Contra Costa Council on Homelessness Orientation 2025

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness provides a forum for communication and coordination about the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan to prevent and end homelessness. The Council provides advice and input on the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts in Contra Costa County. Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Council. Please reach out to the Council on Homelessness at CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org at least 72 hours before a meeting or deadline to request reasonable accommodation. For more information, please see Contra Costa County's Reasonable Accommodations page.

AGENDA

Date: Thursday, January 9, 1:00PM - 3:30 PM
1025 Escobar St. (Room 110A), Martinez, CA

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers	Detail
1:00 - 1:15	**Welcome & introductions**	• Jamie Schecter, *H3* • Michele Byrnes, *Homebase* • Mark Mora, *Homebase*	• *Welcome* • *Introduce H3 and Homebase* • *Agenda* • *Member introductions* • *Group norms* • *Icebreaker activity*
1:15 - 1:45	**Why are we doing this work?**	• Mark Mora, *Homebase*	• *Screen Homelessness Awareness Month video* • *Activity: sharing motivations for joining CoH* • *Think, pair, share*
1:40 - 2:00	**Contra Costa Homeless System of Care Overview**	• Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*	• *What is a CoC?* • *CoC basics: geographic area, key players, funding* • *How is Contra Costa responding to homelessness with housing and services?*
2:00 - 2:10	**Break**		
2:10 - 2:20	**CoH Commitment to Racial Equity**	• Jaime Jenett, *H3*	• *Review diversity statement* • *Who does the CoC serve and how reflective is CoH of the population we are serving?* • *Screen Homelessness & Racial Equity video*
2:20 - 2:35	**Council Member Expectations**	• Jamie Schecter, *H3*	• *Overview of roles and expectations* • *Activity* • *Overview of upcoming CoH trainings & support* • *Discussion around support needs* • *Peer Mentorship* • *Process for Requesting Accommodations*
2:35 - 2:50	**CoH Member Committee Participation**	• Mark Mora, *Homebase* • *CoH Members*	• *Overview of committees, including potential 2025 focus areas and time commitment* • *Discussion opportunity*
2:50 - 3:00	**Wrap-Up**	• Michele Byrnes, *Homebase*	• *Next steps & questions* • *Upcoming meetings* • *Closing*

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
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
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	Notice of Funding Availability
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 16-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

More information available at: https://www.cchealth.org/about-contra-costa-health/leadership/commissions-advisory-groups/council-on-homelessness

EQUITY DEFINITIONS

(adapted from C4 Innovations and approved by Council on Homelessness on 8/3/23)

Term	Definition
Individual Racism	A person's beliefs and actions that serve to perpetuate racial oppression. This can be conscious and unconscious. This may be externalized or internalized
Institutional Racism	Policies and practices at the organization (or "sector") level that perpetuate oppression. It involves unjust policies, practices, procedures, and outcomes that work better for white people than people of color, whether intentional or not.
Interpersonal Racism	The interactions between people - both within and across racial groups.
Microaggressions	Brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership.
Race	A social construct created in the 17th century by white Europeans to justify the enslavement of Africans and the spread of colonialism. Understanding of race as a concept has changed over time, but the outcomes of discrimination based on race remain entrenched in our systems.
Race Equity Lens	A way of viewing the world in an integrated and holistic manner, taking into account past and present racial injustices and seeking to address them through more equitable practices and structures.
Racial Bias	Implicit and/or explicit bias that reinforces discriminatory attitudes and behaviors when interacting with people or situations.
Racial Equity	The condition where one's racial identity does not predict their social, health, or economic outcomes. Racial equity is a process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. It is the intentional and continual practice of changing practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing the measurable change in the lives of people of color.
Racism	A system of institutional, systemic oppression, and practices of individuals and society that shape cultural beliefs and values that support racist policies and practices.
Structural Racism	How these effects interact and accumulate across institutions and across history. Structural racism highlights how racism operates as a system of power with multiple interconnected, reinforcing, and self-perpetuating components which result in racial inequities across all indicators for success.
Systemic Racism	infrastructure of rulings, ordinances or statutes adopted by a sovereign government or authoritative entity, whereas such ordinances and statutes entitles one racial group in a society certain rights and privileges, while denying other groups in that society these same rights and privileges because of long-established cultural prejudices, religious prejudices, fears, myths, and Xenophobia's held by the entitled group.
White Fragility	White fragility refers to feelings of discomfort a white person experiences when they witness or engage in discussions around racial inequality and injustice. Their engagement in conversations about racism may trigger a range of defensive actions, feelings, and behaviors, such as anger, fear, and silence. These reactive behaviors reinforce continued white dominant culture.

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