# BUILT BY US: LAUNCHING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS & RESOURCE HUB

Dr. Kerby Lynch · Dr. Angela Irvine · Aisha Canfield, MPP · Ryan Drake-Lee, MBA Randi Dean, MPA · Dr. Tonia Lediju April 15, 2025



## **WELCOME & FRAMING**

• Today we are not just presenting a report—we're activating a model codesigned by the community to address decades of systemic harm. This is a roadmap grounded in Black wisdom, collective care, and shared responsibility.

# **DEDICATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

• We dedicate this work to Black Contra Costa residents who have endured systemic violence, demanded better, and are building liberation—together.

# INSPIRED BY ORESJ'S PRINCIPLES

- We center:
  - Community-led solutions
  - Healing over punishment
  - Culturally grounded services
  - Accountability and equity at every level
- This initiative reflects ORESJ's legacy of radical listening, innovation, and repair.

# BACKGROUND & COMMUNITY MANDATE

- BOS authorized ORESJ in 2023 to study a wellness model for Black residents after community demand for healing resources emerge.
- 4,000+ surveys, 16+ listening sessions, and 12 stakeholder interviews
- 13-member Steering Committee led the process
- District-level analysis and priority setting
- Disparities are deepest in Districts I (Richmond) and 3 (Antioch)—over
   60% of Black residents live here.
- This is a solution rooted in Black community wisdom, and designed to build what hasn't existed: coordinated, trusted, culturally grounded care.

# Race Disparity in Deaths, 2021-2023

Race Disparity in Deaths, 2021-2023		<b>Rate Ratio</b>
1 Homicide	(Black:White)	13.7
2 Drug overdose	(Black:Asian)	8.9
3 Ischemic heart disease	(NHPI:Hisp)	4.2
4 Prostate cancer	(Black:Asian)	3.6
5 COPD	(Black:Asian)	3.4
6 Kidney diseases	(Black:White)	3.1
7 Diabetes mellitus	(Black:White)	2.9
8 Sepsis	(Black:Hisp)	2.7
9 Road injury	(Black:White)	2.7
10 COVID-19	(Black:White)	2.6

## WHAT WE HEARD

- Services feel untrustworthy or unsafe
- Systems are hard to navigate or avoidant
- Black-led spaces are rare or underfunded
- Wellness = health, housing, income, and belonging
  - "We need preventative care, not just the ER when it's too late."
  - "We don't need more services—we need coordination and trust."

WHAT CHALLENGES OR BARRIERS DO YOU FACE IN ACCESSING WELLNESS SERVICES WHERE YOU LIVE?						
	Total %	Dist 1 %	Dist 2 %	Dist 3%	Dist 4%	Dist 5 %
High cost of services	41%	43%	43%	38%	42%	39%
The priority groups more likely to mention this barrier to access are: TAY, child bearing women, justice involved, the unhoused, those with mental health challenges, families with someone who has an iep, families who has someone who has been disciplined.						
Time constraints due to responsibilities (e.g. work, caregiving)	42%	42%	43%	42%	39%	42%
The priority groups more likely to mention this barrier to access are: TAY, elderly, those with mental health challenges, families with someone who has an iep						
Limited availability of services in my area  The priority groups more likely to mention this barrier to access are: justice involved, unhoused, and those with mental health challenges	38%	39%	36%	39%	35%	37%
Lack of reliable transportation	30%	27%	30%	30%	30%	33%
The priority groups more likely to mention this barrier to access are: TAY, the elderly, justice involved, those with mental health challenges, families with someone who has an iep, families who has someone who has been disciplined in school	30%	27%	30%	30%	30%	53%
I have to travel long distances	23%	20%	25%	25%	25%	22%
The priority groups more likely to mention this barrier are: men, those with mental health challenges, families with someone who has an IEP						

#### WHY WE NEED THE HUB

- A public space for Black wellness
- Not a duplicate—this coordinates what's missing
- Black residents reported harm from existing systems: anti-Black environments, poor service coordination, distrust.
- Core gaps:
  - Culturally rooted mental health services
  - Housing navigation & rental aid
  - Economic stability & workforce access
  - Spaces for healing & belonging
- These aren't "extra" services—they're survival tools.

### THE AAHWRH MODEL

#### Three Core Service Areas:

- 1. Holistic Health & Healing (mental health, trauma care, maternal support)
- 2. Housing & Economic Stability (navigation, rental aid, workforce reentry)
- 3. Cultural & Community Wellness (healing circles, arts, youth/elder care)

#### Three-Phase Rollout:

- **Phase I:** Mobile response teams (health, housing, workforce) + site activations
- **Phase 2:** Satellite centers in priority districts
- **Phase 3:** Permanent facility in East County (e.g., 1650 Cavallo Rd, Antioch)



#### CONTRA COSTA AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS RESOURCES PHASED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

#### PHASE 1

County-led, Rapid Response

#### PHASE 2

**CBOs Fill Service Gaps** 

#### PHASE 3

Full Co-Location, Medical + Cultural Healing

**Mobile Services Fleet with Fixed Management Office** 





























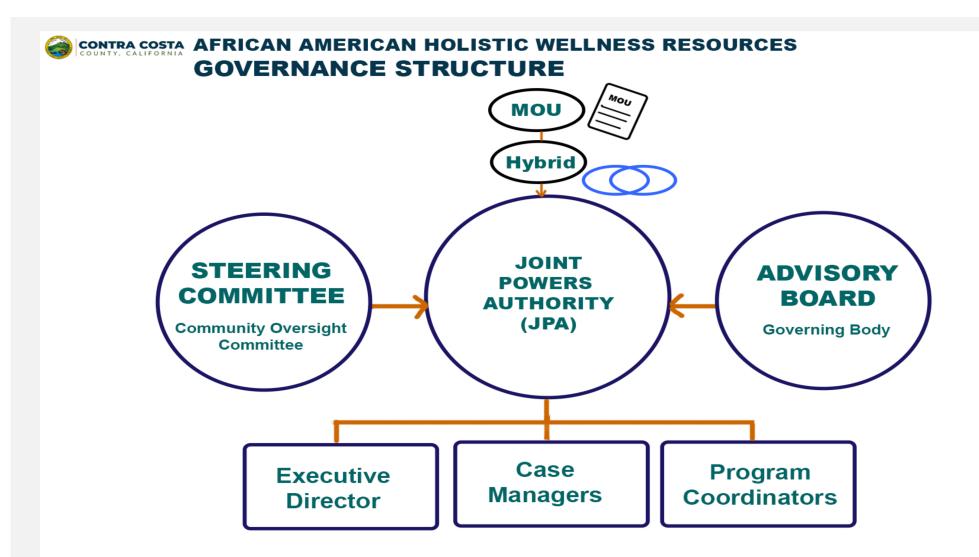


**IMPLEMENTATION OF AAHWR** HUB

- FUNDING: Contra Costa County
- MENU OF SERVICES: Elders, Unhoused, General Community
- SERVICE PROVIDER MODEL: Dept. of Public Health Resources
- ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$2.87 mill

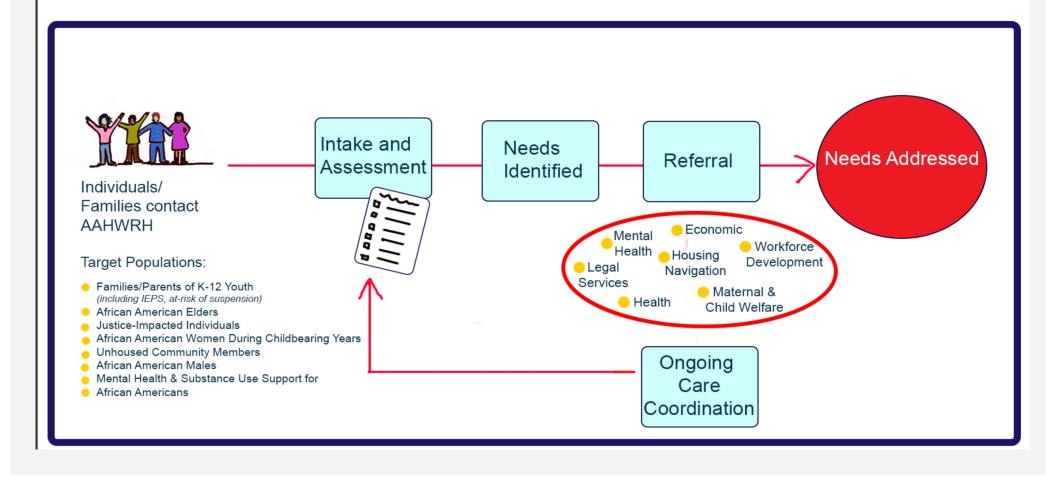
- FUNDING: Contra Costa County budget allocations
- MENU OF SERVICES: Youth & Adolescents, General Community, Holistic & Culturally Competent Rooted Wellness
- SERVICE PROVIDER MODEL: CBOs fill gaps
- ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$2.74 mill

- FUNDING: Contra Costa County, Medical insurance, fees paid by CBOs, private donors & institutions
- MENU OF SERVICES: For all target populations
- SERVICE PROVIDER MODEL: Include more ceritified medical professionals to deliver physical & mental health care
- ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$3.60 mill





#### CONTRA COSTA AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS RESOURCES **HUB SERVICE FLOWCHART**



# GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

#### **Action Item I:** ✓ **Transition Steering** → **Oversight Committee**

- 13-member, district-representative, Black-led.
- Oversees implementation, hiring, equity tracking.
- Reports quarterly to ORESJ.

### Action Item 2: ✓ Recruit an Executive Director within 90 Days

- Will lead:
  - Onboarding service providers
  - Partner alignment
  - Compliance, staffing, and communications

# GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

#### Action Item 3: ✓ Designate ORESJ as Interim Fiscal Holder of \$7.5M

- Until a JPA or hybrid structure is formed
- Can contract immediately for:
  - Mobile wellness teams
  - Subregional coordination
  - Evaluation & technical assistance

#### Action Item 4: ✓ Explore Jurisdictional Partnerships

- Prioritize District 3 and 5 for immediate deployment
- City of Antioch identified as potential inaugural partner

# IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Month	Action Item	Lead		
1	Approve this plan; launch Oversight Committee	BOS + ORESJ		
1–2	Begin ED hiring	ORESJ + Oversight		
2–3	Form partnerships (e.g., Antioch)	ORESJ + Counsel		
3–6	Deploy mobile services	ED + Providers		
4–6	Convene subregional planning groups	ORESJ		
6+	Evaluate and report back	ED + Evaluation Partner		

### LONG-TERM VISION

#### • Year I:

- Transition Steering Committee to Oversight Body
- Sign MOU with Partners
- Launch mobile services and RFP process

#### Staffing:

• Executive Director, Evaluation Coordinator, Cultural Program Manager, etc.

#### Governance Structure:

- Start with ORESJ + Oversight
- Explore JPA or hybrid model based on trust, confirmed investments and outcomes

#### Sustainability:

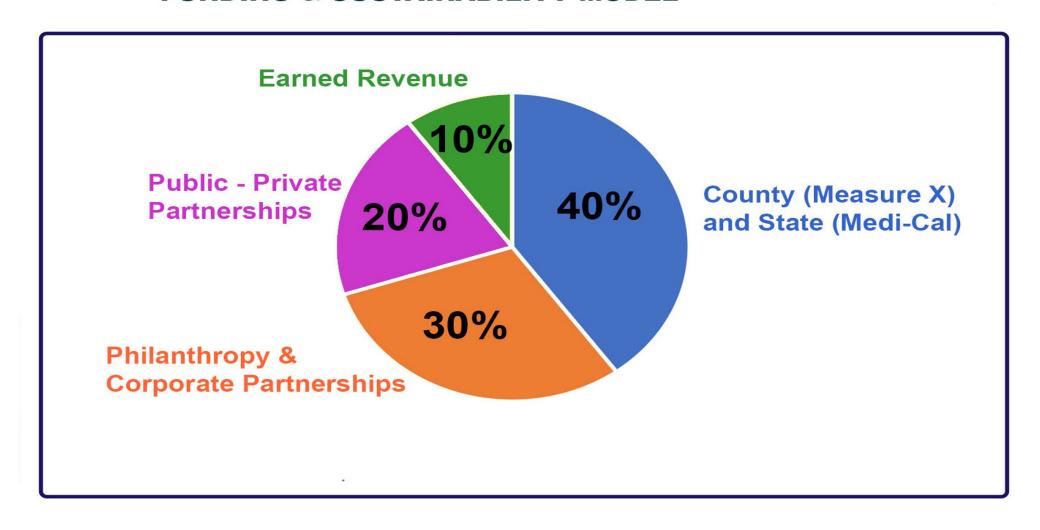
- Leverage county funds + philanthropy + anchor institutions
- o Build workforce pipelines (e.g. UCSF, 4CD) and long-term infrastructure

#### Accountability:

- Track progress through community-led evaluation
- Public dashboards and reporting

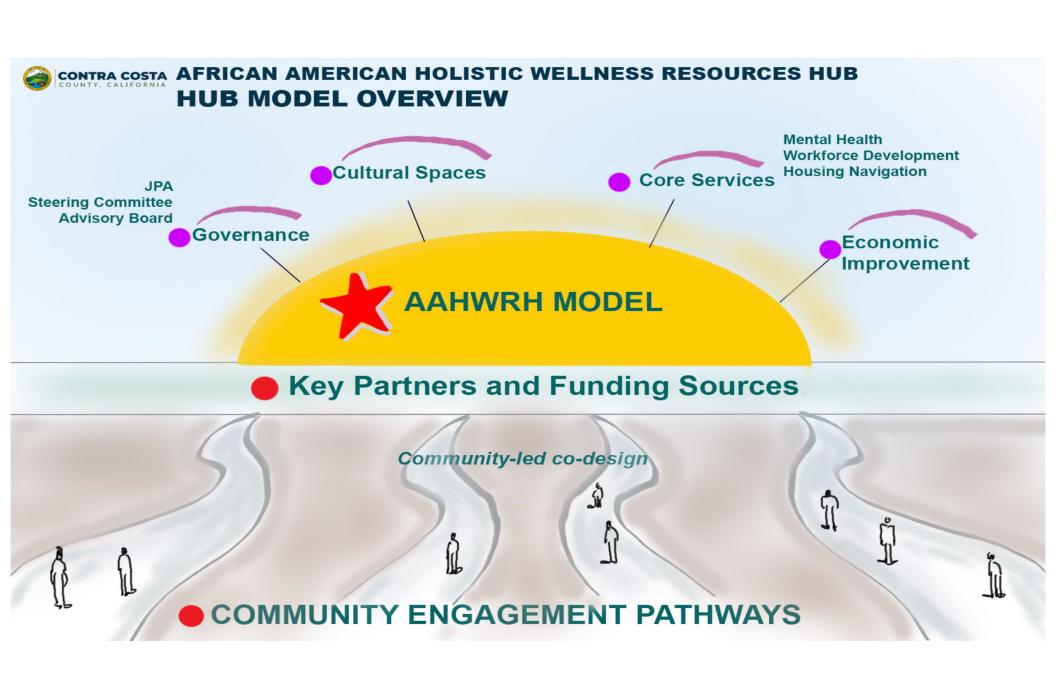


#### CONTRA COSTA AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS RESOURCES **FUNDING & SUSTAINABILITY MODEL**



# **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED**

- Approve governance transition
- Authorize ED hiring within 90 days
- Allocate \$7.5M to ORESJ as fiscal lead
- Authorize jurisdictional partnerships and mobile activation
- Start service deployment through contracts



# **CLOSING**

• We believe Black wellness matters. We believe community-led design can work. And we believe now is the time.

#### View the live map here: tinyurl.com/ROMOCERESHUBMAP

#### Contra Costa Demographic & Health Locations

