes:
- JH shared YAB updates for the month of July including a community building celebration. AL explained the strategic planning workgroups they are collaborating with are the Resources toolkit (Action 1.2), outreach (action 1.5) and safety and liberation (Action 4.3). Part of next steps for August include the scoring of the RFP Panel for Transitional Housing, community subcommittee for the HAM event, and preparation for the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program NOFO, which will be released soon. YAB shared the QR code for young people ages up to 26 and who have lived experience of homelessness to join a meeting.

12:55pm (5 min)	**Q2 Accountability Corner**	- Jamie Schecter, *H3*

Notes:
- SF presented the goals and activities for quarter 2. Goals from meetings from April through August have been accomplished and shared what was not accomplished.

1pm (5 min)	**Closing** a. Review next steps b. Overview of upcoming meetings	- Juno Hedrick, *CoH/YAB*

Notes:
- **The next Oversight Committee meeting will be on October 16th, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, in person**.
- A list of upcoming meetings was briefly reviewed.

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
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.
CES	Coordinated Entry System
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
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	Notice of Funding Availability
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 16-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

EQUITY DEFINITIONS

(adapted from C4 Innovations and approved by COH on 8.3.23)

Term	Definition
Individual Racism	A person's beliefs and actions that serve to perpetuate racial oppression. This can be conscious and unconscious. This may be externalized or internalized
Institutional Racism	Policies and practices at the organization (or "sector") level that perpetuate oppression. It involves unjust policies, practices, procedures, and outcomes that work better for white people than people of color, whether intentional or not.
Interpersonal Racism	The interactions between people - both within and across racial groups
Microaggressions	Brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership
Race	A social construct created in the 17th century by white Europeans to justify the enslavement of Africans and the spread of colonialism. Understanding of race as a concept has changed over time, but the outcomes of discrimination based on race remain entrenched in our systems.
Race Equity Lens	A way of viewing the world in an integrated and holistic manner, taking into account past and present racial injustices and seeking to address them through more equitable practices and structures.
Racial Bias	Implicit and/or explicit bias that reinforces discriminatory attitudes and behaviors when interacting with people or situations
Racial Equity	The condition where one's racial identity does not predict their social, health, or economic outcomes. Racial equity is a process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. It is the intentional and continual practice of changing practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing the measurable change in the lives of people of color.
Racism	A system of institutional, systemic oppression, and practices of individuals and society that shape cultural beliefs and values that support racist policies and practices.
Structural Racism	How these effects interact and accumulate across institutions and across history. Structural racism highlights how racism operates as a system of power with multiple interconnected, reinforcing, and self-perpetuating components which result in racial inequities across all indicators for success.

Systemic Racism	infrastructure of rulings, ordinances or statutes adopted by a sovereign government or authoritative entity, whereas such ordinances and statutes entitles one racial group in a society certain rights and privileges, while denying other groups in that society these same rights and privileges because of long-established cultural prejudices, religious prejudices, fears, myths, and Xenophobia's held by the entitled group
White Fragility	White fragility refers to feelings of discomfort a white person experiences when they witness or engage in discussions around racial inequality and injustice. Their engagement in conversations about racism may trigger a range of defensive actions, feelings, and behaviors, such as anger, fear, and silence. These reactive behaviors reinforce continued white dominant culture.