



CoC Learning Hub: “H.O.P.E. (Hearing Other People’s Experiences) Beyond Homelessness”

The Contra Costa Continuum of Care (CoC) Learning Hubs are biannual topic specific stakeholder meetings designed to increase learning about issues related to homelessness.

Monday, November 8, 2021; 1:00 pm – 3:00 PM

Meeting link: <https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/84943539480>

Join by Phone: +1 669 900 6833 Meeting number: 849 4353 9480

AGENDA

Agenda Item	Presenter	Time
Video	-	
Welcome and Introductions	- <i>Lindy Johnson, Council on Homelessness Chair</i>	1:00 pm (10 mins)
Panel Presentation by People With Lived Experience of Homelessness <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is there anything you want to share about what led to you becoming homeless? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loren, yes Jo, not sure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in getting approved for SSI Juno Lori What worked for you and what didn't work for you while you were experiencing homelessness? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hard: bathrooms. Car getting repossessed- almost got towed. Not feeling safe- someone trying to break into car while sleeping Helped: Community Connect. 211 Loren: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard: not enough income. Waiting for disability approval for VA (5 year). Helped: getting the \$ and then got housing voucher (VASH). Veteran housing case manager- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Juno Hedrick, <i>Youth Representative, Council on Homelessness</i> - Jo Bruno, <i>Consumer Representative, Council on Homelessness</i> - Loren Dalbert, <i>Workforce</i> - Lori McLemore, <i>Resident Empowerment Project</i> - Jaime Jenett, <i>Moderator</i> 	1:10 (50 mins)



helped find landlord, checked in 1x month

3. What do you wish you had gotten that you didn't get?

- Jo
 - Housing
 - Wished that legal case had been heard instead of delaying it 18 months. Would have been approved for SSI.
- Loren
 - Getting disability benefits sooner than 5 years.
 - Access to VA mental health services earlier (have to have a dx from VA doctor to get VA MH services) or been in particular theater of combat. Could get basic medical care but couldn't get income or MH support for 5 years until got that approval for MH services.

4. What motivated you to keep going?

- Jo
 - Faith (blind faith), what saved her was the ability to love somebody again. Love created is darkest times. Work was NOT the motivator!
- Loren
 - Kids. Son was with him for a big part of it. Had belief that situation would get better and that it would change. And it has! Been an agent of that change. A lot of him is walking new path laid before him.

5. What do you want people to know about experiencing homelessness

- It's savage out there.
- No one feels safe out there.
- Resilience is exhausting
- Constant assaults- racism, sexism, homophobia
- Tired of the trauma
- Sex industry- survival



<p>6. What does it mean for you to share your experience? How has it changed your life? What helped you be able to tell your story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s motivating. Peer support- that’s what’s going to create new policy and help someone through a crisis. Was writing policy while she was homeless. • Loren <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being homeless helped him be able to tell his story. Second time being homeless after coming from relatively stable situation. A lot of his beliefs were superficial- revealed when became homeless. Got rid of American Shame and pressure to keep up with the Jones’. Has no shame. <p>7. Why is PLE perspective important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loren <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to be part of these conversations. EHV process. Need to have PLE at • Jo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing about us without us • Lives experience is how laws are made • Peer support is about telling your story • “System” doesn’t have a message of hope. Our stories do. 		
<p>Questions and Answers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All - Jaime Jenett, <i>Moderator</i> 	<p>2:00 pm (15 mins)</p>
<p>Breakout Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Break out into small groups - Select one notetaker and/or reporter - Discuss and answer questions below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All 	<p>2:15 pm (20 mins)</p>
<p>Report Out</p> <p>1. How were you inspired by the panel discussion?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All 	<p>2:35 pm (25 mins)</p>



CONTRA COSTA CONTINUUM OF CARE

2. What is one action you want to see decision makers take? 3. What is your personal call to action?		
Closing	- <i>Lindy Johnson, Council on Homelessness Chair</i>	3:00 pm