



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025, 1 pm – 3 pm

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

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (12): Alejandra Chamberlain, Carolyn Foudy, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri; Yahel Moreno
- Remote (3): Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Juno Hedrick (as community member, unable to vote)
- Absent (4): Dani Jimenez; Jazmin Ridley; Vernela Clapp; Wayne Earl

Staff Attendance: Jamie Schecter, H3; Jaime Jenett, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Will be updated
- Remote: Will be updated



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AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

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

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

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:	6 (22%)
I've attended some meetings:	6 (22%)
I've attended a lot of meetings:	15 (56%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	2 (6%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	3 (11%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	4 (15%)
No	18 (68%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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

African American/Black	6 (22%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2 (7%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	1 (4%)
Hispanic/Latinx	5 (19%)
White	6 (22%)
Multi-racial	2 (7%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (4%)

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 October 30, 2025 Council meeting

- B. APPROVE staff report for the December 4, 2025 Council meeting

- C. APPROVE Council members Dani Jimenez, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Bessie Scott, Wayne Earl to serve on the Review and Rank Panel for the 2025 HUD CoC NOFO competition

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



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5) Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update

A. Update on CoC NOFO and Funding Committee

Speaker: Mark Mora and Jamie Schechter, *Homebase*

Mark and Jamie provided an overview of the 2025 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which was released on November 13, 2025. The consolidated application is due to HUD by January 14, 2026. Contra Costa County received approximately \$22.3 million in CoC funding in FY 2024. Key changes in the 2025 NOFO include a cap limiting permanent housing funding (Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing) to no more than 30% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD), representing a significant shift from prior years. Tier 1 funding has also been reduced to 30% of ARD, compared to approximately 90% in previous years, meaning more projects will fall into Tier 2, which is nationally competitive. Additional changes include newly eligible project types (Transitional Housing, Supportive Services Only, and Street Outreach), higher scoring for projects with service participation requirements, and new restrictions related to harm reduction practices, definitions of sex and gender, and activities perceived as facilitating racial preferences. Mark and Jamie shared that CoC-funded renewal projects have been coordinating with H3 to come up with a shortlist of permanent housing projects to be included in Tier 1 within the new permanent housing funding cap.

Discussion:

- Council members expressed concern about the potential loss of CoC subsidies for permanent housing projects as grants expire over the coming year. Staff noted that while impacts will occur on a rolling basis based on circumstances for each project, nonetheless a significant number of households may be affected. Staff emphasized ongoing collaboration between the county and providers to identify alternative funding sources, temporary subsidy options, and cross-system strategies to help residents remain housed.
- A Council member with lived experience shared personal concern about being directly impacted by potential policy changes. Another Council member acknowledged the emotional weight of the discussion and emphasized the importance of centering lived experience voices, particularly given the uncertainty created by the policy changes.
- Discussion also included how HUD Opportunity Zones factor into application scoring and concerns regarding how geographic boundaries may disadvantage certain communities.



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6) Committee Report Outs

A. Point-In-Time Committee

Speaker: Yessenia Aguilar, *H3*

Yessenia provided an overview of updates related to the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count planning. The Committee reviewed preparations for the upcoming PIT Count, including outreach strategies, coordination with community partners, and logistics for implementation. Staff reviewed the proposed PIT Count methodology and shared that the approach aligns with HUD requirements and builds on lessons learned from previous counts.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the Point-In-Time Count methodology as presented.
- Discussion:
 - None
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell
 - Seconded by: Heather Worobey
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Bessie Scott, Courtney Pal, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Yahel Moreno
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: Juno Hedrick
 - ABSENT: Carolyn Foudy, Dani Jimenez, Hope Dixon, Jazmin Ridley, Verneda Clapp, Wayne Earl



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B. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

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

Juno shared regarding Youth Advisory Board activities, youth engagement efforts, and ongoing advocacy to elevate youth and young adult perspectives within the homeless response system. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB can send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org.

7) Old Business

A. Update: Coordinated Entry Housing Needs Assessment Project

Speaker: Chela Shuster and Claire Burris, *Focus Strategies* and Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, *H3*

Chela, Claire, and Mary provided an update on the Coordinated Entry Housing Needs Assessment Project, including data collection efforts and how findings will inform system planning and housing prioritization.

B. 2024 Annual Report Presentation

Speaker: Jamie Schecter and Yessenia Aguilar, *H3*

This item was tabled due to time constraints.

8) New Business

A. Learning Corner: Community College Basic Needs Programs

Speaker: Hope Dixon, *Contra Costa College & Community Member Representative*

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

9) Council Membership

A. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members: Carolyn Foudy, Hope Dixon, Bessie Marie Scott, Yahel Moreno

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

Outgoing Council members were recognized and thanked for their service.



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10) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

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

- This item was tabled due to time constraints.

11) Pin It

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

- The next COH meeting will be on January 9, from 3:00 – 4:00pm, which will follow the Council Orientation from 1:00 – 3:00pm.
- 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.



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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