



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Public Protection Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor Candace Andersen, Vice Chair

<https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/85255422055>

Call in: 888 278 0254 | Conference code: 985922

Monday, May 18, 2026

**1:30 PM 309 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526 | 2255
Contra Costa Blvd. Suite 202, Pleasant Hill, CA
94523**

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The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.

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

1. Introductions

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Present: District II Supervisor Candace Andersen and District IV Supervisor Ken Carlson

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

No one requested to speak during public comment.

3. CONSIDER accepting the Record of Action for the April 20, 2026 meeting of the Public Protection Committee (PPC). (Enid Mendoza, Staff to PPC) [26-2192](#)

Attachments: [Draft PPC ROA 3-16-26](#)

Approved as presented.

Aye: Vice Chair Candace Andersen and Chair Ken Carlson

Result: Passed

4. PRESENTATION on the GEMMA Project (Cynthia Chase, LCSW, GEMMA Project Executive Director) [26-2193](#)

Attachments: [GEMMA Project Presentation](#)

Cynthia Chase, Executive Director of the GEMMA Project, presented an overview of the

project, including its origins and statistics related to incarcerated women in the community. GEMMA Project was founded by justice-involved women. Ms. Chase described the range of services provided by GEMMA, which support women from pre-trial through in-custody, reentry support, continuing care, and prison & parole. Ms. Chase discussed the unique challenges women clients face and emphasized continuing support to address issues specific to women. Challenges due to limited classroom space, which only allows up to 8 participants, was discussed. The opening of the West County Reentry, Treatment, and Housing Facility in Richmond may provide classroom space for up to 16 participants. Ms. Chase mentioned successful partnerships with the Public Defender's Office and Probation Department, and a growing relationship with the Employment and Human Services Department Children and Family Services Bureau. Efforts to partner with the Family Justice Centers, was also discussed and the Committee encouraged Ms. Chase to continue reaching out. The County contract and the potential need to extend the service delivery period was discussed with both members supporting a term extension if needed to allow the GEMMA project to continue services with available and unspent funding on its existing contract.

5. CONSIDER accepting report on the programmatic outcomes and current outlook of the County's Holistic Intervention Partnership. (Ellen McDonnell, Public Defender) [26-2194](#)

Attachments: [Public Defender HIP Report](#)
[Public Defender PPC HIP Presentation](#)

Ellen McDonnell, Chief Public Defender, delivered a presentation on the County's Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP) and the program's achievements and current outlook. Ellen shared data, including the number of clients served, issues and challenges of those receiving support, client success stories, and the benefits from housing stabilization placements and other supportive measures due to the funding flexibility. Ellen also addressed the ongoing funding challenges. While state funding remains the primary source, it has declined, despite the continuing rise in demand for services. Further, Ellen presented statistics demonstrating HIP's effectiveness in reducing future system involvement, as well as its positive impact on community stability.

The Committee inquired about charging trends, number of repeat offenders, and existing partnerships with other County departments. Ms. McDonnell clarified that the majority of HIP client charges are misdemeanors (ex. possession of drugs or DUI), participation is primarily focused on Proposition 47 priority areas, veterans are supported by court run Veterans Treatment and Veterans Diversion programs and resources, and the challenges the reduced funding is having on community partners, such as Pueblo del Sol and the other agencies that relied on HIP for housing funding supports.

The Committee accepted the report and directed the department to present it to the full Board of Supervisors.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 15, 2026.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

General Information

This meeting provides reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend a the 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 1025 Escobar St., 4th Floor, Martinez, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible on line at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

Persons who wish to address the Committee during public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee that are not on the agenda, or who wish to comment with respect to an item on the agenda, may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should offer comments when invited by the Committee Chair. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing *9 on their phones.

Public comments generally will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. In the interest of facilitating the business of the Board Committee, the total amount of time that a member of the public may use in addressing the Board Committee on all agenda items is 10 minutes. Your patience is appreciated.

Public comments may also be submitted to Committee staff before the meeting by email or by voicemail. Comments submitted by email or voicemail will be included in the record of the meeting but will not be read or played aloud during the meeting.

For Additional Information Contact:

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