



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

**Recording link:** Available by email request to [CChomelessscouncil@cchealth.org](mailto:CChomelessscouncil@cchealth.org)

### **Council Member Attendance:**

- In-Person (11): Carolyn Foudy, Courtney Pal, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp, Yahel Moreno
- Remote (2): Hope Dixon (as community member, unable to vote); Dani Jimenez
- Absent (6): Alejandra Chamberlain, Bessie Scott, Jazmin Ridley, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl

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

### **Community Member Attendance:**

- In-person: Nakia Linzie Shavers, Cal Baptist University; Thomas Fulton, NCFC; Donnie Diego, HCH CAB; Ralph Payton, GRIP
- Remote: Jill Ray, BOS District 2; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Elder Desiree Rushing; NAMI Contra Costa; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Suzanne Howard; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Jeff O'Hearn, White Pony Express; Mrs. Adams, Caliber Beta Academy; Stephanie Bodisco, H3; Anastasia Lockwood, YAB; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Paida Ndemera, Trinity Center; Caroline Miller, H3; Heaven Walker, YAB; Teuna Gremillion, H3; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Christy Saxton, H3; Gabriella Amini, Representative for Congressman DeSaulnier



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## AGENDA ITEM

### 1) Call to Order

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#### A. Chair starts the meeting:

Speaker: Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.

### 2) Introductions

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#### A. Meeting Norms:

Speaker: Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green 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 & 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 & Reentry Services Representative*

Nicole Green 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:	3 (16%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	14 (74%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	2 (10%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	0 (0%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	2 (10%)
No	15 (80%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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

African American/Black	6 (30%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2 (10%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	1 (5%)
Hispanic/Latinx	5 (25%)
White	6 (30%)
Multi-racial	2 (10%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (5%)

### 3) Public Comments

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

Members of the public:

- Hope Dixon, Council Member, talked about the challenge presented by CalFresh not being dispersed next month and encouraged everyone to partner together to support each other.
- Jeanette Adams, Foster and Homeless Youth Liaison for Caliber Beta Academy Charter School, shared that over 800 students in West Contra County identified as homeless in the past school year. Over 70% of them were living in vehicles or doubled up with other families due to the lack of shelter options. These numbers continue to grow and reflect a crisis that demands urgent attention. On behalf of the McKinney-Vento Educational Council, Jeanette urged the Council to expand family shelter options and increase housing supports countywide.

### 4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

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#### A. APPROVE minutes from the October 2, 2025 Council meeting

#### B. APPROVE staff report for the October 30, 2025 Council meeting

Speaker: Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Services 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: Juno Hedrick
  - Seconded by: Mia Fairbanks



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- AYES: Carolyn Foudy, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp, Yahel Moreno
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINS: None
- UNABLE TO VOTE: Hope Dixon
- ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Bessie Scott, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Yahel Moreno

### 5) Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update

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#### A. Update on CoC NOFO and Funding Committee

Speaker: Riley Meve, *Homebase*

Riley provided an update on the Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) competition. The 2025 CoC NOFO has still not been released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Riley shared the schedule for the Funding Committee which is tentative until the NOFO is actually released by HUD. Jamie Schechter, H3, added that the coming NOFO would have significant impacts on the community and it's important to work together to mitigate any negative impacts, particularly if there's a cap on funding for permanent housing projects. She also talked about the potential impact on grants expiring in early 2026 as they will likely face a gap in renewal funding. Jamie also encouraged everyone to utilize planning and strategy resources from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Discussion:

- Council Member Nicole Green asked if any strategic planning has taken place to prepare for these potential changes. Jamie Schechter, H3, emphasized how challenging the situation and that the county and individual agencies have been looking for contingency funding. Nicole and Jamie encouraged providers to be creative in finding other resources to meet the needs of the clients they serve.

### 6) Committee Report Outs

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#### A. Nominating Panel

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

Jaime presented on the Nominating Panel's process to review and recommend candidates to serve in the open 2026 seats on the Council on Homelessness. The panel consisted of



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Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Hope Dixon, and Sherina Criswell. Jaime shared the demographics of applicants to increase accountability regarding the recruitment process. The recommended candidates are as follows:

- Behavioral Health - Dani Jimenez
- City Government – Jared Murti
- CoC-ESG Program Grantee – Ralph Payton
- Community Member – Donnie Diego
- Employment and Human Services Department – Belinda Jackson-Thomas
- Faith Community – Wayne Earl
- Federal Homeless and Housing Funding Administrator – Gabriel Lemus
- Public Housing Authority – Tony Ucciferri
- Public Safety – Shawn Ray
- Reentry Services – Nicole Green
- Youth – Anastasia Lockwood

### Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve 2026 candidates recommended by the Nominating Panel to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for official approval for Council on Homelessness membership.
- Discussion:
  - Elder Desiree, community member, asked how many recommended candidates are incumbents. Jaime responded that 6 of 11 recommended candidates are incumbents. Elder Desiree also asked if any of the incumbent candidates applied for their seats without any opposition. Jaime responded that this was the case for a few of the seats.
- Procedural Record:
  - Motion made by: Verneda Clapp
  - Seconded by: Nicole Green
  - AYES: Carolyn Foudy, Courtney Pal, Dani Jimenez, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey; Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp, Yahel Moreno
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: None
  - UNABLE TO VOTE: Hope Dixon
  - ABSENT: Alejandra Chamberlain, Bessie Scott, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Yahel Moreno



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### **B. Homelessness Awareness Month Committee**

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, *H3*

Jaime presented about the Homelessness Awareness Month activities coming in November, including a toolkit, video, posters, presentation to the Board of Supervisors, and reception. Jaime screened the video that will be shown at the event. Jaime invited everyone to attend the reception on 11/4 from 12-1:30pm.

### **C. Point-In-Time Count Committee**

Speaker: Janel Fletcher, *H3*

Janel provided a recap of the October Point-In-Time (PIT) Subcommittee meeting on 10/18. Over 30 hotspots and 10 additional stakeholders were identified. Training kick-off sites were identified in various regions of the county. Janel asked everyone to complete a survey poll to help identify the incentive business. A calendar of upcoming PIT planning events was shared.

### **D. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update**

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor*

Juno shared updates from the Youth Action Board, including October meeting and committee updates, recruitment of new YAB member applications (opened on 10/23, a QR code was displayed), the Community Impact Fund town halls and surveys, Adulthood and YYA Partnership teach back sessions, and National YAB Connection Space. There is a CoC Training on Adulthood and Working with Youth and Young Adults on 11/10 from 1am-12pm. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB may send an email at [ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org](mailto:ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org).

## 7) Old Business

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### **A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members**

Speaker: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

- Jaime Jenett, H3, and Nicole Green, Reentry Services Representative, talked about the SNAP shutdown and what different agencies are doing to help to people despite the shutdown.

### **B. Funding Updates**

Speaker: Jamie Schecter and Christy Saxton, *H3*



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Jamie Schechter shared funding updates:

- A Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Services Request for Proposal (RFP) is due on 10/31/25 which includes renewal funding for Measure X Housing programs; Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP); and other funding sources.
- Federal budget updates: the federal government shutdown is ongoing, benefit programs like SNAP or CalFresh are anticipating impacts beginning in November 2025, CoC projects can still submit payment requests but activities like grant amendments are paused.
- As approved at the 10/2 Council on Homelessness meeting, the Council will submit a letter to the Board of Supervisors' Family and Human Services Committee requesting advocacy to the California Congressional Delegation to 1) honor the CoC Builds Round 1 awards, and 2) include language in the continuing resolution to fund CoC awards at FY 2024 levels.
- To receive news about funding opportunities, please sign up on the [Contra Costa County Health's website](#).

### 8) General Announcements

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#### A. General Announcements:

Speaker: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

- Council Member Carolyn Foudy provided an update at EHSD. EHSD still has benefits for general assistance. The only change is the distribution of SNAP benefits. As of today, they will not be going on the EBT cards. She encouraged people to contact EHSD. EHSD still plans to stay open and serve the community at this time.
- Council member Shawn Ray gave props to Jenny Robbins at H3 regarding her work on the Encampment Resolution Funding project. Jamie Schechter, H3, added that with the ERF grant in San Pablo and City of Antioch, all the participants moved into interim housing that the City of Antioch leased up at Opportunity Village.
- Jamie Schechter, H3, shared about a free conference called Mission Possible in Pleasant Hill hosted by the Contra Costa Family Justice Center. H3, SHELTER, Inc., Housing Authority, and Bay Area Legal Aid will be hosting a panel on housing and homelessness.
- Council Member Verneda Clapp shared that America's Job Center of California (AJCC) has a lot of events going on.

### 9) Pin It

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Speaker: Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

- The next COH meeting will be on December 4, from 1:00 – 3:00pm.



## CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

- 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



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Acronym	Definition
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
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