



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 1 – 3 p.m.

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (13): Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Jared Murti, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Ralph Payton, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
- Remote (3): Anastasia Lockwood; Juno Hedrick. Nicole Green.
- Absent (3): Alejandra Chamberlain, Heather Worobey, Tony Ucciferri.

Staff Attendance: Jaime Jenett, H3; Jamie Schecter, H3.

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: None.
- Remote: Ginger Latu, BACS; Lynna Magnuson, Caminar; Kim Cullom, CCH ; Maria Dominguez, CCH; Lashaunta Flores, CCEB; Lorena Hernandez, CCEB; Nikki Brighthouse, CCEB; Silvia Flores, CCEB; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Koland Mattie, Community Housing Development Corporation; Amanda Russell, Community Member; Amy Maggiore, Community Member; Miranda Murphree, Community member; Pixie Johansson, Community Member; Anastasia Lockwood, Council member; Juno Hedrick, Council Member; Nicole Green, Council Member; Melanie Erickson, Department of Conservation and Development; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Jai De Lotto, Department of Veterans Affairs; Brittany Ferguson, CCH: H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, CCH: H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3, CCH: H3; Christy Saxton, CCH: H3; Jacqueline Franco, CCH: H3; Kayla Buscemi, CCH: H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, CCH: H3; Nicholas Carter, CCH: H3; Shelby Ferguson, CCH: H3; Yessenia Aguilar, CCH: H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Khayla DiGiorgio, Hope Solutions; Shannon Martin, Hope Solutions; Kirsten Hougen, EHSD; Dean Webber, East Bay Men’s recovery Center; Anh Tran, LFCD; Greg Colley, MFAC; Jill Ray, Office of Supervisor Anderson; Hang Mosier, SAHA; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER, Inc.; Andrea Foti, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia Chavez, SHELTER, Inc.; Daniel Barth, SoS Richmond; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER< Inc.; Shayne Kaleo, SHELTER, Inc.; Lenita Wheeler, Winter Nights.



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:	8 (24%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	7 (21%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	19 (56%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	2 (6%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	2 (6%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	9 (27%)
No	19 (58%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)



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

African American/Black	10 (21%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5 (11%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	6 (13%)
Hispanic/Latinx	6 (13%)
White	14 (30%)
Multi-racial	5 (11%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (2%)

3) Public Comments

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

Members of the public:

- Dean Webber spoke about the closure of the encampment at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds affecting approximately 29 people who will be on the streets. Jaime Jennett mentioned that H3 CORE team is working with those affected and the ultimate goal is to refer them to other housing opportunities or shelters.

4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

A. APPROVE minutes from the April 2, 2026 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the May 7, 2026 Council meeting

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



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5) Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update

A. CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, H3

Per the recent Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is required to set Tier 1 at 60% minimum for the FY 2026 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO). While this is a significant drop from historical years (previous years had Tier 1 at 90% or higher), it is higher than the rescinded FY 2025 CoC NOFO from November 2025 which attempted to lower it to 30%. Tier 1 funds are non-competitive funds guaranteed to communities to maintain local funding stability. HUD is expected to publish the FY 2026 NOFO competition by June 1, 2026, and Congressional mandate requires HUD to finalize and make awards by December 1, 2026. The application deadline is expected to be the end of August. HUD will post forecasted grant opportunities at the United States government's [grants.gov website](https://www.grants.gov). Local agencies should prepare for NOFO and other grant deadlines—such as Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP) and CoC Builds competition funding competition—and will need to learn and adapt to new programmatic changes. H3 will continue to support agencies with dedicated office hours for Technical Assistance provided by Homebase. The Homebase team may be reached at contracosta@homebaseccc.org for questions or support.

6) Committee Report Outs

A. Funding Committee Update

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, H3

The Funding Committee met on April 28, 2026, to review the CoC NOFO competition policies in preparation of the FY 2026 CoC NOFO. The Funding Committee is considering some competition policy changes pending the release of the NOFO such as limiting the number of appeals and giving the Funding Committee the authority to approve changes to the scoring tool due to potential time constraints. The next meeting is scheduled on May 19th, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Current and prospective CoC grantees are highly encouraged to attend.

B. 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 April, which included bimonthly hybrid meetings with H3 and RYSE, subcommittee meetings, Communications, Data & Research, Outreach and Retention, and peer support meetings. The activities for the month of April included strategic planning for youth and



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young adults, Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition Youth Academy, RYSE Listening Campaign 2.0, National YAB Connection Space, etc. The highlights from the CCY Youth Empowerment Summit and Legislative Day were shared. The activities for the future months include reconvening the Youth & Young Adult Strategic Planning, work on social media, apply for HUDs YHDP NOFO, among others. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB can send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org or call at (925) 500-3237.

7) Old Business

A. Point-in-Time Count (PIT) and Client Satisfaction

Presenter: Janel Fletcher, H3

Janel Fletcher provided a summary of the 2026 2026 Homelessness Point-in-Time Count Report. The Contra Costa Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts an annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count to estimate how many individuals are experiencing both sheltered (emergency shelters, transitional housing) and unsheltered (cars, tents, RVs, outdoor spaces) homelessness on a single night. While HUD only mandates this count every other year, Contra Costa CoC chooses to perform it annually. This year the count took place on January 28, 2026. The initial data was submitted to HUD at the end of April, and a complete infographic and comprehensive dataset will be released later in the summer as local analysis conclude. The findings show that while the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness rose by 7% from the previous year to 2,260 people, the report highlights a significant downward trend compared to 2024. Most of this recent increase is attributed to a higher sheltered population, as the county successfully expanded its bed capacity and improved data tracking. Demographically, the data reveals that Black and African American individuals are disproportionately represented, and a vast majority of the unhoused population are long-term residents who have lived in the area for over a decade. The report also notes a decrease in people being offered services during displacement events, despite the county's efforts to improve coordination between outreach teams and local law enforcement. Janel thanked all of the volunteers for their support. Everyone who is interested in signing up for the 2027 PIT Count may sign up at the Contra Costa Health's [CoC mailing list](#).

B. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Speaker: All members

- Verneda Clapp shared that due to the release of the H.R.1 bill (also known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act"), as of June 1st, all CalFresh members with no dependents now have a work requirement in order to receive benefits. The law institutes significant changes to Medicaid, requiring states to evaluate recipient eligibility every six months rather than annually and mandates an 80-hour-a-month work, training, or community service requirement. As a result of this change, America's Job Center of California (AJCC) will be offering job training or job search for members who need it. Additionally, Medi-



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Cal's requirement changes will be effective in January 2027. It was noted that college students are also being affected by this law as their food stamps have been cut off.

Jamie Schechter mentioned that Employment and Human Services Department might be invited to give a presentation about this topic at a future meeting.

- The tattoo removal project kicked off and had its first clients at the beginning of May. A flyer with criteria and eligibility was shared. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s definition of homeless is broader compared to HUD. Part of the process is to make a phone call, get an appointment, and get an intake done by a nurse. Anyone requesting more information may contact Mia Fairbanks at mfairban@cchealth.org.

C. Funding Updates

Speaker: Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, *H3*

The grants renewals for Quarter 2 were announced on April 27, 2026. H3 has been in contact with HUD's head officials to make sure that timelines and dollar amounts are correct. For the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP-6), H3 has finally received the grant agreement by the State. Contra Costa County and the COC applied jointly and will receive \$6.7 million to help administer a variety of programs across the County such as emergency shelter, some targeted CORE teams, homelessness prevention, etc. For HHAP-7, the State Senate Budget is recommending \$1 billion. More information about HHAP may be found at The California Department of Housing and Community Development's [website](#). Lastly, the funding recommendations for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Request for Proposal have been delayed. Agency providers have been notified in advance of the Board of Supervisors approval and will soon receive their application scorecard. The awards include funding from Measure X, HHAP-5, HHAP-6, Coordinated Entry, County General Funds, and Employment and Human Services Department's housing programs.

8) New Business

A. (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE members for the 2026 Homelessness Awareness Month (HAM) Committee

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

H3 is recruiting COH committee members to help organize the different activities and events for HAM Committee, which happens in November each year. Part of the tasks is to develop a toolkit, video, recognition categories, etc. as well as help prepare the Board of Supervisor presentation and plan the Homeless Person's Memorial event that takes place in December. The primary responsibilities and timeline were shared. The following members showed interest in being part of the event planning: LeAnn Matthews, Sherina Criswell, Wayne Earl, Donnie Diego, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Nicole Green, and Juno Hedrick.



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Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the above proposed Council on Homelessness members to serve on the 2026 Homelessness Awareness Month Committee.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Verneda Clapp.
 - Seconded by: **Ralph Payton.**
 - AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Jared Murti, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: Juno Hedrick.
 - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Heather Worobey, Tony Ucciferri.

B. Presentation: Bay Area Rescue Mission Renovation Update

Speaker: Wayne Earl, Faith Community and Manager of Special Projects at Bay Area Rescue

Wayne Earl provided project highlights for Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM). Since 1965, Bay Area Rescue Mission's Christ-Centered Life Transformation Program — the emergency shelter— have supported thousands of men, women, and children in their journey to overcome homelessness, drug addiction, and mental health challenges. Major milestones of the program with positive impact include 3,000 nights of shelter and residential program, and those night stay, 2,000 represented services for over unique guests, for which 48% of those received services for the first time, on-site clinical therapy support services for the residential programs, and a food pantry program that delivered 2.9 million meals to those in need. In order to continue to provide these types of services to the community, the 200 McDonald facility is undergoing renovation. This project is made possible thanks to partnership with Overaa Construction, HKIT Architects, the Bay Compassion, and the City of Richmond. Some of the programs and services have had no impact at all during construction (e.g., emergency whelter or residential programs for women and women with children, food pantry, etc.) while other programs have seen a capacity reduction or moved to other facilities (men's emergency shelter, community meals, etc.). The program continues to accept clothing and food donations but only during daytime. Additionally, BARM is also developing a commissioned art for the building's exterior walls that goes through the City of Richmond's Culture and Arts process. Rendering samples were shown. To learn more about the Bay Area Rescue Mission, you may access their [website](#).

C. Highlight: Success Stories Page



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Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3

Jaime Jenett has been interviewing participants of agencies over the last six months who have accessed services to share their stories. In addition to being published on the newsletter, the Contra Costa Health's website is now featuring a new [Success Stories' page](#). The purpose is to dispel myths and to amplify the voices of people who are really having these experiences. Jaime will be presenting the new page to the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of May. Any person who is interested in sharing their stories can email Jaime directly at Jaime.Jenett@cchealth.org. A \$20 gift card is given to participants for their time.

D. Policy Updates: CoC Convening, Caroline CalCub Advocacy Day

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3, and Caroline Miller, H3

Convened in late 2024 by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), the California COC United for Better Policy (CAL CUB) brings together all 44 Continuums of Care (COCs) across California. Composed of public and nonprofit agencies, the coalition's primary goal is to educate state legislators on the critical role COCs play in local homelessness response. H3 has actively participated in CALCUB's monthly meetings and its recent "Legislator Education Days." During these legislative meetings, advocates use local data—specifically highlighting how local HHAP investments led to a decrease in the community's Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless count—to urge legislators to adopt the Council on Homelessness's recommendations to fully restore HHAP funding for fiscal year 2025–26 and beyond. Part of the monthly meeting's discussions is related to significant concerns regarding proposed federal regulatory changes, including the potential implementation of work requirements and stricter eligibility verifications for public assistance. Additionally, the source warns of a new proposal that could redefine gender identity protections, potentially allowing providers to request more documentation from participants. Non-compliance may result in penalties, including loss of HUD funding. Speakers emphasized that public comments on proposed HUD regulations can meaningfully influence or delay policy changes because HUD is legally required to review and respond to them. Caroline encouraged community members and local government bodies to submit feedback through the [regulations.gov website](#). The due date to submit comments is June 26, 2026.

9) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Speaker: All

- The City of Pinole is hosting two housing input session in the month of May at the Youth Center. The purpose is to receive community's input and to make recommendations on how to use the housing funds to support the residents of Pinole.



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10) Pin It

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- The next COH meeting will be on June 4, 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