



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026, 1 – 3 p.m.

Recording link: Available by email request to CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (13): Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, Ralph Payton, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl.
- Remote (3): LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green.
- Absent (3): Dani Jimenez, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp.

Staff Attendance: Jaime Jenett, H3; Jamie Schecter, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase; Tania Morales, Homebase.

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Jill Ray, BOS District 2 office; Jennifer Ellis, Hope Solutions.
- Remote: Myisha Steward, Antioch; Kimberly Cox, Beat the Streets, Inc.; Lynna Magnuson, Caminar; Lorena Hernandez, CCEB; Nikki Brighthouse, CCEB; Catherine Casimere, City of Richmond; Julie Wegner, Community Member; Rachel Rosekind, Community Member; Beau Roberts, Contra Costa County; Wendalyn Fabian, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors; Ashley Jackson, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Gina Bills, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Terri Brown-Garett, Contra Costa Family Justice Center; Koland Mattie, CHDC; LeAnn Matthews, Council member; Mia Fairbanks, Council member; Nicole Green, Council member; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Jai De Lotto, Department of Veterans Affairs; Dean Webber, East Bay Men's Recovery Center; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Carina Rodriguez-Pena, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Jacqueline Franco, H3; Janel Fletcher, H3; Kayla Buscemi, H3; Maria Dominguez, H3; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Khayla DiGiorgio, Hope Solutions; Amanda Buck, Northern California Family Center; June Cummings, RCD Housing; Alicia Alferez, SHELTER, Inc.; Cynthia Chavez, SHELTER, Inc.; Rebecca Gomez-Pellecer, SHELTER, Inc.; Daniel Barth, SoS Richmond; Lenita Wheeler, Winter Nights.



AGENDA ITEM

1) Call to Order

A. Chair starts the meeting:

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Nicole Green called the meeting to order.

2) Introductions

A. Meeting Norms:

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Nicole Green introduced the Brown Act attendance requirements and provided an overview of the hybrid meeting norms and guidelines to help ensure that meetings are conducted in a safe and respectful environment that encourages participation and inclusivity.

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

Speaker: 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?

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Nicole Green conducted the poll activity. 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:	0 (0%)
I’ve attended some meetings:	5 (25%)
I’ve attended a lot of meetings:	15 (75%)
I prefer not to answer:	0 (0%)

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

Yes, currently	1 (5%)
Yes, within the past 7 years	1 (5%)
Yes, more than 7 years ago	5 (23%)
No	15 (68%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)



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

African American/Black	8 (22%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3 (8%)
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	3 (8%)
Hispanic/Latinx	6 (17%)
White	12 (33%)
Multi-racial	4 (11%)
I describe myself in another way	0 (0%)
I prefer not to answer	0 (0%)

3) Public Comments

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)

A. APPROVE minutes from the May 7, 2026 Council meeting

B. APPROVE staff report for the June 4, 2026 Council meeting

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

Members made a motion to approve the items in the consent calendar as listed above.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the consent calendar items as listed.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell.
 - Seconded by: Heather Worobey.
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Sherina Criswell, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: Tony Ucciferri.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
 - ABSENT: Dani Jimenez, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp.



5) Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update

A. CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase* and Jamie Schecter, *H3*

The FY 2026 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) was released on June 1, 2026, with a due date to submit the consolidated community application on August 26, 2026. Tier 1, which is typically designated for non-competitive funding, is set at 60% of Annual Renewal Demand (ARD), a higher amount than the rescinded FY 2025 CoC NOFO which attempted to lower it to 30% but lower than previous years (2024 was over 90%). Additionally, the 2026 CoC NOFO deprioritizes funding for permanent housing projects and prioritizes new Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects. The Funding Committee will have several meetings in the next several weeks to make revisions to the competition policies and scoring tools. The Grant Inventory Worksheet, which contains the funding amount per project, is expected to be released by HUD soon. As part of the internal process, Homebase will share a summary analysis of the 2026 NOFO soon as well as a summary analysis or renewal projects, a public solicitation letter announcement, and the timeline with key dates. The Homebase team may be reached at contracosta@homebaseccc.org for questions or support.

6) Committee Report Outs

A. Funding Committee Update – (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE revisions to the 2026 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Application Process as recommended by the Funding Committee

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase*

The Funding Committee met on May 29, 2026, to recommend revisions to the CoC NOFO competition policies. Some of the proposed revisions are to prioritize renewal permanent housing projects that apply for Transition Grant to convert their project type over new projects, limiting appeals for renewal projects, revising the policy for late application submissions, and granting authority to the Funding Committee to approve revisions to the competition documents given certain conditions. The full list of the revisions was shown.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the revisions to the Application Process for the FY 2026 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity competition as recommended by the Funding Committee.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri.



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- Seconded by: Gabriel Lemus.
- AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl.
- NOES: None.
- ABSTAINS: None.
- UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
- ABSENT: Dani Jimenez, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp.

(ACTION ITEM) APPROVE Council on Homelessness members to serve on 2026 CoC NOFO Review and Rank Panel

Presenter: Mark Mora, *Homebase*

The CoC is seeking non-conflicted members from the Council on Homelessness Committee to serve in the Review and Rank Panel for this year's NOFO competition. The panelists will use the approved scoring tools for both the Renewal and New Housing projects. Information about eligibility, role, timeline, and benefits were shown.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve proposed Council on Homelessness members to serve on 2026 CoC NOFO Review and Rank Panel. The following COH Council members volunteered to be part of the panel: Anastasia Lockwood, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Nicole Green, Shawn Ray, Sherina Criswell, Wayne Earl.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Sherina Criswell.
 - Seconded by: Ralph Payton.
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
 - ABSENT: Dani Jimenez, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp.

B. Nominating Committee Update – (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE Council on Homelessness members to serve on Ad Hoc Nominating Panel

Presenter: Jamie Jenett, *H3*



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Belinda Jackson-Thomas, who holds the Employment and Human Services (EASH) representation seat, is stepping down. H3 is now soliciting applications through June 12, 2026 for new candidates to replace Belinda. The Nominating panel will review all applications and use the current rubric. The proposed new candidate's name will be presented at the COH meeting on July 9th, 2026, for motion and approval. The COH members who conform the panel are Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, and Sherina Criswell. The final recommendation will be sent to the Family and Human Services Department after this approval.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the proposed Council on Homelessness members to serve on an Ad Hoc Nominating Panel.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record:
 - Motion made by: Tony Ucciferri.
 - Seconded by: Ralph Payton.
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain, Anastasia Lockwood, Courtney Pal, Donnie Diego, Gabriel Lemus, Heather Worobey, Jared Murti, Juno Hedrick, LeAnn Matthews, Mia Fairbanks, Nicole Green, Ralph Payton, Sherina Criswell, Tony Ucciferri, Wayne Earl.
 - NOES: None.
 - ABSTAINS: None.
 - UNABLE TO VOTE: None.
 - ABSENT: Dani Jimenez, Shawn Ray, Verneda Clapp.

C. Youth Action Board (YAB) Update

Presenter: Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Representative* and Anastasia Lockwood, *Youth Representative*

Juno Hedrick shared the different meetings that YAB members accomplished in the month of May, which included bimonthly hybrid meetings with H3 and RYSE, subcommittee meetings, Oversight Committee, Homeless Workforce Integration Network, and peer support meetings. The activities for the month of May included Richmond Tiny House Village celebration, a webinar on Ending Youth Homelessness, an SOS screening and panel called The Right to Exist, Measure B Community Forum, and the National YAB Connection Space. The activities for the future months include reconvening the Youth & Young Adult Strategic Planning, work on social media, apply for HUDs YHDP NOFO, youth survey planning for Fall 2026, among others. In addition, Juno shared an invite about the Youth & Young Adults (YYA) Homelessness Community Collaborative program, a monthly meeting



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for young people and partners to work together to improve outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness. Activities from participants include reviewing plans for the YYA Strategic Plan, explore ways to advance action and improve services, etc. Anyone interested in connecting with YAB can send an email at ContraCostaYAB@cchealth.org or call at (925) 500-3237.

7) Old Business

A. Sector Report Outs from Council Members

Speaker: All members

- None.

B. Funding Updates

Speaker: Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, H3

A proposed federal rule change will affect the HUD's Equal Access Rule. The current rule requires people to be served according to their gender identity and prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The proposed changes would remove references to gender, gender identity, and actual or perceived sexual orientation throughout HUD programs, require placement in emergency shelters with shared sleeping or bathing facilities based on an individual's biological sex, allow providers to ask for "reasonable assurances or evidence" to establish a person's sex; and potentially tie compliance with these standards to eligibility for federal funding. The general public can review the proposed rule and submit public comments by June 29, 2026 at the [Federal's Regulations website](#).

H3 gave information about several upcoming federal funding opportunities, including grants for youth homelessness NOFO, 2026 Continuum of Care, Continuum of Care Builds, Family Reunification Program, among others. The full list of grant opportunities was listed. Providers were encouraged to prepare for multiple grant applications over the summer.

Per California's Governor proposed reduced state budget to \$500 million—a 50% reduction from previous years—there has been uncertainty around funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)-7 Program. The State Senate is recommending restoring the full amount, and the final budget decision is still pending. More information about HHAP may be found at The California Department of Housing and Community Development's [website](#).

The Family and Human Services Committee approved the funding for the Consolidated Housing and Homelessness Program on May 11, 2026, and it will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval on June 9, 2026 for final contracting.



8) New Business

A. Community Health Assessment Survey

Presenter: Dr. Sefanit Mekuria, *Director of Public Health, STI Controller, Deputy Health Officer*

Contra Costa Health is conducting a new Community Health Assessment to identify community needs and strengths, inform future health improvement and strategic plans, build trust, prioritize resources, and meet state requirements. A steering committee made up of community partners—Contra Costa Together, Contra Costa Regional Foundation, Contra Costa Health Equity Team, Contra Costa Business Intelligence Team, IP3, Community Initiatives—was created to guide the process and ensure community voices shape the assessment, with additional outreach planned to include underrepresented groups. The assessment uses the Vital Conditions framework, which looks beyond traditional health measures to include factors such as housing, transportation, education, meaningful work, environmental health, basic needs for health and safety, and civic belonging to better understand community well-being. The project is combining existing secondary data with newly collected (primary) data through a multilingual survey (available in 16 languages) and community listening sessions, focusing especially on communities that are often underrepresented. The public survey has been extended through July 31, 2026, to increase participation. The preliminary findings will be published in September and October. The findings will help develop the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which is expected to begin in November 2026. Community organizations are encouraged to share the survey, flyers, QR codes, and social media materials to maximize responses. Staff confirmed that youth ages 12 and older are eligible to complete the survey and noted they are monitoring participation demographics to improve representation. General info and link to the surveys may be found at [Contra Costa Health's website](#).

B. Participant Satisfaction Survey Results

Speaker: Yessenia Aguilar, *H3*

The Participant Satisfaction survey is an annual survey distributed across seven program models within the CoC that are contracted and funded by the county. The program model includes Prevention, Rapid Exit, CORE, CARE Center, Shelter/Transitional Living Programs, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing. A total of 1,186 surveys were completed by participants, a significant increase from previous years. Informational slides about where participants are accessing surveys, length of time accessing services, how they heard about the services, and areas of improvements were presented. The overall satisfaction rate was positive where 96% of participants answered that they would recommend services to others. Some of the strategies that H3 will implement to address feedback are to develop Frequently Asked Questions for staff and clients to have easy access to information, provide step by step information on how to access services, provide ongoing staff training on community resources, provide refresher trainings on housing,



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mental health and supportive services, and create a resource sharing collaboration space for staff to ask questions and give updates.

9) Council Membership

A. Recognition of Outgoing Council Member Belinda Jackson-Thomas

Speaker: Nicole Green, Chair and Reentry Services Representative

H3 and COH members took a moment to thank Belinda for her hard work and contribution as a Council member over the years. Belinda shared her background and accomplishments. Other members of the team joined to thank her for her dedication to this work.

10) General Announcements

A. General Announcements:

Speaker: All

- Jamie Schecter shared that HUD released its Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress on May 28, 2026. For the first time since 2016, the country saw a 3% decrease in homelessness in 2025. Similarly, Contra costa County also saw a 20% decrease in homelessness.

11) Pin It

Speaker: Jaime Jenett, H3

- The next COH meeting will be on July 9, from 1 – 3 p.m.
- 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
SSI	Supplemental Security Income



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Acronym	Definition
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