



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026, 1 – 3 p.m.

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (9): Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, Mia Fairbanks, Ralph Payton, Verneda Clapp,
- Remote (3): LeAnn Matthews, Nicole Green, Wayne Earl.
- Absent (36): Alejandra Chamberlain, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri.

Staff Attendance: Jamie Schechter, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase; Tania Morales, Homebase.

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Michelle Kim, City of Concord; Maleek Olachunjoy, Upward Health.
- Remote: Jill Ray, BOS District 2 office; Elizabeth Winstead, California Department of Rehabilitation; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Alejandra Jauregui, Crisis Center; Bryan Harris, Community Member; Trinity M, Community Member; LeAnn Matthews, Council member; Nicole Green, Council member; Wayne Earl, Council member; Dean Webber, East Bay Men's Recovery Center; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Erica Givens, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Kayla Buscemi, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Vi Ibarra, H3; Jennifer Ellis, Hope Solutions; Jennifer Ellis, Hope Solutions; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER, Inc; Irene Maldonado, SHELTER, Inc.; Teri Lundvall, Winter Nights.



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AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

A. Meeting Norms:

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Nicole Green introduced the Brown Act attendance requirements and provided an overview of 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:

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

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

C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Nicole Green conducted the poll activity. 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:	1 (5%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	6 (32%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	12 (63%)
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	2 (11%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	5 (26%)
No	11 (58%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (5%)



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

African American/Black	7 (26%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2 (7%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	2 (7%)
Hispanic/Latinx	3 (11%)
White	10 (37%)
Multi-racial	3 (11%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

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 June 4, 2026 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the July 9, 2026 Council meeting

C. APPROVE Courtney Pal to join CoC NOFO Review and Rank Panel

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

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

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the consent calendar items as listed.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Mia Fairbanks.
 - Seconded by: Ralph Payton.
 - AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: Verneda Clapp.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri.



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5) Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update

A. CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase* and Jamie Schechter, *H3*

The FY 2026 NOFO was released on June 1, 2026, with a due date to submit applications on August 26, 2026. The due date for Renewal Project Local Applications is July 7, 2026, and the due date for New Project Local Applications is July 13, 2026. The Review and Rank Panel meetings will take place on July 14, 23, and 27, and the Final Priority Listing is expected to be approved by the Council on Homelessness on August 6, 2026. Anyone with questions or needing support may contact the Homebase team at contracosta@homebaseccc.org.

B. Youth Homelessness NOFO

C. Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience*, and Caroline Miller, *H3*

HUD released the Youth Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on June 10, 2026, which focuses on serving youth and young adults ages 24 and younger. This year's competition combines two funding programs: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement Grants (YHSI). The major changes include the option for communities—not just Continuums of Care—to apply. Youth Action Boards (YAB) and Coordinated Community Plans are no longer required to apply. The types of eligible projects for both funding programs were presented. Contra Costa CoC plans to apply for both funding opportunities, and it will have Youth Action Board members involved in the application process. The target submission date is August 5, 2026, five days earlier than HUD's deadline. Technical assistance is available through Homebase and Contra Costa Health Housing and Homeless Services (H3) at ContraCostaYHDP@homebaseccc.org and at ContraCostaCoC@cchealth.org to support applicants throughout the process

6) Committee Report Outs

A. Nominating Committee Update:

(ACTION ITEM) APPROVE Employment and Human Services (EHSD) Representative candidate recommended by the Ad Hoc Nominating Panel to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for official approval for Council on Homelessness membership

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

H3 received one application for the Employment and Human Services (EHSD) Representative seat. The Review panel was comprised of council members LeAnn Matthews, Juno Hedrick, and Sherina Criswell. The applicant's name is Cristina Navarro. After today's approval, the Family and Human Services Committee will vote before going to the Board of Supervisors final approval next month.



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Motion

- State of Motion:
 - Approve Christina Navarro as Employment and Human Services (EHSD) Representative candidate to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for official approval for Council on Homelessness membership.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Verneda Clapp.
 - Seconded by: Dani Jimenez.
 - AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri.

(ACTION ITEM) APPROVE Council on Homelessness members to serve on 2026 Nominating Committee

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

The CoC is seeking Council on Homelessness members to review this year's applications for the recruitment of new seated members for year 2027. The Committee is expected to start meeting in August to review materials and plan outreach. The following COH Council members expressed interest in being part of the committee: Dani Jimenez, Juno Hedrick, Mia Fairbanks, LeAnn Matthews, and Nicole Green.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the Council on Homelessness members listed above to serve on Nominating Committee.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Verneda Clapp.
 - Seconded by: Heather Worobey.
 - AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.



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- ABSTAINS: None.
- UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
- ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri.

B. Homelessness Awareness Month Committee – (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE Recognition Categories and Resolutions of Support as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor* and Anastasia Lockwood, *Youth Representative*

The Homelessness Awareness Month (HAM) Committee reviewed the plans for Homeless Awareness Month that will take place on November 4th, 2026. The event will highlight activities that celebrate progress, raise awareness, share resources, and recognize outstanding community members and organizations. The Committee is preparing several promotional materials that will be shared soon, which includes toolkit and a video to spread awareness, among others. The changes include only minor wording revisions to the category descriptions but there are no changes to the award categories. A subcommittee will prepare the recognition reception. The timeline with key dates was shared. The recognition submission form will open on August 5th and will close on September 11, 2026, with the final COH approval in the October meeting. Videos of previous year's Homeless Voices of People with Lived Experience events may be access at the [Contra Costa Health's CoC website](#).

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the recognition Categories and Resolutions of Support as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Mia Fairbanks.
 - Seconded by: LeAnn Matthews.
 - AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri.



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C. Youth Action Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative* and Anastasia Lockwood, *Youth Representative*

Juno Hedrick shared the different meetings that YAB members accomplished in the month of June, which included bimonthly hybrid meetings with H3 and RYSE, subcommittee meetings, YYA Homeless Community Collaborative, Oversight Committee, and peer support meetings. The activities for the month of June included Concord Library Summer Unhoused Resource Fair, East-Bay Restorative Justice Initiative discussion, 2026 Youth Homelessness NOFO Info session, and the National YAB Connection Space. The activities for the future months include working on social media, applying for HUDs YHDP NOFO, youth survey planning for Fall 2026, and others. For the Youth & Young Adults (YYA) Homelessness Community Collaborative program, they continue to have monthly meetings for young people and partners to work together to improve services for young people experiencing homelessness. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB can send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org or call at (925) 500-3237.

7) Old Business

A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Speaker: All members

- None.

B. Funding Updates

Speaker: Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, *H3*

Jamie Schechter provided updates on several federal and state homelessness funding opportunities such as the Youth Homelessness NOFO, 2026 Continuum of Care Competition, Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds NOFO, and the Family Unification Program (FUP) Multi-Year NOFO. The CoC Builds provides funding for construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of new units of Permanent Supportive Housing. The Collaborative Application is due on July 23, 2026, and only two submissions were received.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the Chair or Vice Chair to approve priority listing for CoC Builds NOFO
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Ralph Payton.
 - Seconded by: Courtney Pal.



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- AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
- NOES: None.
- ABSTAINS: None.
- UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
- ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri.

For federal funding opportunities, they are forecasted on the [United States Grant's website](#) and include the Basic Center Program, The Primary Prevention Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, and Street Outreach Program (SOP).

It was also announced that the Board of Supervisors approved the funding recommendations for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness RFP, supporting new basic needs, new rapid rehousing for families engaged with Children and Family Services, new homelessness prevention services for older adults, and legal assistance programs across Contra Costa County. To learn more about funding opportunities, you may visit the [Contra Costa Health's website](#).

8) New Business

A. Learning Corner: New Project Types

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, *H3*

HUD's Continuum of Care project types comprise of Transitional Housing (TH), Supportive Services Only (SSO), and Street Outreach (SO) programs. Jamie Schechter explained each project's purpose, eligible participants, allowable activities, and key differences from existing housing programs. For TH program, residents under the CoC program may come from homelessness, incarceration, rehabilitation centers, mental health institutional care, foster care, or other settings, as long as they meet the definition of homelessness. SSO projects allow recipients to provide supportive services to homeless individuals and families such as case management, moving costs, childcare, education services, etc. For SO projects, outreach efforts may be implemented as SSO or SSO-CE programs aren't directly attached to CoC housing programs. SSO-SO incorporates rapid resolution and problem solving to move people to solutions as soon as possible.



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9) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Speaker: All

- Jamie Schecter shared that Contra Costa County is seeking feedback from residents on how to get notified about emergency events that happen in the county such as refinery fire, tsunamis, etc. The purpose is to improve the emergency alerts, especially for people who experience homelessness. A flyer with a link to the survey was shared.
- Maleek Olachunjoy with Upper Health shared that the organization is an ECM provider that help people with homelessness.
- Verneda Clapp mentioned that Valor Village currently has its waiting list open. The project is a supportive housing program located in the city of Pinole that supports veterans who have experienced homelessness and have low income. The eligibility criteria are for households to have at least one member who is a veteran and at least be 18 years of age or older to qualify. The official flyer may be accessed at the [Satellite Affordable Housing Associates' website](#). The waiting list is expected to close on September 30, 2026.
- Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald commented that Contra Costa Health is conducting a new Community Health Assessment to identify community needs and strengths. The survey is available in 16 different languages and is targeted to residents of Contra Costa County. The link to the surveys may be accessed at [Contra Costa Health's website](#).
- Habitat for Humanity, a new project coming up in Walnut Creek, has its waitlist open and it will be for low-income families. More info will be shared soon.

10) Pin It

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3

- The next COH meeting will be on August 6, from 1 – 3 p.m.
- 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
SSI	Supplemental Security Income



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Acronym	Definition
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