



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026, 1 – 3 p.m.

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (15): Anastasia Lockwood, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Donnie Diego, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
- Remote (1): Gabriel Lemus.
- Absent (3): Alejandra Chamberlain, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton

Staff Attendance: Jamie Schecter, H3; Jaime Jenett, H3; Riley Meve, Homebase

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Amber King, Hope Solutions; Dean Webber, East Bay Men's Recovery.
- Remote: Lynna Magnuson, Caminar; Lisa Malul, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Jaclyn Tummings, CC DCD; Melanie Erickson, CC DCD; Lavonna Martin, CCH; Maria Dominguez, CCH; Rhonda Rochon Smith, CCH; Vi Ibarra, CCH; Gina Bills, CCOOE; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Myisha Steward, City of Antioch; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Ms Faith Gather-Davis, Community Member; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Anna Cleese, District 2 Board of Supervisor; Jill Ray, District 4 Board of Supervisor; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Nicholas Carter, H3; Ryan Tapia, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Deanne Pearn, Hope Solutions; Khayla DiGiorgio, Hope Solutions; Greg Colley, MFAC; Maria Guadamuz, Pacific Clinics; Hang Mosier, SAHA; Brandon Wirth, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia Chavez, SHELTER, Inc.; Irene Maldonado, SHELTER, Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER, Inc.; Shayne Kaleo, SHELTER, Inc.; Daniel Barth, SOS Richmond; JANNY Castillo, SOS Richmond.



AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Juno Hedrick called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

A. Meeting Norms:

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Juno Hedrick 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: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

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

C. Poll – Who’s in the room?

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

Juno Hedrick conducted the poll activity via Mentimeter. 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:	2 (10%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	5 (24%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	14 (67%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	2 (9%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (5%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	2 (9%)
No	17 (77%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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

African American/Black	5 (16%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4 (13%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	4 (13%)
Hispanic/Latinx	4 (13%)
White	12 (38%)
Multi-racial	2 (6%)
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 March 5, 2026 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the April 2, 2026 Council meeting

Speaker: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative*

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



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

5) Committee Report Outs

A. Governance Committee (ACTION ITEM)

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, H3

The Governance Committee met twice earlier this year to review the Governance Charter and Bylaws and to reflect on current operations and increase the overall impact and efficiency of the Council. The main revision areas included: a) updating the Membership section to make language more consistent; b) updating the Committee and Work Group section per the consolidation of committees and to reflect current configuration; and c) aligning the document with Federal policy. In terms of next steps, the Contra Costa County Counsel will review and suggest any needed changes followed by a review and approval by the Council on Homelessness. This process will likely take several months. The current version of the document may be accessed at the [Contra Costa County's website](#).

B. Youth Action Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative* and Anastasia Lockwood, *YAB Member and Outreach and Retention Facilitator*

Juno Hedrick shared the different activities that YAB members accomplished in the month of March, which included bimonthly hybrid meetings with H3 and RYSE, subcommittee communications, National YAB Connection Space, peer support meetings, training on impact of stipends on taxes and benefits, among others. The activities for the month of April will include strategic planning for youth and young adults, Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition Youth Academy, youth survey planning, etc. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB can send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org or call at (925) 500-3237.

6) Old Business

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

Presenter: Janel Fletcher, H3

H3 collected a total of 560 post-PIT surveys which ended on March 9, 2026. The purpose was to learn more about the cause of unsheltered homelessness in the community as well as the collection of demographic data and needs. PIT data is due to HUD by April 30, 2026, and once approved, the final results will be shared with the Council and CoC community. Janel thanked all of the volunteers for their support. In addition, H3 will be distributing the participant satisfaction survey in the month of April, and it will help to gather feedback about the experience of people accessing services across Contra Costa County's system of care and identify service gaps which will then be used to improve service delivery. For agency-eligibility questions, agencies and personnel may contact H3 at H3evaluations@cchealth.org.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

B. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Speaker: All members

- Wayne Earl shared that the Bay Area Rescue Mission is collaborating with The Salvation Army and Adult & Teen Challenge on a nationwide research initiative, called the Better Together Project, that is part of the City Gate Network. This research study aims to measure the impact of faith-based programs, convey the benefits of such programs, and attract evidence-based outcomes that demonstrate participants' progress. The research focuses on seven key domains that are considered essential indicators of overall well-being: a) happiness and life satisfaction; b) mental and physical health; c) meaning and purpose; d) character and virtue; e) close social relationships; f) financial and material stability; and g) religious community and faith. The Bay Area Rescue Mission is the first organization to partner with the City Gate Network. The surveys have been developed and tested, and data collection has now begun and will continue for the next 18–24 months. More information about this program can be found at the [Teen Challenge's website](#).
- The tattoo removal project, overseen by The Healthcare for the Homeless agency, will start the first week of May. Staff will receive training in the month of April. A flyer with criteria and eligibility will be shared soon.
- Courtney Pal and Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald gave a report out of their participation at the Housing California Conference in Sacramento City last month. They presented a panel on improving access to Coordinated Entry through policy changes and the overall engagement from participants was a success.

C. Funding Updates

Speaker: Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, H3

The Funding Committee met on March 17, 2026 to build tools and processes that can be flexible to the current competition environment based on lessons learned from the CoC NOFO new requirements at the end of last year and beginning of 2026. The Committee will meet again on April 28 to discuss scoring tool revisions and policies that effect renewal projects. Current grantees, H3, Housing Authority, Hope Solutions, Shelter, Inc., are highly encouraged to attend. Secondly, the recent Executive Order 14173 which terminates illegal discrimination preferences for housing placement, it is now replaced with restoring merit-based opportunity. Per this chance, the General Services Administration is updating its website, SAM.gov, and will have registrants to certify compliance, which increases the risk for agencies to receive federal funding. H3 recommends that all HUD funded agencies review and assess compliance. To read more about the Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity Executive Order, you may visit the United States Government's [Federal Register website](#). In addition, Contra Costa County and Contra Costa CoC still await the grant agreement for the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

Program (HHAP-6) from the State. The joint award amount to be received is \$6.7 million. The California Department of Housing and Community Development's [website](#) has more info about the program and requirements. Lastly, the funding recommendations for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Request for Proposal has 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.

7) New Business

A. (ACTION ITEM) Presentation - County and State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recommendations for Upcoming Fiscal Year

Presenter: Melanie Erickson, *Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development*

Melanie Erickson provided an overview of the ESG program, which is a Federal program that provides funds for a variety of activities to address homelessness as authorized under the Hearth Act and State program requirements. Contra Costa County receives State ESG funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on an entitlement formula basis for the provisions of essential services for the homeless, including emergency shelter operations, homelessness prevention, and rapid rehousing activities. On March 25, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted and approved the 3-year contract and also approved the funding recommendations for the five applications that were received. This is the second year of the 3-year funding resolution, and the same five applications from the first cycle are being recommended. For fiscal year 25-26, the County will receive a total of \$229,545 of state ESG funding, which is approximately \$75,000 less that was received from previous fiscal year 24-25. The list of the approved applications with applicant name, project name, description, activity type, and amount funded was shown and may also be found at H3's [website](#). Contra Costa County, acting as an entitlement jurisdiction, also receives ESG funds from HUD for essential services for the homeless population. On October 14, 2025, the Department of Conservation and Development released its fiscal year 2026-27 Notice of Funding availability for CDBG and ESG funds. A total of six applications were received to cover funding activities for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing, street outreach, and emergency shelter. The estimate amount to be received from HUD is expected to be \$405,597. The list of approved applications and funding amount can be found at H3's [website](#). These recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the County and State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recommendations for Upcoming Fiscal Year.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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

B. (ACTION ITEM) DISCUSS and APPROVE 2026 Quarter 1 Council on Homelessness Recommendations for Report to County Board of Supervisors

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3

The Family and Human Services Committee meets every quarter to discuss the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Council. The recommendations for Quarter 1 include 1) support full funding of HHAP 7 at \$1B in Governor's May Revision budget; and 2) share information about Homelessness 101series with constituents. Courtney Pal, COH member, recommended to add other programs to recommendation No. 1 to support people exiting homelessness such as Multi-Family Housing Programs as there is now a funding cap per the new HUD's requirements.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the recommendations above for Q1, 2026 COH report, with the amendment to no. 1, to the Board of Supervisors.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Dani Jimenez.
 - Seconded by: Mia Fairbanks.
 - AYES: Anastasia Lockwood, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

- ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton.

C. Learning Corner: Transitional Rent

Speaker: Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, *H3*, Ryan Tapia, *H3*

Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald presented the concept of Transitional Rent (TR) 101, its referral requirements and process. The program launched on January 1st, 2026, and eligibility requirements include: 1) to be enrolled in CCHO Medi-Cal; 2) target population should be under serious mental illness or substance use disorder; 3) to experience housing instability; and 4) to be on the pathway of permanent housing. The requirements and ways to submit referrals were shared. One of the questions from members of the public was how long the approval process takes, for which Mary answered that typically it takes approximately five days. For additional questions, Mary can be reached at H3DataTeam@cchealth.org or at ryan.tapia@cchealth.org.

8) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Speaker: All

- None.

9) Pin It

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

- The next COH meeting will be on May 7, 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.



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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