

Leadership Board

Minutes

December 19th, 2024

2:00pm – 4:30pm

Meetings are public. Alameda County residents with lived experience of homelessness are encouraged to attend. Public Comment will be taken at the beginning of each meeting and is limited to 2 minutes per person. Public Comment is also accepted in advance via email to: alameda@homebaseccc.org.

Attendance

Adrienne Chambers	Alameda County Probation	(absent)
Annie Bailey	City of Fremont, Co-Chair Youth Committee	Present
Pamela Powell (sub for Andrea Ford)	Alameda County Social Services Agency	Present
Caroline Topeé	Community Member	Present
C'Mone Falls	City of Oakland, Co-Chair LB	Present
Darin Lounds	Housing Consortium of the East Bay	Present
Elsie Lee	Sistas with Voices	(absent)
Frank Rogers	Community Member	(absent)
Isamar Ochoa Dominguez	Community Member	Present
Jennifer Lucky	Alameda County Housing and Homelessness Services, Co-Chair SCF Committee	Present
John Janosko	Wood Street Commons	(absent)
Jonathan Russell	Alameda County Housing and Homelessness Services	Present
Josh Thurman	City of Livermore	Present
Kalani Smith	LifeLong Medical	(absent)
Kate Hart	SAVE, Co-Chair OAC Committee	Present
Laurie Flores	City of Fremont	Present
Liz Varela	Building Futures	Present
Michelle Starratt	Alameda County HCD	Present
Moe Wright	Community Member, Co-Chair LB	Present
Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	Community Member	(absent)
Nic Ming	Community Member, Co-Chair System Impact Committee	Present
Paul Berry	Community Member, YAB member	(absent)

OAKLAND, BERKELEY / ALAMEDA COUNTY CoC

Peter Radu	City of Berkeley	Present
Ray Corona	Co-Chair SCF Committee	Present
Suzanne Warner	Alameda County Housing and Homelessness Services	(absent)
Tunisia Owens	Family Violence Law Center, Co-Chair Racial Equity Committee	Present
Vivian Wan	Abode	Present
Brenda Wadsworth	Community Member	(absent)
Deidre Wan	Community Member	(absent)
Doug Biggs	Alameda Point Collaborative	Present
Logan McDonnell	BACS, Co-Chair HSHP	(absent)
Paulette Franklin	Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services	(absent)
Sharon Cornu	St. Mary's Center	Present
Shatae Jones	Alameda Alliance for Health	(absent)

Public

Amy Cole-Bloom	City of Hayward, OAC Co-Chair
Amy Lara	City of Oakland
Christoverre Kohler	Community Member
Kristin Kane	Kaiser Permanente Health
Lucy Kasdin	Alameda County
Matt Simmonds	Simtech
Riley Wilkerson	Alameda County Health Housing & Homelessness

Staff

Morgan Bernados	Homebase
Jose Lucio	Homebase
Kim Natarajan	Homebase
Matthieu Kaman	Homebase
Lyn Nesbitt	Homebase

Helpful links:

- **Google Drive folder** for the Leadership Board:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tnbDx2jDcGMtVhXtqdHXgJcu8dfnrLOg?usp=sharing>
- **Website page** (on Everyone Home website) for the Leadership Board:
<https://everyonehome.org/about/leadership-board/>
- **Acronyms and Glossary**: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/118hFMAU2IE-FqYmK8TZ9Hp40vmS1zRck9EBEbPIbwy8/edit?usp=drive_link

Committee Purpose

The Leadership Board provides overall leadership for our collective impact initiative and serves as the compass for the homelessness response system in Alameda County. It sets the vision, strategic direction and collective goals for the entire homelessness response system and ensures accountability from all subcommittees and workgroups. The Leadership Board ensures that racial equity is at the center of our work to end homelessness and that people with lived experience are represented in decision-making roles throughout the system. The Leadership Board also holds the formal designation as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board, as required by HUD. Learn more about the purpose of the Leadership Board [here](#).

Leadership Board Shared Agreements:

- Have sensitivity and respect for each other's experiences.
- Agree to show up and engage. When meeting virtually, this includes having the camera on when possible and safe, while recognizing there are many valid reasons not to have cameras on.
- When making decisions, prioritize the best interests of the homelessness response system and people experiencing homelessness above the interests of the individual board member/organization.
- Commit to racial equity and justice in decision-making. Participate in training and create space and time for this practice.
- Function as peers instead of a hierarchy of persons with lived experience and others.
- Be constructive, not obstructive; try to offer solutions along with barriers.
- One voice at a time, no interruptions.
- Give people the chance to speak once before you speak twice.
- Share and review the materials in the packet in advance of meetings.
- Prioritize action items near top of agenda to help with time management in meetings.

- Give people the opportunity to process, ask questions, and understand before voting.
 - If we stray from these agreements, we agree to pause, breathe, and reset.
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Agenda

<p>1) Welcome / Introductions (Moe Wright)</p>
<p>2) Leadership Board Public Comment (Moe Wright)</p> <p>a) No public comment.</p>
<p>3) Approval of Minutes, November 21st, 2024 (Moe Wright)</p> <p>a) Minutes from November 21st with previously received revisions from Christoverre Kohler approved.</p>
<p>4) Homeless System Updates (All)</p> <p>a) Kim Natarajan (Homebase): Alameda County Youth Advisory Board Applications Open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) The YAB currently has openings and is looking for youth who:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Are within the age range of 16 to 26 years old.(2) Have lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity.(3) Currently lives in Alameda County or has experienced homelessness and/or housing insecurity while living in Alameda County.ii) The YAB encourages applications from:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Migrant/Immigrant youth, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and people from other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups.(2) Youth who can commit to attending meetings, outside of work and/or school, and are willing to work on a team to accomplish shared goals.(3) Youth who are passionate about youth improving the experience of youth accessing resources and support.iii) Application Link: https://forms.gle/p955NYTc2vz3M3Jw5iv) Application Deadline: January 3, 2025 at 5pm PST <p>b) Jonathan Russell (Alameda County Health, Housing + Homelessness): We've been waiting for Measure W Funds; it passed in 2020 and has been in court ever since. Measure W is a general revenue measure with some dedicated homelessness funding. Money is still in litigation, but some reserves might get freed up! H+H gave a presentation on using the funds for interim housing and encampment resolutions, as well as to kick off the County's Prevention Framework, develop a flex pool, and shore up the shelter system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Moe: What's the timeline?

- ii) Jonathan: It's in the appellate court that will hear oral arguments by January, so hopefully by mid-2025, but at least the recent developments have allowed for more community planning.
- c) Vivian Wan (Abode): On Tuesday December 17th the City of Fremont passed an ordinance to sweep encampments (defined as 1 or more people) on public and private property. Passed 4-2, had lots of community members speaking against it. Folks can be moved within 24 hours at the complete discretion of the police, can also be fined or issued misdemeanors. The ordinance was put on the agenda on Friday and no community process or advance notice. It'll go back in February for final approval.
 - i) Peter Radu (City of Berkeley): It's one thing to pass an ordinance and another to enforce it. There are processes in place and local ordinance cannot override case law when it comes to belongings. Invited Laurie from City of Fremont to share more.
 - ii) Laurie Flores (City of Fremont): It was outlined in the staff report as well as in the council meeting that we do not have the resources to carry out the ordinance. Not enough shelter or maintenance; the added regulation does not create more resources to implement. Their team will continue to carry out encampment response based on health and safety.
 - iii) Christoverre Kohler (Community Member): How did they define camping? Shared some experiences from Berkeley and that police used to be able to write tickets. Enforcement doesn't require a whole sweep crew; it can be just single officers writing tickets.
 - iv) Laurie: Definition is in the ordinance, will put in the chat.
https://fremontcityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=1987&MediaPosition=&ID=5308&CssClass=
 - v) Additional clarifying timeline from Laurie: Fremont City Council approved a first reading of an ordinance that will prohibit camping on public property. The second reading of the ordinance will come back to Council in February to be considered for passage of the ordinance. Ordinances become effective 30 days after full passage.
- d) Jonathan: Alameda County Health, Housing + Homelessness is hiring for a Senior Director of Operations role! https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tyler-clark-269a781b8_healthcare-systems-integration-administrator-activity-7275215816101388288-KT6F?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

5) Leadership Board Updates (Moe Wright)

- a) C'Mone Falls (Co-Chair) wanted to remind everyone that Moe and C'Mone (as Leadership Board Co-Chairs) have monthly meetings with Homebase and also monthly meetings with H+H and the Racial Equity Committee to flesh out agenda and foster collaboration with the County as the Collaborative Applicant.

6) Confirm the list of volunteers for the Home Together Refresh Workgroups (C'Mone Falls)

- a) The County has finished recruiting for members of the Home Together Refresh Workgroups. These Workgroups will lead the discussions to create an updated 2025-2030 Home Together Plan, a collaborative plan for homelessness strategy. The plan is crafted and utilized by multiple partners throughout Alameda County, including EveryOne Home. The County has asked the Leadership Board to provide input on the workgroup slates and vote on the final list of volunteers.

Action I:

- i. Moe Wright motioned to adopt the list of names for the Home Together Workgroups as presented at today's (December 19th) meeting.
Seconded by: Darin Lounds
- ii. *Discussion:*
 - a. Vivian: if they are on the list in the workgroups, do they have to recuse?
 - b. Moe and C'Mone: No, all members are allowed to vote on this.
- iii. Roll Call Vote:
AYES: Pamela Powell (sub for Andrea Ford), Annie Bailey, Caroline Topeé, C'Mone Falls, Darin Lounds, Doug Biggs, Peter Radu, Isamar Ochoa Dominguez, Ray Corona, Josh Thurman, Kate Hart, Jonathan Russell, Marcell Lloyd, Michelle Starratt, Moe Wright, Sharon Cornu, Tunisia Owens, Vivian Wan
Present not voting: Laurie Flores, Nic Ming
- iv. Motion passes with 18 Yes votes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstains.

Jen Lucky: All workgroup volunteers will be receiving an email about kickoff meetings and schedule soon!

7) Approve Revised Board Terms (Moe Wright)

- a) To correct an imbalance of term assignments and seat turnover in Leadership Board, Homebase has prepared a memo recommending a revision of term dates for Nominated seat members. The memo explaining the current status of seat assignments and the proposed revisions is attached with the meeting materials. The Leadership Board will vote on the revised Board Terms.

Action II:

- i. Marcell Lloyd motioned to approve the recommended revised Board Terms as presented in the Homebase memo.
Seconded by Caroline Topeé
- ii. *No Discussion.*
- iii. Roll Call Vote:
AYES: Pamela Powell (sub for Andrea Ford), Annie Bailey, Caroline Topeé, C'Mone Falls, Darin Lounds, Doug Biggs, Peter Radu, Isamar Ochoa Dominguez, Josh Thurman, Kate Hart, Jonathan Russell, Marcell Lloyd, Michelle Starratt, Moe Wright, Sharon Cornu, Vivian Wan
ABSTAIN: Tunisia Owens

- iv. Present not voting: Laurie Flores, Nic Ming
Motion Passes with 16 Yes votes, 0 Noes, and 1 Abstain.

8) Unsheltered Workgroup (Outreach Access and Coordination Committee)

- a) The Unsheltered Workgroup shared a progress update on their meetings since this was last on the Leadership Board agenda in October 2024. At the October 2024 OAC meeting, the Unsheltered Workgroup was tasked to provide feedback and edits to the Encampment Prioritization Matrix with the TWG (Technical Working Group).

Progress Milestones

- Unsheltered Workgroup has reviewed full "Encampment Prioritization Matrix" Draft
- Comments and Feedback are being compiled into a proposal for revisions
- The proposal will go back to Outreach Access Coordination for further input, then to Leadership Board
- Leadership Board will be asked to confirm a draft response to the 7 Mayors who requested the CoC adopt the Matrix

- b) Peter: Thanks for the update, congratulations to everyone who has progressed on this. Because some of the mayors that originally signed onto the Encampment Matrix are no longer in office, should we rethink the last step? Should the next stopping point from the CoC be the City County TWG and then TWG can decide how to get it in front of the current mayors?
- i) Kim: Agrees, the CoC would probably send the letter to the entire mayor's council but name the specific mayors that did direct the CoC to work on the matrix because they don't want to imply all mayors were on the same page about the initial request.

9) Point-in-Time Count Final Report Update (Jonathan Russell, Alameda County Health, Housing & Homelessness Services)

- a) The Final 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report is now publicly available. The County shared an overview of the data dashboard and learnings from the 2024 PIT Count process.
- b) Report and info available on H+H website ([link](#)) and EveryOne Home website ([link](#)). Jonathan shared the dashboard and an overview of how to navigate it.

Discussion on dashboard:

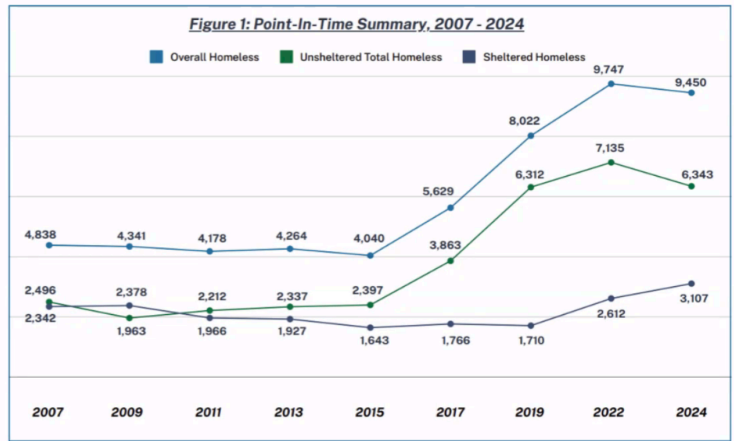
- Moe: This [dashboard] has way more flexibility than we've had in past reports! Is this the template moving forward?
 - Jonathan: Yes, if possible! It's not aesthetically pleasing but I think this helps look at things intersectionally for different questions to better identify trends.

- Riley Wilkerson (H+H): This is data from 1400 surveys, all unsheltered, and that's many more than we've had in the past! HMIS data isn't in this dashboard, just the day-of unsheltered count.

Initial Insights from the Report and Data:

2024 Overall Trends

- This is the first time since 2013 that the overall PIT Count has gone down.
- This is the first time since 2009 that the sheltered rate has increased while the unsheltered rate has decreased.

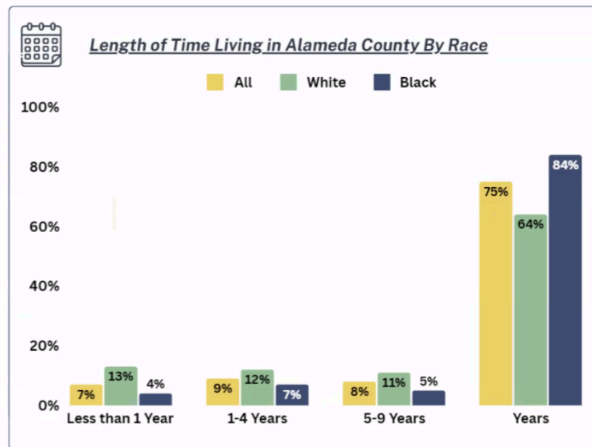


- Chronic Homelessness
 - Increased by 40% from 2022
 - Overall, 38% of individuals in the count were chronically homeless in 2024, a 10% increase in the proportion compared to 2022 (28%)
 - 55% of single adults in shelter were chronically homeless, an 11% increase from 2022
- Lengths of Time Homeless:
 - 83% reported current episodes of 1 year or more (up from 75% in 2022 and 69% in 2019)
 - 59% reported their current episode of homelessness has been for 36 months or more --- but this question was not asked in 2022, so don't have comparison data
- First Time Homelessness
 - When up significantly
- Barriers to shelter
 - Table 11 in report: Barriers to Accessing Shelter
 - 58% respondents cited shelter experiences as the reason they are not accessing shelter (e.g. safety, crowded)
 - 54% cited rules and restrictions as the primary barrier (e.g. curfew, can't bring pets)
- Entrenched Racial Disparities Persist

- The categories for race data are more split out and nuanced, broader range of choices, didn't align with the US census categories
 - People who identify as Black or African American constitute 9.8% of the general population but 41.3% of the homeless population (down from 43% in 2022)
 - American Indian/Native Alaskans comprise 1.0% of the general population but 2.7% of the homeless population
 - 0.6% of the population in Alameda County is Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders vs. 1.2% of the PIT count
- Length of Time Living in Alameda County by Year
 - More than 75% of the unsheltered population has lived in Alameda County for 10 years or more, a 17% increase since 2019
 - 93% are either from or have lived in Alameda County for extended periods of time
 - Lengths of stay does vary jurisdictionally but this is demonstrable evidence that people are from the place they become homeless
 - Laurie: Indicating more longer-term residents entering homelessness in the last 2 years

Length of Time Living in Alameda in 2024 by Race

- **White residents** are more likely to have **shorter lengths of time living in Alameda County** than the average
- **Black residents** are more likely to have **longer lengths of time living in Alameda County** than the average and 20% more are likely to have lived in Alameda County compared to white residents
- **85% of Black residents** reported addresses in Alameda County prior to becoming homeless vs. **64% of white respondents** (78% was the average overall)

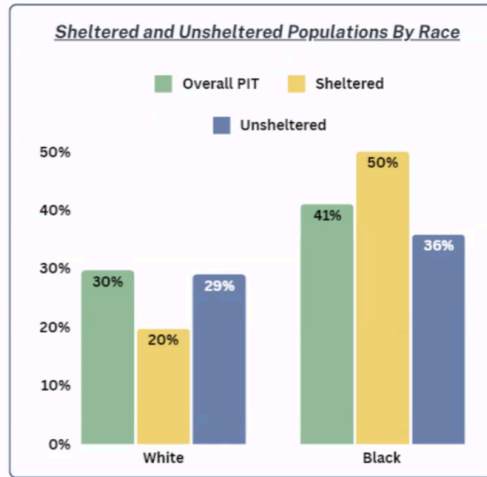


Alameda County Health

- Shows that local and targeted prevention is needed

Racial Differences in Sheltered and Unsheltered

- Black households are overrepresented in the sheltered population and underrepresented in the unsheltered population relative to their representation overall
- Conversely, white households are underrepresented in the sheltered population and overrepresented in the unsheltered population relative to their overall representation



Discussion on presentation:

- Christoverre: Are “Chronic” folks including those that have been placed in housing, but do not remain? That may represent causes other than housing inventory.
 - Matt Simmonds (Simtech): Yes, adults with a disabling condition can meet the chronic definition with either a length of time homeless greater than 1 year OR 4 or more episodes in the past 3 years.
- Christoverre: Is there data for length of residence housed then unhoused in same cities?
 - Caroline Topeé (Leadership Board Member): Yes, seconded the question of is there data for length of time housed and then unhoused within less than 1 year?
 - Matt Simmonds: What would be interesting is to be able to compare that data to the results for the same question of the housed population. Many people don't live in a community for that long.
- Caroline: Why is so long for the population counted as more than 1 year?
 - Matt Simmonds: These longer lengths of time align with the higher percentage of chronically homeless.
- Peter Radu: Things to keep in mind as the Home Together refresh is underway: vehicular homelessness is now the majority of homelessness in the County (54%) which poses really unique challenges. Research and anecdotal outreach experience shows that people living in their cars often don't consider themselves unsheltered or even homelessness. Also, very challenging because cars are under the jurisdiction of the California Vehicle Code which has mandates about enforcement and ticketing which pose equity concerns for impoverished populations. Very serious legal concerns if we try to do selective enforcement. Need to grapple with those challenges. Also on chronicity, it's a statement about stagnating housing pathways; we're also seeing a sharp increase in new homelessness but since its going down overall, seems we don't have a problem rapidly serving folks and getting them in and out. To me, the bigger issue is disability. Big increase in disabled proportion, so how are we pulling in other aspects of the safety net to prioritize homelessness? Mental

health system (until recently with Prop 1), substance abuse systems, and other systems don't have a mandate to prioritize homelessness. But if we're going to set people up in permanent supportive housing with services that actually meet people's whole suite of needs, it requires we prioritize them.

- Jonathan: Not sure we're actually doing well on shorter stints of homelessness; we can do better. For the people who report it's their first time, it's also a longer first time. Important to think about disability and length of time homelessness as a causal factor for additional disabling conditions. In some cases, the longer people are homeless the more health concerns and disabilities arise.
- Caroline: Vehicular Homelessness is very familiar to me. "City Car Camping" with critical illness was my term to deal with my personal homeless experience. Hidden homeless population need to be helped. I had to pay for my storage of my belongings I could not keep packed in my car. Another expense that burdens those living in cars.
- Michelle Starratt (Alameda County Housing and Community Development): On the housing side from the disabled community, people who have been on fixed incomes are on the verge of homelessness, lots of extremely and acutely low-income people there are not enough operating subsidies to support those people. People falling into homelessness, disproportionately are seniors and people on SSI/SDI.
- Christoverre: Are sheltered folks provided storage for their belongings?
 - Marcell Lloyd (Saint Vince de Paul): At Saint Vincent de Paul we do have a storage program for guests staying at our site.
 - Caroline: I had to pay for my storage of my belongings I could not keep packed in my car. Another expense that burdens those living in cars.
- Jonathan also acknowledged that it took a lot longer for the full report to come out, many bumps in the road. Worked hard between H+H and Simtech but may need to break up the load in the future between doing the count and gathering the data and actually creating/designing the report. Also, there were some questions we'd want to ask in the future that didn't get asked this year.
- Vivian: Thank you for all the data, it doesn't come easy. As a CoC/LB, how do we visualize and message this data in a way that people can hear it? People don't trust it often even though we have all this data. What messaging are we going to do and how will we allocate resources to get the right data out in a consumable form, not only to people deeply involved but also the laymen person who has no idea what "Housing First" or other homeless system methodologies are. We need more resources for sharing with the average person.
 - Jonathan: Totally agree! It's a unique position of the CoC to emphasize this in our work. We're bad marketers! H+H needs more of an advocacy position and the CoC has the body and position to be that. There are plenty of things the CoC does that are duplicative of other work in the government, but the CoC could occupy this lane uniquely.
 - Laurie: In general community is less trustworthy of government data. Need to build coalition with trusted stakeholders that may not traditionally be interested or honestly care about the wellbeing of unhoused residents
 - Nic Ming (Social Impact Wheel): Is this presentation purely informational or to maybe set some direction/guidance? Does this plan to share the PIT count

involve coming to System Impact in January? Could it be a concerted effort to send bits of the information at the listserv?

- Jonathan: Initial intention was informational, also hoped that some of the highlights would be for looking into more by Leadership Board and work. Wants to go into deeper dives with System Impact and future work. How can we nugget this to inform future projects and work? Let's use the PIT count as a companion for Home Together Plan, new administration, and more.
- Riley: We don't emphasize enough how many homeless people we have on an annual basis and how long people stay housed once they become housed. People in permanent supportive housing (PSH) stay longer than people usually stay in terms of staying in the community. We always focus on how many people are homeless, and we need to focus on also where our systems are doing well and how many people are housed.
 - Jonathan: Agrees, the PIT count doesn't talk about how well the system is doing and the uptick in system performance. PIT data cannot be the only place we look to get a sense of the system.
- Laurie: Also when it comes to presenting the data to people who are not as invested in housing/homelessness work, need to also message that this is a community health impact and has an economic impact.
- Matt Simmonds: Worth noting that the chronic percentages are 37.6% for overall population and 45.8% of those who are 50-64.
- Matt Simmonds: Our goal is to provide complete transparency for the entire process so that we can build and maintain community trust in the data we are sharing. This process, which was made more complex due to the extent of people living in vehicles and makeshift shelters, as well as the need for reporting by city/town, inclusion of safe parking data, inclusion of shelter results, and the need to fill gaps in guidance and business rules from HUD, led to this taking longer than originally expected. While this process was extensive, we are confident in the results and appreciate being invited to support this initiative for the County. Thank you to everyone for the patience while we worked together with the County to ensure what we are sharing is meaningful, accurate, and impactful.
- Nic: Is there an additional action item for PIT RFP and PIT planning for the next count? Just raising that there will be more follow-up.
 - Moe: It's part of the workplan for 2025 and will be part of the work moving forward.
 - Jonathan: Will do some reviews and feedbacks on the PIT process overall starting in January.
- Ray Corona (Youth Advisory Board): Loves the advocacy piece and wants to invest in the advocacy as a next step. Also appreciated the app and thought the actual counting experience was great.
- Info from Simtech: <https://pointintime.info/>

10) 2025 Leadership Board Retreat (Moe Wright)

- a) The Leadership Board will use this time to discuss plans for a proposed in-person Board retreat for the purpose of 2025 strategic planning. Would like to have an in-person retreat in early spring! Would be good to have time to discuss strategy and direction moving forward.

- b) Moe: Think we could have more of an advocacy plan moving forward. Wants to use a retreat time to set new strategy and direction, assess how we've been doing and what holes we've discovered in this current format of the Board. Looking for volunteers in the planning committee.
- c) Volunteers for planning: Moe Wright, Isamar Ochoa Dominguez, Ray Corona, Caroline Topeé, Christoverre Kohler, Pamela Powell
- d) Also looking for venue ideas!
 - i) Isamar: I can get space in San Jose, I know it's far but just sharing!
 - ii) Michelle: Happy to offer the public hearing room (which can be set up with tables) at 224 W Winton Ave in Hayward

11) Closing (Kim Natarajan)

- a) Discussion of upcoming agenda items for next meeting. Requests for future agenda items are also welcome at this time or via email to:
alameda@homebaseccc.org

Next meeting will be held **January 16th, 2025**