



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, June 11, 2026

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | Zoom:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/84112970168> |

Call in: 8882780254 | Meeting ID: 841 1297

0168

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

Present

Karanbir Bal, Jessica Cisneros, Karen Coleman, Christian Dean, Ajit Kaushal, Buffie Lafayette, Janelle Lafrades, Nikki Lopez, Desire Medlen, Tu'Liisa Miller, LaTonia Peoples-Stokes, Devlyn Sewell, Kanwar Singh, and Renee Zeimer

Absent

Patricia Campbell, Monisha Merchant, and Victor Tiglao

1. Call to Order and Welcome.

Called to Order at 6:11 pm by Chair Medlen; quorum established.

Staff present: Melissa Molina and Christina Castle-Barber.

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

No public present.

3. Introduction of CSB Director, Sarah Reich

Tabled to August as Director is on vacation.

This was tabled.

4. APPROVE the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2026.

[26-2550](#)

Attachments: [EOC Business Meeting minutes of 5-21-26 DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Lafrades, to approve the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 5-21-26. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Lopez

Second: Lafrades

Aye: Bal, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Miller, Peoples-Stokes, Sewell, Singh, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, Merchant, and Tiglao

Result: Passed

5. RECEIVE the fiscal reports for April for the 2025 and 2026 CSBG Grants. [26-2551](#)

Attachments: [2025 CSBG Budget with April 2026 Actuals](#)
[2026 CSBG Budget with April 2026 Actuals](#)

Castle-Barber gave the fiscal report in Ward's absence. 2025 has been fully spent. 2026 will show more charges as the contractor demands start rolling in.

This Discussion Item was received.

6. APPROVE the 2026-2028 EOC ByLaws. [26-2552](#)

Attachments: [Bylaws - DRAFT 6-6-26](#)

Zeimer noted typo in second sentence - remove "is" after EOC. Castle-Barber reviewed the ByLaws and noted that items removed by county counsel will be placed in a procedures manual.

A motion was made by Zeimer, seconded by Lafayette, to approve the EOC Bylaws as amended to correct the typo in the second sentence by removing the word "as." The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Zeimer

Second: Lafayette

Aye: Bal, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Miller, Peoples-Stokes, Sewell, Singh, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, Merchant, and Tiglao

Result: Passed

7. DISCUSS AB 827 Board Training Requirement. [26-2553](#)

Attachments: [COB Memo - SB 827 Upcoming Training Requirements](#)
[Attachment - County Counsel Guidance re SB 827 1-9-26 \(002\)](#)

Castle-Barber shared the new fiscal training that will be required of all board members. Molina will contact members as soon as the training is available and will track completion.

This Consent Item was received.

8. RECEIVE reports from 2026 CalCAPA Advocacy Day. [26-2554](#)

Attachments: [Turning Legislative Meetings into Strong Working Relationships](#)
[2026 State Policy Landscape](#)

Castle-Barber shared the handouts from David Knight's training that was very good. She recommends getting the CalCAPA platform early to use it for consideration as to what the EOC's platform will be.

Miller shared that she learned in her session that you need to be aware of the "pet project legislation" of our state legislators and start our visits with those as a lead-in; this gives the legislator more buy in to the rest of the conversation.

Kaushal spoke to the great day at the capitol with all the speakers and also said he is working with ELAC to rearrange the scheduled to make it more effective next year.

This Discussion Item was received.

9. Staff Report

Castle-Barber shared information about AB495 and the efforts to keep CSB children and families safe from immigration while at our centers, which are not public facilities. She also shared that the House Appropriations approved modest increases in funding for Head Start, LIHEAP, and CSBG.

This was received.

10. Chair Report

Chair Medlen shared that the Board of Supervisors event for Community Action Month was a success and shared the framed proclamation. She also shared that the libraries are doing great things this summer.

This was received.

11. EOC Member Reports

Vice Chair Lopez shared that she has a new representative due to redistricting: Josh Harder. The Antioch Rotary hosted him on May 29 as their speaker.

Cisneros shared that Assemblywoman Farias is conducting a backpack giveaway, will be attending multiple 4th of July parades in her district, and is holding a Meet 'n Greet in Brentwood on 6/20/26. Sewell requested information regarding CalKids.

12. Next Steps and Meeting Evaluation.

Castle-Barber to send out summer reading information at county libraries.

Molina to email CalKids information to Sewell.

Castle-Barber to send any advocacy efforts out after Measure B failed.

Castle-Barber to include the Voting Rights Act in the Board Training in August.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 12, 2026.

12. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM.

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Concord, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Christina Castle-Barber