



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,
Concord | 10550 Wilshire Blvd. #105, Los
Angeles, CA 90024 | Zoom:
<https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/84112970168> | call
in: 8882780254 | code: 7038773

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

Present Karanbir Bal, Karen Coleman, Christian Dean, Ajit Kaushal, Buffie Lafayette, Janelle Lafrades, Nikki Lopez, Desire Medlen, Tu'Liisa Miller, Devlyn Sewell, Kanwar Singh, Victor Tiglao, and Renee Zeimer

Absent Patricia Campbell, Jessica Cisneros, Monisha Merchant, and LaTonia Peoples-Stokes

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Medlen called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Quorum Established

Staff Present: Christina Castle-Barber, Roshunda Ward, Melissa Molina, Michael Morris

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

No public present

3. APPROVE the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 2-12-26. [26-899](#)

Attachments: [EOC Busines Meeting Minutes of 2-12-26 DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Kaushal, seconded by Lopez, to approve the EOC Business Meeting minutes of 2-12-26. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Kaushal

Second: Lopez

Aye: Bal, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Miller, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, Cisneros, Merchant, and Peoples-Stokes

Result: Passed

4. RECEIVE the January 2026 Fiscal Reports for CSBG Grant #25F-6007. [26-900](#)

Attachments: [CSBG January 2026 Fiscal Report](#)

Morris provided an explanation of the expenditures through January 2026. We are on target to spend down entirely.

This Discussion Item was received.

5. RECEIVE presentation on the CSBG Student Intern Program. [26-901](#)

Attachments: [Student Intern Orientation Manual 2025](#)
[Student Intern Orientation Checklist 2025](#)

Luis and Nayeli Roman, a brother-sister duo and current CSBG Student Interns shared their experiences in the program. Luis works in Business Systems and Nayeli in Alternative Payment programs. EOC members queried them about how they found out about the program, what skills they learned, and confirmed that their income changed for the better.

This Discussion Item was received.

6. RECEIVE presentation on the 2026 Community Assessment. [26-902](#)

Attachments: [CA 2026 Full Executive Summary 1.31.26](#)
[CA 2026 Key Findings 1.31.26](#)

Castle-Barber presented the 2026 Community Assessment, highlighting data pertaining to population, economy, health and safety, children and families, and education. Lopez asked about what the disability status of residents, noting rise in neuro-divergent diagnoses and asking what is currently being done, to which Castle-Barber replied that she will send out a document from the Disabilities Council.

This Discussion Item was received.

7. SELECT Legislative Platform for Advocacy Day. [26-903](#)

Attachments: [Adopted 2025-26 State Legislative Platform 25.01.21](#)
[EHSD Bills Tracked with Links 3.5.26](#)

Castle-Barber referenced the Board of Supervisors' state legislative platform for 2026 and the EHSD Bill Tracker in the agenda packet. She provided an overview of the Assembly Bills and Senate Bills that had the most impact on the four priority areas selected by the EOC in the Community Action Plan. The group voted by a show of hands to advocate for the following legislation on Advocacy Day in May: AB1996 California Child Poverty Reduction, AB 713 Opportunity for All Act, and SB 1422 Medi-Cal Access Restoration Act. Tiglao will create talking points, including fiscal impacts for the EOC delegation.

This Consent Item was adopted.

8. Staff Report

Castle-Barber reported that funding for all CSB programs is secure for the coming year. She also shared that former EOC Member Lauren Babb Tomlinson is running for Congress in Sacramento - unopposed! Molina suggested that the EOC participate in Week of the Young Child Activities in April.

9. Chair Report

Chair Medlen announced that the SNIP Bus is coming to Contra Costa County and is an excellent way for low income residents to get their animals neutered at low cost. She will provide a flyer to be shared. She also spoke to the protest on 3/28 and the human chain that will be forming from Sunvalley Mall to

Walnut Creek.

10. EOC Member Reports

Coleman provided the Policy Council report, stating that the agency achieved full enrollment. She shared the goals of the program with the EOC and explained her role as liaison.

Lopez shared that she is on the board for the California Area on Aging and spoke about the robust master plan. Castle-Barber requested and received a copy.

Zeimer spoke to the Head Start Advocacy letter that she signed on to and urged other to do the same. She spoke to Amplify and Align, that has translated the cost of the war on Iran to what that funding could do for Head Start.

Sewell spoke to difficulty reaching the unhoused population recently as they have gone into hiding in areas that are not easily accessible. She recently provided backpack to an unhoused woman and called 211 to have CORE check on her. She urged others to do the same.

11. Next Steps and Meeting Evaluation.

Next steps:

1. Reich to ask N. Roman to participate in week of the young child and sing
2. Reich to send Lopez data on special education in Coco County and what's being done.
3. Reich will request for a presentation from the African American Resource Hub
4. Molina will send Tiglaio bills that were approved by EOC members.
5. Medlen will send SNIP bus flyer to Molina, who will then email it to EOC members.
6. Molina will send EOC members flyer for Head Start recruitment including teachers
7. Reich will email out Week of the young child calendar to EOC members and staff.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 6 PM.

12. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

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For Additional Information Contact: Christina Castle-Barber 925-608-8819.