

Evidence-Based Solutions Committee

Minutes

April 10, 2025

11:00am – 1:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/81649176975>

Meeting ID: 816 4917 6975
+1 669 900 6833

Helpful links:

- **Google Drive folder** for the Evidence-Based Solutions Committee:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZG59MFs7BkWc77cwPJfO_wnaTXDjNjOI
- **Website page** (on EveryOne Home website) for the ESC:
<https://everyonehome.org/about/racial-equity-committee/>
- **Acronyms and Glossary:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/118hFMAU2IE-FqYmK8TZ9Hp40vmS1zRck9EBEbPIbwy8/edit?usp=drive_link

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Evidence-Based Solutions Committee is to ensure that racial equity is centered across the homelessness response system and that racially disparate outcomes around homelessness and housing are addressed and eliminated. The committee will advise and hold accountable all other boards, committees, and workgroups, including the Leadership Board on racial equity goals, metrics, and outcomes. The overarching goal is that the work of racial equity is woven throughout all boards, committees, workgroups, and system activities.

Committee 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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Minutes

<p>1) Welcome / Introductions (Morgan Bernados, Homebase)</p> <p>a) The co-chairs were unable to attend the April Evidence-Based Solutions Committee meeting.</p>
<p>2) Public Comment and Approval of February 13th minutes (Morgan Bernados)</p> <p>a) The approval of the February minutes was deferred to April to allow Committee members to review. Minutes approved.</p> <p>b) All March meetings were closed sessions and thus minutes will not be publicly available.</p> <p>c) Michai Freeman shared a link about a proposed bill SB 634: https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB634/id/3191083</p>
<p>3) Homeless System Updates (All)</p> <p>a) Register Now: Community Meeting May 6, Cal Endowment, virtual option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Registration Form: https://forms.gle/UBKzi1r1yTiz1sTA9, deadline 4/25ii) Agenda: https://everyonehome.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Agenda_EveryOne-Home-Spring-2025-Community-Meeting-.pdfiii) Lunch provided in person, compensation for Committee members with lived experience of homelessness (no transportation stipend)iv) Events will include a Committee Table Fair, time for networking and table discussion, a workshop on narrative change, and updates on the CoC as a whole from our Leadership Board <p>b) During the Community Meeting we will also have a time to honor leaders in our community. If you would like to nominate someone for the Wendy Jackson CoC Service Awards, please fill out this form. For more information about this awards ceremony, see the FAQ document here.</p> <p>c) Nic Ming: The CoC Learning Community for April 15th will focus on Self and Collective Care, facilitated by Chloé Greene from 12 – 1:30 pm.</p> <p>d) Pauline Blackwell: Shared a link with information and events for Affordable Housing Month facilitated by East Bay Housing Organizations.</p>
<p>4) Community Building Activity (Nic Ming)</p> <p>a) Nic Ming led the group through a grounding exercise with the prompt, If you had a magic wand, what would you change in the system assuming there was enough money and resources, what would you change about the system to be able to improve things or resolve housing and homelessness?</p>
<p>5) Discussion and vote of proposal to update Committee purpose and description. (Morgan Bernados)</p> <p>a) The Committee discussed updates to the Committee purpose and description. Members voted to approve these revisions.</p>

- b) After group review, no edits were made to the documents that were drafted during the planning call and workgroup.
- c) General Committee Discussion:
 - i) Christoverre Kohler: There is a huge disparity within Oakland, how do we identify dynamics?
 - (1) Nic: This part of the work this year for across the committees in the CoC is to do the work to develop metrics that can show us the disparities and where the disparities are. It's work that's going to take some time, but it's work that is beginning. So between, as Morgan said, this Committee in terms of looking at where those disparities show up among different groups, people and places. The System Impact Committee looks at that holds how we look at our system is performing and progressing as far as the Home Together Plan is concerned. I think there would be some intersection between those two spaces. Part of the struggle has been Oakland's capacity to participate at the Committee level within the CoC. Oakland is going to have a new round of folks who come in related to representation. Some of this work is starting, but it won't be fast. Especially since Oakland is in its own transition in terms of their strategy and operations set up to address homeless and affordable housing. In terms of us doing the work, we would be focusing on identifying system performance measures, prevention, and other measures. Oakland will be a part of that conversation as well.
 - (2) Christoverre: Thank you but this is not helpful, so we need to wrap our mind around why certain things are different related to homelessness in Oakland. There's kind of that missing identifier of particular dynamics that make those differences that I'm trying to understand. Until we understand What causes those differences in the first place, we can't affect that.
 - (3) Nic: Berkeley is decreasing in some respect based in the PIT data. But the conversations are happening. Do you tap into Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee meetings?
 - (4) Richard Nudelman: The 17,000 new General Assistance Housing that are being built are insufficient.
 - (5) Freeway: I am at a sweep at the moment, but in terms of looking at the disparities come from, I am pessimistic that we will find the real true answers that we are looking for, as so many for profit organizations have a stake in what is

going on. The shelters are poorly run, so we need to see the disparities within that system as well.

(6) Kevonna Moore: I think to really understand why those disparities are happening in Oakland is to see the value in Qualitative Research. Also systemic racism, the system disadvantages some and advantages others

(7) Richard: The main problem that I saw in the shelter that I stayed at, was that they wanted the numbers, they weren't interested in housing people.

(8) Laurie Flores: I think we are hearing a lot of interest and desire to get into the work and discuss some tangible information and make some Evidence-Based Recommendations to the broader CoC and County to enact.

- ii) Laurie brought up that one of the bullet points in the draft document is really verbose and needs some simplification in the roles section: "Provide additional TA and analysis such as joining other committee meetings and or reviewing documents to apply an evidence-based framework to decision making as needed to support work in the committees that centers Evidence-Based Solutions."
- iii) Richard: Don't over extend yourself on the committees, as you could dilute what you have to say about any type of subject.

Action I.

i. Nic Ming motioned the committee description language be approved to be submitted to the Leadership Board for adoption and update of the CoC Charter to replace previous language and description of the previous committee. This language can also be revised from today, to the day of the April Leadership board.

Marcela Munoz seconded.

No discussion.

ii. Roll Call Vote:

YES: Ms. Shelley Gonzalez, Krsna Hare, Laurie Flores, Sunita Garrett, Sabrina Abong, Nic Ming, Patricka Anderson, Darryl McDavid, Richard Nudelman.

NO: None.

Abstain: None.

iii. Motion passed with 9 yes votes, 0 noes, and 0 abstains.

- d) Nic Ming shared that the System Impact Committee doesn't have a regular attending liaison, but Jared is on the System Impact Committee and could serve as a liaison since he's already a liaison for other Committees as well. Nic and Jared will bring it up to Homebase staff Jose and Matt for the next System Impact Committee Meeting.

6) Discussion of Feedback for Leadership Board and CoC (Morgan Bernados, Homebase)

- a) At the request of the Leadership Board, the Committee discussed two questions to then share a response back to the Board:
 - i) After working with the board and committee structure for the last two years, are there suggestions you have to improve or streamline your committee process, including relationship to the Leadership Board and staffing?
 - ii) What should the major emphasis be for your Committee and the Continuum of Care for the next few years?
- b) The Committee used a Mentimeter to facilitate the discussion.
- c) Summary of responses for question 1:
 - i) Further utilize the ESC, make it more clear what other Committees are bringing for review and input.
 - (1) Note from Committee that liaison model might not be most suitable
 - ii) More statistics given to the Committee to evaluate
 - iii) Monthly "same page" meetings where each Committee joins and talks with one another
 - iv) More in-person engagement and relationship building
- d) Summary of responses for question 2:
 - i) More in-person engagement and activities, both for internal connection and doing outreach and engaging the community (i.e. First Fridays, dinner in the community, tabling at Wood St. Commons events, bowling/social activities)
 - (1) This also include more in-person meetings, door-knocking, grassroots work
 - ii) Focus on education and being a trusted source of information, increase credibility and recognition in the community
 - (1) Public awareness campaigns, expand overall influence of CoC outside the Committees
 - iii) Moving grievance policies to a third-party for all HUD-funded programs, difficult filing grievances against the people who have control over your living conditions
 - iv) Develop stronger relationships with groups and agencies/businesses not traditionally involved in or supportive of services to people experiencing homelessness
 - v) Expand range of supported solutions, including tiny home village and indefinite shelter sites
 - vi) Balance focus on data, numbers, and evidence with real-world stories from community

- e) Questions from the Committee to the Board:
 - i) How can we improve our processes to make them more expedient?
 - ii) What kinds of diverse skill sets or experiences are you hoping to have in this Committee / CoC / Board?
- f) Patrick Anderson also shared the HUD definition of a Continuum of Care: The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, Indian Tribes or tribally designated housing entities (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103) (TDHEs)), and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families, and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness
- g) Members were also encouraged to fill out an individual survey form.
- h) Richard: Having people who do not know the CoC in the space space to speak. We don't need to limit ourselves to only spreading knowledge in the CoC but folks who are not on Committees as well, we should speak knowledge throughout the community
- i) Patrick: Zoom and being online is good, however, a lot of the grassroots organizational time in the 60s-70s, like block parties, are interaction within the church as a meeting space. We need to have Community with Care and in person events. Need events like pizza parties and things like that to get back to being human again and being together.
- j) Laurie: More presence in the community and in civic spaces, this is what you do if you want to build credibility with neighbors, residents, groups etc. The CoC also needs to be a place of relevant sources of information and data.
- k) Jared: Wood Street Commons has a lot of events, like town halls and block party and things like that:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DIMF6Wmppef/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

7) Planning for Community Meeting: Committee Table Fair (Morgan Bernados, Homebase)

- a) At the May 6th Community Meeting, there will be a Committee Table Fair. The Committee will work on planning the logistics of this event: finding volunteers to be at the Committee table and planning what will be showcased at the table. The Committee will also work to fill out a one-pager, template provided by Homebase.

- b) Tabling: Marcela, Sunita. Laurie will also be present but at a different table.
- c) Tunisia will be leading a data visualization activity.
- d) The Committee collaborated on a hand-out for the table.
- e) Nic suggestions for the hand-out: We worked on getting full membership and liaison support for all other CoC committees, and developed framework and guiding principles, and CoC learning community. Developed evidence-based performance measures to understand system progress and effectiveness, CoC training.

8) Planning for Community Meeting: ESC Breakfast Conversation (All)

- a) On the morning of the May 6th Community Meeting, the ESC will host a breakfast conversation centered on homelessness data. The Committee used this time to plan who will be attending and how the breakfast time will be used.
- b) Nic: We should ask Jose and Matt to share the conversation about the Home Together Plan with the System Impact Committee members by email as there's an overlapping area between our two committees.

9) Liaison Description Next Steps (All)

- a) The Committee will discussed next steps on updating the language that outlines the liaison's purpose and role in the CoC.
- b) Nic talked through the role of the liaisons, as this is the first step to update the body of work done by the REC prior. It also includes a much deeper document, focused on the equity framework we drafted, and see how we can adapt that, and incorporate elements around a collective framework and impact model
- c) Morgan: A lot of the work we did as the workgroup, we need to revise that work to adapt it. What space or spaces do we do that work in?
- d) Morgan and committee members went through ESC language to see where there needs to be revisions.
- e) Nic: Really appreciated Krsna's reading, and how engaged it was. Wants to revise paragraph A, as it is clunky and speaking to different things. Its speaking about communicators and composition and only needs to focus on one.
- f) Laurie: Paragraph B has racial equity language still
- g) The Committee will work to revise this language and further documents at future meetings.

10) Closing (Morgan Bernados)

- 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

b) Jared: Would the CoC like to have a table at an upcoming Wood St. Commons event? The Committee thought maybe the Leadership Board or Outreach, Access, and Coordination Committee would be best suited to table. Morgan will distribute Jared’s ask to the appropriate members.

Next committee meeting will be held **May 8th, 2025**.

Resources:

- *Racial Equity Guiding Framework (DRAFT)*
- *REC CoC Capacity Building Plan (Draft)*
- *Centering Racial Equity Training (Foundational Training for Committee Members)*
- *CoC 101 Training (Foundational Training for Committee Members)*
- *Everyone Home 101 Training (Foundational Training for Committee Members)*

Attendance

- Homebase: Morgan Bernados and Lyn Nesbitt
- Public Attendance:
 - Keovanna Moore, Salvation Army
 - Michai Freeman, Center for Independent Living
 - Adrienne Miller, Alameda Alliance
 - Pauline Blackwell, Alameda County Housing and Community Development
 - Christoverre Kohler, Community Member
 - Gary Tia, Bay Area Community Services
 - Grecia Mannah-Ayon, City of Alameda
- Committee Attendance:

Seat	Name	Organization	Attendance
Leadership Board Liaison	Shatae Jones	Alameda Alliance	present
	Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	community member	Already Counted
	OPEN		
HMIS Committee Liaison	Krnsa Hare	community member	present
	Jared DeFig	community member	present

OAKLAND, BERKELEY / ALAMEDA COUNTY CoC

Housing Capacity Committee Liaison	OPEN		
	OPEN		
	OPEN		
Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee Liaison	Freeway	community member	present
	Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	community member	present
	OPEN		
Outreach Access Coordination Committee Liaison	OPEN		
	Laurie Flores	City of Fremont	present
	Marcela Munoz	HCEB - Housing Consortium of the East Bay	present
Standards Compliance and Funding Committee Liaison	Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	community member	Already Counted
	Sunita Garrett	community member	present
	OPEN		
System Impact Committee Liaison	Miguel Dwin	Berkeley Unified School District	absent
	Sabrina Abong	community member	Already Counted
	OPEN		
Youth Committee Liaison	Sabrina Abong	community member	present
	OPEN		
	OPEN		
Public Sector City, County State Agency or Entity	Darlene Flynn	City of Oakland	absent
Public Sector City, County State Agency or Entity	Lynette Ward (co-chair, public)	Alameda County H&H	absent
Non-Profit or Service Provider	Nic Ming	Social Impact Wheel	present
Non-Profit or Service Provider	Katie Barnett	All Home	absent
Non-Profit or Service Provider	Tunisia Owens (co-chair, private)	FVLC	absent
Community Member	Fiani Johnson	Araminta Ross Foundation	absent
Community Member	Patrick Anderson	community member	present

OAKLAND, BERKELEY / ALAMEDA COUNTY CoC

Non-Profit or Service Provider (proxy seat)	Darryl McDavid	BACS	present
Community Member (proxy seat)	Richard Nudelman	community member	present

DRAFT