

**Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Equity Committee  
Meeting Minutes, March 16, 2026**

**In Attendance:**

*Supervisors:* Ken Carlson, Shanelle Scales-Preston

*Staff:* Kendra Carr, Peter Kim, Emaan Ahmed, Jessica Travenia, Cassandra Youngblood (ORESJ); Ellen McDonnell (Public Defender); Gilbert Salinas (CCH); Shanise (District 4); Iliana Choate (EHSD); Jill Ray (District 2); Lisa Chow (District 4); Monica Nino (CAO); Rhonda Smith (CCH); Shannon Ladner-Beasley (CCH); Victor Tiglao (BOS Staff).

Both Supervisors Carlson and Scales-Preston were in attendance, and a quorum was met. Meeting began at 10:33 AM

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

**Public Comment:**

*Ogie Strogatz: Representative of Indivisible. Expressed disappointment and concern that ICE ordinance is not on today's agenda. Urges the Board to declare boundaries between County and Federal Government.*

*Katherine Walley: Walnut Creek resident, ACCE. Interested in seeing and knowing what County resources are being used and are accessible to ICE. Other jurisdictions have already restricted use of County/City resources to ICE. The wait for this proposed ordinance is too long.*

*Melvin Willis: Representative of ACCE, Racial Justice Coalition. There is an urgent need to have a non-cooperation w/ ICE ordinance; it's been a year since Truth Forum when we first heard community say that is what is needed. Both immigrant and non-immigrant communities are targeted if they meet the description, including US citizens. ICE-free zones are needed here. Federal cuts are coming regardless of whether we cooperate or not so let's be bold.*

*Doug Leich: Multi-Faith Coalition, Racial Justice Coalition. Urges the Board to issue a non-cooperation ordinance now; Too slow of a process for such an urgent need. As a volunteer at local immigration court, I have witnessed the fear and chilling effect that was produced by ICE arrests there last summer. We can expect it to resume, and the ordinance needs to be in place before it does.*

*George Galvis: I echo the sentiment of what I've heard so far, frustrating to see the inaction of the Board, even for the most basic of statements; unsure if there is real commitment to racial justice in CCC if we cannot see statements and enact substantive policies, and if so, we should stop using the term racial justice altogether.*

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*Gail Susan Gordon: I support what the previous speakers have said and reiterate that not having government support impacts children, particularly through their parents' anxiety; it sends a message that their lives do not matter. We must act now for and if when ICE arrives.*

*Gordon Lake: I need to understand what is holding up the ordinance, please explain the hold up.*

Sup. Carlson: San Francisco Immigration Court is closing, and Concord's court will be only one in region. Contra Costa County has invested in STAND Together, \$5M for SAFE Center, and has always had the policy to not engage with, collaborate, nor share info with ICE. The county has also released numerous statements in support of our immigrant communities. Today we are prioritizing the African American Wellness Network RFQ that has been in process; the ordinance will be on next month's agenda and ready to discuss for Board consideration. I reiterate our support for immigrant communities and we are horrified at any actions that jeopardize the constitutional rights and safety of our residents and communities.

- 1. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action from the January 26, 2026 meeting of the Equity Committee, with any necessary corrections.**

**Public Comment:**

No comment.

Moved by Supervisor Scales-Preston, seconded by Supervisor Carlson. Approved and received.

- 2. INTERVIEW applicants for the Racial Justice Oversight Body to fill one vacant seat reserved for a community member with lived experience in the criminal legal system, and DIRECT staff to forward any nominations to the Board of Supervisors for their approval and appointment.**

Interviewees' applications were included in the meeting agenda packet

*Myeshia Woodards: Long time resident in Richmond; lived experience, and family's experience, of incarceration; outreach and advocacy; want to share my voice; can translate lived experience and provide relevant and critical perspective, especially for youth and Black communities; want to expand resources and provide opportunities.*

*George Galvis: Resident and homeowner in Hercules, and ED of CURYJ (Oakland); advocate for 31 years, was incarcerated as a youth; GED, community college, UCB; co-founder of All of Us or None (helped author Ban the Box policy); have been jaded from past experience on commissions, but want to engage in the County and community that I live in; after some research, I've become disappointed; if this is a body that is an artificial exercise that is just cosmetic, then please pass on me; but if this is really about moving racial justice, then I am ready.*

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*Kim Jones: Born and raised in Richmond, work in Oakland currently, work real closely with justice impacted and immigrant communities; I want to engage more in CC County, and have seen exciting things happening, but also aware of the history of things not being actualized, so I hope my experience can help move real action; I believe there is a lot of opportunities throughout CC County, and I do not want to stand on the sidelines and squander the opportunity, I want to get my hands dirty.*

*Hanunah Alsabur: I live in CCC, as a teenager my father passed by HIV, I was trafficked and using drugs; so now I use my experience to help others, especially young girls being trafficked, and I am passionate about advocating for housing and other supports; I went to school in Chico and Madera, and witnessed a lack of scholarships and funding for women with children and formerly incarcerated; run a non-profit, House of Prosperity, to support young women with resources, something that is sorely missing in CCC.*

*Garry Scott: Known as Malachi, originally from LA most of my work has been done in Alameda and SF counties, recently moved to Antioch. Incarcerated from 15 to 31, and have been home 12 years; Restorative Justice practitioner, I believe in the power to heal, make amends, and to be accountable; I want to be part of a team to do good in the world; Have had opportunity to support the passage of SB 260 and SB 261 and advocate in Sacramento; also supported those impacted by violence in Richmond via healing circles; I look forward to connecting with amazing people through this experience.*

Supervisor Scales-Preston: Thank and appreciate all the applicants, hard decision to make, all are so strong.

Supervisor Carlson: Also thanks the group and expressed the difficulty in selecting from the strong group; also need to balance the dynamics of RJOB in terms of representation; recommends that Garry Scott be selected.

Supervisor Scales-Preston: I support this recommendation.

**Public Comment:**

*Porshe Taylor: I appreciate each applicant for sharing their testimony and lived experiences, and appreciate that this body is selecting applicants who reflect this particular experience and who can speak truthfully on what people with lived experience go through; it is important that applicants be selected for their intention to move the work, and not simply to add to their resume.* Motion to recommend Garry Scott for RJOB Community Representative seat for approval by full Board of Supervisors on March 31 meeting by Supervisor Carlson, seconded by Supervisor Scales-Preston. Motion approved.

**3. RECEIVE updates and PROVIDE direction on the implementation of the Federal D. Glover Community Wellness Network.**

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Staff provided progress update. See attached slide deck in agenda packet.

Supervisor Scales-Preston: Can we revisit possibility of non-County buildings for the eventual anchor facility? Have we explored use of mobile units from CC Health? Can we buy one? Regarding the Lead Entity, will they be required to create a new non-profit? How can interested investors donate sooner than later, and before the lead entity is in place?

Staff: We have \$2M in reserve for renovation costs toward a building, which is seed funding; Ceres Policy did conduct a real estate search across the County, including non-County market rate options, and the available allocated funds were not enough to realistically pay for both a market-rate private property and projected renovations, nor for the related community-based support services, so they were directed to focus on County-owned properties. There were certain conditions considered: location, accessibility, square footage, etc. We can explore the availability of market-rate, non-County options, and do more work on possible locations that are more readily available. We've also met with EHSD and CCH re: mobile units; the serious cuts that they are facing are impacting their ability to commit resources and services, including their mobile units; we can explore the possibility of purchasing our own mobile unit.

Supervisor Carlson: Can we revisit the transition of EHSD staff from Cavallo Road and the timing?

Staff: Yes, we are currently in communication and meeting with both departments on what this transition may entail, including timing. Currently, much depends on when the new service center being built in Brentwood will be completed, allowing for the current staff at Cavallo Road to transition into the new space.

Supervisor Scales-Preston: Was asked by community members that, b/c there is no location available immediately, can we use the \$2M funds to invest in CBOs now? Want to be mindful of what we are spending funds in regard to funding a lead entity and its staffing costs over 3 years without a location. Want to be sure that we spend the dollars correctly.

Staff: We know that there are strong and capable Black-led organizations out there, and we can easily distribute all funds right away, but the recommendation by TCAB was to invest in long-term impact by establishing a countywide network and nurturing a collective ability to fundraise and create a strong foundation; we have chosen to trust the community on this direction. This is what the Board-approved implementation plan also lays out. Successful implementation of the plan will require staff to establish and coordinate the network and grow the work. The ideal candidate will have the infrastructure to house staff and operations until a permanent anchor site is identified and approved, and much of the work until then will occur in the community.

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Supervisor Carlson: I want to share gratitude to TCAB (and the Steering Committee, Ceres Policy Research, and the large number of advocates) that have brought us to this point, it's been a lot of work. Also want to recognize Sup Scales-Preston's concern and urge that the selected Lead Entity share in the work of identifying the anchor site, and do the collective fundraising needed to sustain this work. This process has taken a long time so I would like to move this forward.

Staff: Want to lift up that we will need to use \$100K of the \$2M reserved to initiate the renovation of an anchor site to fund the Capital Projects Request through Public Works to perform a full assessment and cost analysis of what a full renovation of Cavallo Road site will require. Also want to appreciate the partnership of County depts, in particular CC Health, who will be presenting at the TCAB on programs that will be considered for inclusion in the network.

**Public Comment:**

*Shantell Owens: I do not agree at all that \$2.15M be used for a Lead Entity and its staffing; we need to recognize that the current African American Wellness programs being funded will expire this April and that more funding is needed to continue that work. Rather than fund a Lead Entity to hire new staff, the funds should fund programs already happening in the community.*

Motion to move this RFQ forward for approval at the full Board of Supervisors meeting on March 31, 2026 by Supervisor Scales-Preston, seconded by Supervisor Carlson. Approved.

**4. RECEIVE updates from the Co-Directors of the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.**

Staff presented update; presentation slide deck included in meeting packet.

- Civic Engagement Workshops
- African American Service Provider Training Series
- Budget Equity Learning Cohort for County Depts
- Contra Costa Together
- Belonging in the Bay

**Public Comment:**

None.

Update was received and accepted.

**The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 20, 2026.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.