

**Youth Committee
January 14, 2025
2:30 – 4:30pm
Minutes**

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.

Helpful links:

- **Google drive folder** for the Youth Committee: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nba_vF_vhpoymbIRfSnAzw11UsmwYXXLz?usp=sharing
- **Website page** (on EveryOne Home website) for the Youth Committee: <https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/youth-committee/>
- **Acronyms and Glossary:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/118hFMAU2IE-FqYmK8TZ9Hp40vmS1zRck9EBEbPIbwy8/edit?usp=drive_link
- **Readability Resource:** <https://hemingwayapp.com/readability-checker>

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Youth Committee will be to align goals and develop shared strategies and collaborative practices across systems, agencies, programming, and funding streams that work to prevent and end youth homelessness. The committee will act as a collaborative table bringing together transitional age youth with lived experience of homelessness, youth service providers, county and city government representatives, and other stakeholders to build a coordinated response to youth homelessness. Learn more about the Committee's purpose [here](#).

Meeting Purpose / Overview

The purpose of this month's meeting was for the Youth Committee members to: (1) receive reports from the Racial Equity Committee and Youth Advisory Board (YAB), (2) discuss potential changes to the Youth Committee agendas and meeting schedule, and (3) work on the Youth Committee's Work Plan for 2025.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Warm-Up Activity (Ray Corona)

- a. Ray Corona led the Committee through an icebreaker called “Speed Connections.”

2. Ground Rules/Approval of Minutes (Youth Committee Co-Chairs)

- a. Minutes from December 10th, 2024 approved.

3. Announcements/Public Comment (Kris Maun, Homebase)

- a. Please complete Annual Conflict of Interest forms and email to alameda@homebaseccc.org. All Committee members are required to do this per HUD regulations.
- b. New readability resource: <https://hemingwayapp.com/readability-checker>
- c. CoC Learning Community will continue in 2025 on the third Tuesday of the month from 12:00-2:00pm. To request topics or for more information, email nicming@socialimpactwheel.org.
- d. The Government Performance Lab is inviting CoC Members to two trainings around data-driven decision making. These trainings are free and open to anyone working in and around homelessness prevention and response
 - i. Introduction to Data-Driven Decision Making, Friday, January 24th, 2025, 10:00am to 11:00am

Register to Attend: This session will provide an overview of data-driven decision making, how it can be used as a tool in homelessness prevention and response systems, and additional context about what will be covered in future training sessions. We will walk through an interactive case study about emergency rental assistance, where you'll be asked to diagnose a problem, develop solutions, and take action.

- ii. Data Foundations, Friday, January 24th, 2025, 11:05am to 12:00pm

Register to Attend: This session is for anyone looking to revisit the fundamentals of what data is, how it is visualized, and what goes into making data meaningful. This training will ask participants to practice interpreting charts and begin asking follow-up questions about the data we see to support data-driven decision making.

- e. Homebase is re-recording the existing EveryOne Home trainings. If people would like to attend the live sessions where they'll be recorded, they are welcome to! This also gives people an opportunity to ask questions in real time.
 - i. Continuum of Care 101, Tuesday, January 21st, 9-10am
 - ii. EveryOne Home 101, Tuesday, January 28st, 9-10am

iii. Voting Member Responsibilities, Tuesday, February 4th, 9-10am

iv. Office Hours, Tuesday, February 11th, 9-10am

v. Zoom Link for all trainings:

<https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/87247291320>

f. Tammy: Will there be PWLE compensation for trainings?

i. Kris: Will have to check on that but assuming no.

g. Sabrina: Lyn from Homebase and Sabrina are hosting PWLE office hours Wednesday, January 15th, 3-4pm and Thursday, January 16th, 8-9am. If people with lived experience want to join those office hours in the future, please email Lyn Nesbitt (lynnesbitt@homebaseccc.org).

4. Racial Equity Committee Report Out (Sabrina Abong, Racial Equity Liaison)

a. Sabrina shared the TAY Engagement Opportunities Chart at the December Racial Equity Committee meeting.

b. Sahra asked about any reactions or questions from the Racial Equity Committee. Sabrina shared there were no questions, and the feedback was positive.

c. Sahra: What's the next steps or end goal? Is it a living document?

i. The Committee will work to answer these questions and finalize the project in February 2025.

5. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Report Out (Tammy Nguyen, co-chair)

a. Upcoming relationship building meeting with Supervisor Marquez on Thursday, January 30th

b. Youth Housing Demonstration Project (YHDP) two-day Symposium taking place Wednesday, January 22nd and Thursday, January 23rd to foster collaboration between YHDP Providers and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) technical assistance (TA).

c. Also working with YHDP implementation team to provide feedback on the Larkin/Covenant House youth starter packet and the resources given to youth to make sure it's accessible and clear for youth participants. Make it a youth resource. This project is 1 of 3 upcoming projects for feedback.

d. Published newsletter! Shoutout to Ray Corona!

i. Annie asked if this was the first newsletter from the YAB. Tammy and Sahra shared it's a seasonal newsletter; the latest release was a recap on Summer and Fall 2024.

ii. Marisol shared that YAB is also looking at other ways we can add more provider input and sharing resources!

iii. Overall, the Committee was excited about this newsletter and its potential to be a resource for the community.

6. Discuss Potential Changes to Meeting Agendas and Schedule

a. Committee members discussed potential alterations to the meeting schedule, including:

- i. Adding a warm-up/icebreaker at the beginning of each meeting lead by a Committee member,
 - ii. Changing meeting time to 2:30pm to 4:30pm, and
 - iii. Adding a one-hour office hours or working session in-between monthly meetings.
- b. Discussion:
- i. Kris shared that Homebase is unable to staff and compensate a second Committee meeting a month, but Committee members are invited to organize and host a meeting on their own. Kris also offered the option to adding a one-hour working session each month.
 - ii. Sahra: Likes the office hour/working session option, YAB has been doing working sessions for TAY Engagement chart and want to make sure all Youth Committee members are included in those.
 - iii. Ray and Sahra like the idea of extending to 2 hours. Sabrina agrees as well to allow more time to be human and settle in.
 - iv. Tammy agrees about 2-hour meetings and have another working session, and it would be good to have Homebase staff present to help address concerns about lack of clarity of what is YAB vs. what is Youth Committee. Sahra agreed that it's important to give more clarity between YAB and Youth Committee.
 1. Kris will send out a poll to schedule a workgroup space.
 - v. Marisol agrees that a workgroup would be helpful and address lots of learning styles and give more space to work. Would help give space for breakout rooms.
 1. Kris clarified Homebase would help announce the workgroup but it wouldn't be as formal of an agenda and process.
 - vi. Annie: Would it be open to the public?
 1. Kris: Pretty sure it doesn't have to be open to the public, but will double check. EveryOne Home likes to be transparent but not sure if we would be held to that public standard for a work space.
 - vii. Sahra: Would prefer to have Kris and Morgan present in the work space to help alignment.
 - viii. Ray likes the idea of an icebreaker and warm up each week.
 - ix. Carmel: Based on experience as YAB, when you haven't seen each other for a while, it's nice to get reacquainted with each other, check in, spend 10-15 minutes. Also thinks having a working space is good for everyone involved because it allows more space for people who maybe aren't as ready or willing to share.
 - x. Kris asked to co-chairs: Would this be a good space for setting agendas?
 1. Annie: Yes, that makes sense! Also suggested that if we add a warm up, let's not record that section of the meeting.
- c. Committee Decisions: Two-hour meetings and the one-hour working session. Will add time at the beginning of the agenda before we record to do a check-in.

The icebreaker facilitation will rotate with Marisol leading in February. Annie, Tammy, and Ray also willing to help lead icebreakers.

7. Discuss Youth Committee Work Plan for 2025

- a. At the December meeting, Committee members decided that they want to continue with the 2024 Work Plan Goal to develop policy recommendations for Youth Engagement. Committee members will brainstorm action steps to incorporate into the Work Plan.
- b. At the December meeting, Committee members discussed some things they want to see the Youth Committee do in 2025, including:
 - i. Training and education on the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)'s Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grant (HHAP), which has a youth set aside
 - ii. Training on monitoring and provider-level performance measures and identifying how the Youth Committee can participate in sharing policy and making recommendations
 - iii. Increasing communication and collaboration with the YAB, including receiving updates from the YHDP Implementation Team's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team on focus group data from the Youth Housing Demonstration Project (YHDP)'s funded programs
 - iv. Developing a graphic representation of the youth homelessness response system (including programs, supportive services, and youth service organizations) as a youth-specific system map
 - v. Training for service providers on best practices for serving youth experiencing homelessness, which is developed and potentially lead by youth who have been directly impacted by services.
- c. Committee members discussed these potential Work Plan items and started to select the top goals they want to achieve in 2025.
- d. Discussion:
 - i. Kris reviewed the 2024 Work Plan to remind everyone what the Committee committed to and accomplished in 2024. Kris also reminded the Committee about what is listed as Youth Committee roles and responsibilities under the EveryOne Home Governance Charter.
 - ii. Ray: Love these goals, think there should be an initiative for youth. This is a lot of information that can help youth transition but wants to develop more resources for youth after they've transitioned to housing – credit, financial support, moving off Section 8 housing, what could come after Rapid Rehousing, skill share and building, being a homeowner or rental/tenant rights, saving, financial literacy, mentorship. Want to make sure there are things really taken away from this Youth Committee. Don't want to baby people, but let's do a project that could be funded by the Board of Supervisors or a project that is about first-time renting/homeowner. Pilot program to become renter/homeowner.

1. Sahra: Even compiling what resources already exist would be good.
2. Annie: Shared that Spark Point is a good resource for that as well. They serve youth and are a national model for resourcing. They help people with banking, getting things ready for housing, could tap into them. Kris also mentioned the Financial Empowerment Center.
- iii. Marisol asked to clarify that these goals came out of the December brainstorming meeting. Also wants to focus on alignment with YAB. YAB developed 7 goals in a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and a lot of them align with these 5 goals. Wants to make sure we are grounded in our purpose and seek out opportunities for alignment. Kris reminded everyone that Youth Committee is guided by the Home Together strategic plan.
- iv. Sahra and Marisol also reminded the Committee that the Coordinated Community Plan is from Alameda County and a lot of research went into how youth homelessness can be addressed.
- v. Kris suggested we circle back to comparing Home Together and Coordinated Community Plan. Marisol agreed that we should do that to add clarity to who holds what.
- vi. Ray and Sahra showed a lot of interest in the HHAP training. Sahra also interested in more conversations about how funding was used. Kris also reminded everyone that HHAP isn't a given.
 1. Amanda also mentioned new state budget language about community accountability, we could be proactive about implementing or reviewing that.
- vii. Ray wanted to clarify the goal around service provider training – maybe could be more of a panel or community conversation.
 1. Sahra and Carmel point out that other youth should be included in those trainings outside of Youth Committee and YAB because youth in those spaces are mostly no longer unhoused and so it's good to get more perspective from youth who are actively in the system.
 2. Ray and Carmel also want to get to other locations as well to run things like focus groups - Covenant House, Peer Navigation, Tiny House Village. Give voice and safety to youth to share their experiences. Carmel reminding everyone about the sensitivity and confidentiality of these topics.
 3. Marisol also raised if we'd be able to get more funding to sink our teeth into these and because there's no compensation outside of the Committee meetings.
- viii. Annie: Do youth have a forum to talk to providers and have panels? Service providers are going to follow their contracts in terms of what they do and how much, but the approaches can be at their own

<p>discretion. Opportunity to influence those approaches but how, in what forum?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marisol: An existing forum is the existing Ending Homelessness Youth Collaborative. Could create a breakout room of service providers to have those conversations. 2. Sahra: When Tammy and Sahra were part of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Committee, they asked providers how they engage youth voice. <p>ix. Tammy: Add the goal of aligning CCP with the Youth Committee roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>x. Carmel agrees that important for YAB or Youth Committee should be involved in trainings and focus groups, but good to get perspectives from the youth that are experiencing homelessness and shelter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amanda: Thinking about the role and power of this committee, how can that be leveraged to encourage providers to hear those stories? 2. Annie: There's also opportunity to have political influence over contract language and the expectations placed on providers. Needs to be clear review and expectations.
<p>8. Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings (Kris)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss agenda items for upcoming meetings of the Youth Committee. b. Morgan will share a Google Form via email for what people's other ideas are for goals and projects as there is not a set in stone workplan. Kris reminded that the workplan has not been set and there is opportunity to edit and evolve. c. The next Youth Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th, 2025.

Committee Attendance

Name	Attendance
Annie Bailey	Present
Carla Rosas	Present
Delilah Aviles	Present
Denah Nunes	Absent
Marisol Rodriguez-Sanchez	Present
Sophia Hesseltine	Absent



Jennifer Castello	Absent
Ray Corona	Present
Sabrina Abong	Present
Sahra Nawabi	Present
Tammy Nguyen	Present
Tanya Carvajal	Absent

Public Attendance

- Carmel Ewig – Youth Advisory Board
- Amanda McKinney – Alameda County Health, Housing & Homelessness Services
- Morgan Bernados – Homebase
- Kris Maun – Homebase