



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

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## COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, August 7, 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):** Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Courtney Pal; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri
- **Remote (5):** Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Tony Ucciferri
- **Absent (4):** Heather Worobey; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno

**Staff Attendance:** Jamie Schecter, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase

### Community Member Attendance:

- **In-person:** Thomas Fischer, HCEB
- **Remote:** Christine Wetzal, Caminar; Ishani Rasanayagam, City of Pittsburg; Manav Chimakurthi, community member; Ms. Evon Ufland, community member; Lisa Malul, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Jennifer Quallick, Contra Costa BOS; Jaclyn Tummings, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; Melanie Erickson, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; Ashley, CCCOE; Elizabeth Winstead, DOR; Khougen, EHSD; C.Williams, HCEB; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; E. Jacobs, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Jenny Robbins, H3; Latoya Foskey, H3; Maria Dominguez, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Stephanie Bodisco, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Chaeana Williams, HCEB; Thomas Fischer, HCEB; Emily Bero, Hope Solutions; Angela Corona, LFCD; Carmen Cano, LFCD; Julie Clemens, LSS of Northern California; Andrea Foti, SHELTER, Inc.; Anastasia Lockwood, YAB; John Eckstrom, SHELTER, Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia-Bella Chavez, SHELTER, Inc.; James.Worley, SHELTER, Inc.; Kathryn Ross, SHELTER, Inc.; Mary Hill, SHELTER Inc.; Jai De Lotto, VA CES; Amanda Aschow, Zócalo Health

## AGENDA ITEM

### 1) Call to Order

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#### A. Chair starts the meeting:

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

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.



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## 2) Introductions

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### A. Meeting Norms:

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

Nicole Green went over the hybrid meeting norms and guidelines to help ensure that meetings are conducted in a safe and respectful environment that encourages participation and inclusivity. Due to a Zoom bombing incident at the April meeting, the virtual meeting format has been changed from “meeting” to “webinar” format and the difference of features was explained.

### B. Roll call of Council members and introduction of guests:

Presenter: Nicole Green, *Chair and 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?

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

Nicole Green conducted the poll activity called “Who is in the room?” with the purpose of getting a sense of who is attending the meeting. The poll was conducted via Zoom poll. 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:	5 (17%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	4 (14%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	20 (69%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	2 (7%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (3%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	7 (23%)
No	20 (67%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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

African American/Black	11 (28%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1 (3%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	3 (8%)
Hispanic/Latinx	5 (13%)
White	14 (36%)
Multi-racial	4 (10%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)

### 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:

- None.

### 4) Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

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**A. APPROVE minutes from the July 10, 2025 Council meeting**

**B. APPROVE staff report for the August 7, 2025 Council meeting**

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

Members made a motion to approve the items per the changes listed above as a whole group:

Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the consent calendar items as listed above.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record:
  - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell
  - Seconded by: Shawn Ray
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Juno Hedrick; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: None
  - ABSENT: Heather Worobey; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno



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## 5) Committee Report Outs

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### A. Funding Committee

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase*

The Funding Committee has formed a Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) Work Group that is tasked with improving the NOFO competition process. The work group will meet roughly every three weeks starting in August and will focus on revising scoring tools and competition policies in preparation of a possible 2025 CoC NOFO competition. This is an unexpected competition because HUD had announced in 2024 that the competition would take place every two years. The committee expects significant changes on the funding requirements per new HUD priorities and renewal projects are advised on reviewing the APRs from the last completed program year. Homebase will send an email to renewal projects with more information.

### B. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor and YAB Coordinator*, and Anastasia Lockwood, *YAB Member and Outreach and Retention Subcommittee Facilitator*

The Youth Advisory Board provided an overview of YAB's July activities, including subcommittee meetings, new data and research projects, participation in Youth and Young Adult (YYA) strategic planning, and CES Housing Needs Assessment Committee. Upcoming tasks include completing the review of Transitional Housing RFP applicants, planning for a youth Point-in-Time count, and preparing for Homelessness Awareness Month activities. Additionally, YAB is working on three action steps derived from their strategic plan, with Anastasia Lockwood and Juno Hedrick coordinating these efforts. The team also discussed the development of a web presence, the continuation of training sessions, and awaits the release of the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB may send an email at [ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org](mailto:ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org).

### C. (ACTION ITEM) Homelessness Awareness Month

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

Nicole Green discussed the purpose and the planning activities for Homeless Awareness Month in November. The list of tools and the number of events was presented and it involves in looking at two resolutions for approval: a) Homelessness Awareness month and Homeless Person's Memorial Day. The group discussed the recognition categories as volunteers, housing providers, partnership, and Phoenix Raising. The recognition timeline was shown with plans to open nominations on August 8<sup>th</sup> through September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The presentation and reception with the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>.



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### Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve: a) Homelessness Awareness Month and Homeless Persons' Memorial Day resolutions, and 2) Recognition categories, descriptions and criteria.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record:
  - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell
  - Seconded by: Bessie Scott
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell; Tony Ucciferri
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: None
  - ABSENT: Heather Worobey; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno

## 6) Old Business

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### A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

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

No report out updates.

### B. Funding Updates

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, *H3*

The meeting covered several funding updates, including applications that were due on July 25, 2025 for Transitional Housing Request For Proposals (RFP) with notifications to providers expected in August, the Community Care Expansion Preservation Program with a deadline to submit Statements of Interest on August 11, 2025 – which can support operating subsidies or capital projects for existing licensed facilities — and the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) application for Round 6 due August 29. Lastly, the meeting also covered updates on the Federal budget on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Bill, which included slight increases for the Continuum of Care program but no additional funding for the emergency housing voucher program. Congress has until October 1 to pass a reconciled version or enact a continuing resolution, which would maintain current funding levels.



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### 7) New Business

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#### **A. (ACTION ITEM) Point in Time Count Committee Selection**

Presenter: Janel Fletcher, *H3*

Janel Fletcher went over the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count planning for 2026, outlining the timeline and requesting volunteers from the Council. Three council members were appointed to the PIT Count Committee: Bessie Scott, Juno Hedrick, and Sherina Criswell. The dates for the committee meetings will be announced in the newsletter.

#### Motion

- State of Motion:
  - To approve the above COH members to the PIT Committee.
- Discussion:
  - None.
- Procedural Record:
  - Motion made by: Leslie Gleason
  - Seconded by: Sherina Criswell
  - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Bessie Scott; Carolyn Foudy; Courtney Pal; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; LeAnn Matthews; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Sherina Criswell
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAINS: None
  - ABSENT: Heather Worobey; Verneda Clapp; Wayne Earl; Yahel Moreno

#### **B. Update: Changes to Brown Act Re: Remote Meeting Attendance and Training Requirements**

Presenter: Jamie Schechter, *H3*

Jamie Schechter presented updates to the Brown Act requirements, explaining that as of March 1, 2023, all council meetings must be in-person or hybrid, with all council members attending in person unless they use just cause or emergency circumstances exceptions. Starting in January this year, a new policy has been introduced where a person using just cause and who has a need related to a disability for which is not otherwise accommodated, allowing for flexible accommodations for members with qualifying disabilities. Qualified members are allowed to attend virtually with specific requirements such as two-way audio and video, camera on, and disclosure of roommates who are present in the room and over 18 years of age. There is also no limit in the number of meetings with this format once the disability accommodation is approved. The procedure on how to request this



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accommodation was explained. Council members must now complete all required trainings every two years, including Brown Act, ethics, and implicit bias training.

### **C. Learning Corner: California Advancing Innovations in Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Enhanced Care Management**

Presenter: Pasia Gadson, *Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP)*

Pasia Gadson, a nurse practitioner and Director of CalAIM programs and transitional care services at CCHP, presented an overview of the California Advancing Innovations in Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program. She explained that ECM is a statewide Medi-Cal benefit focusing on clinical and non-clinical needs of members, particularly people experiencing homelessness, people with serious mental illness, with substance use disorders, or transitioning from incarceration — these individuals are defined as Populations of Focus. Pasia highlighted the program's core services, including outreach and engagement, comprehensive assessments, care coordination, and referrals to community and social support services. She also discussed how providers and community organizations can refer eligible individuals to the ECM program and emphasized the importance of a holistic approach when managing complex cases.

The discussion covered the process for obtaining CalAIM benefits, which are limited to Medi-Cal managed care plan members, and they must meet the criteria of ECM population of focus. Eligible individuals must first have Medi-Cal and be assigned to CCHP, with Kaiser being an alternative only if the member had Kaiser coverage in the previous 12 months. The healthcare options listed on the [California Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)'s website](#) helps members find the best plan for their needs, and while CCHP cannot directly assist with switching plans, they can help prevent coverage loss by providing redetermination dates to providers. To learn more about enrolling in MediCal in Contra Costa County, prospective members may visit the [Contra Costa County Health's website](#). To apply for Medi-Cal, you may call at 1-866-663-3225 or visit [www.BenefitsCal.com](http://www.BenefitsCal.com).

## **8) Council Membership**

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### **A. Recognize Outgoing Council Member: Leslie Gleason**

Nicole Green, *Chair and Reentry Services Representative*

Leslie Gleason's seat membership as the ESG Program Grantee Representative will expire at the end of August 2025. COH members thanked Leslie for her service and recognized all the work she has done over the years. Leslie gave a short speech about the work and





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collaboration over the course of 10 years and encouraged the rest of COH members to keep working in searching solutions for those who are most in need.

### 9) General Announcements

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#### A. General Announcements:

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

- Jamie Schecter shared the flyer of the Elevate East County program, a guaranteed income pilot program in East County which targets young parents with minor children and who are engaged in education at any level. Participants must be enrolled in at least one class at any Contra Costa Community college, must reside in Big Point, Pittsburgh, Antioch, or another district, must be between 18 and 30, must have at least one child ages 0 through 6, and must earn at or below 50% area Median income. The application period is open until August 29, 2025 and link to the Google Form to apply can be found [here](#).
- Alejandra Chamberlain reminded COH members and the public that If anyone come across any children and youth who are not enrolled in a school district, to please reach out to her and she will connect people with the right person.
- Members of the public were invited to the grand opening of the Executive Inn project, funded through the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program in Antioch, on August 14th at noon. H3 is working closely with CORE as well as with Hope Solutions to provide services for the ERF grants in Antioch, San Pablo as well as in Richmond. The partnership also includes Housing Consortium of East Bay, which will be supporting the Antioch projects.
- Courtney Pal shared that she is part of a group of the Permanent Supportive Housing providers who for the past few years have been looking for ways to improve the permanent supportive housing system. Based on this need, they have formed the Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH). The main focus is looking at best practices and how to implement it across five different Bay area counties plus Los Angeles. Based on a presentation that H3 gave to NPH, they have developed a memo with best practices. A webinar with their findings will take place on September 18th at 11 am and it will be targeted to people working in the CoCs, with a section for feedback.

### 10) Pin It

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





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- The next COH meeting will be on September 4<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 1025 Escobar Street in Martinez.
- 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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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