

Leadership Board

Minutes

March 20, 2025

2:00pm – 4:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/81074562957>

Meeting ID: 810 7456 2957

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Dial by your location

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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.

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/1I8hFMAU2IE-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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Meeting Minutes

<p>1) Welcome / Introductions (Moe Wright, co-chair)</p>
<p>2) Leadership Board Public Comment (Moe Wright)</p> <p>a) No public comments.</p>
<p>3) Recognition of Minutes, February 20th, 2025 (Moe Wright)</p> <p><i>Due to the delayed release of the February minutes, the approval of the minutes will be deferred until April.</i></p>
<p>4) Homeless System Updates (All)</p> <p>a) The next EveryOne Home Community Meeting will be Tuesday, May 6th at the California Endowment Center in Oakland. Registration will be sent out soon.</p> <p>b) The Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab (GPL) invites you to join our Data-Driven Decision-Making Training series. These trainings are virtual and open to anyone working in and around homelessness prevention and response work in Alameda County. The intended audience is those new to data.</p> <p>i) Please register for the training here: bit.ly/gpltraining.</p> <p>(1) Communicate with Data Friday, April 11 at 10 am - 12 noon: Bring all your learnings from previous sessions together and focus on how to present data to support action-oriented meetings and conversations.</p> <p>ii) Please reach out to Sky Mihaylo (skymihaylo@hks.harvard.edu) if you have any questions.</p> <p>c) The EveryOne Home Acronym Glossary Project Focus Group will take place on March 25th at 9am. You can view the current Acronym Glossary here.</p> <p>d) Homebase update: Due to loss of federal contracts, Homebase underwent a staff reduction and Kim was one of the affected employees. No other Homebase staff supporting Alameda County were impacted, and there will be no reduction in work or support. C'Mone will circulate a virtual card so everyone can share support for Kim. The current points of contact are alameda@homebaseccc.org and morgan@homebaseccc.org.</p>
<p>5) Leadership Board Updates (Moe Wright)</p> <p>a) Upcoming events:</p> <p>i) April 15th – Learning Community</p> <p>ii) April 17th – Regular Leadership Board</p> <p>iii) April 28th – Leadership Board Retreat</p> <p>(1) Moe shared that the Leadership Board has asked for Committee feedback on the CoC, and that information will help guide discussions at the retreat.</p>

6) Evidence-Based Solutions Committee Update (Tunisia Owens, ESC Co-Chair)

- a) Tunisia shared that the Committee underwent a long decision-making process to change the Committee name to Evidence-Based Solutions Committee. The Board approved the name change at an emergency closed session on March 13th and it will be formally ratified at the May 6th Community Meeting. The Committee will be discussing other next steps during their April meetings.

7) Confirm Leadership Board Advocacy Strategy (Moe Wright)

- a) The Leadership Board continued their conversation regarding advocacy from the February meeting.

Discussion:

- Moe Wright introduced a proposed resolution to create a small sub-group to deal with advocacy issues more quickly and outside of Leadership Board meetings.
- Morgan showed a slide of the various action options discussed at the February Leadership Board meeting: 1) Delegate a sub-group of the Board to issue statements and engage in advocacy, 2) Develop a set of principles, positions, advocacy platform, 3) Create an email list outside of the CoC for members to share information and advocacy opportunities
- Two CoC-Funded providers shared the contract language for CoC renewals, language against DEI and providing abortions.
 - A representative from Alameda County Health shared that the HUD Planning Grant was signed for Fiscal Year 2024 and did not include any language changes from previous years.
- Sharon Cornu (St. Mary's) expressed interest in working on creating an email list outside the CoC, important to keep it separate from the CoC. St. Mary's has also been collaborating with the National Alliance to End Homelessness to respond to changes at the federal level. Offered to have St. Mary's speak about effective advocacy at a future Board meeting.
- Caroline Topée (Community Member) asked if Coc members can piggyback on another organizations platform for advocacy, wants to organize under a different flag.
- Vivian Wan (Abode) shared about work being done in Santa Clara County. CEOs of CoC-funded organizations have been meeting to create strategies and review grant agreements. Acknowledged the fears and concerns being experienced by the Collaborative Applicant and direct grantees.
- Tunisia Owens (Family Violence Law Center) reminded the group to consider legal consequences nonprofits could face for political action.
- Liz Varela asked what role does the CoC need to take, what role do individuals need to take, what role will the County take? Some of the language in the grant agreement is very unclear, asked about legal counsel.
- Christoverre Kohler (Community Member): I recently expressed concerns about "public relations" functions, as the public has given various homeless-related matters attention. The media has been covering local issues (i.e. encampments) and a "voice" in the action could be important.
- Moe spoke to the decision-making process being very slow under the current structure, and brought up the idea that an internal group that provides strategy and coordination trying to move forward positive effects on homelessness in our county is

something that is missing in the current structure. Also spoke to the difference of advocacy that the CoC can do.

- Sharon spoke to taking the same people within the CoC to another organization. She spoke about the CoC putting too much of a target on its back if they go through the advocacy pathway with a HUD-funded entity. She brought up EBOO as an example of a group that can be a guide to how this pathway could look.
 - Nic spoke to having a broader communications group, that uses advocacy strategies as need, and can work with that external group. They spoke to the broader communications issues that need a broader platform to work from but still work effectively towards shifting the narrative for homelessness.
- Moe: Do we think that a group that's called a "communications group" would be a palatable role for county and city employees rather than an "advocacy group"?
 - A representative from Alameda County Health shared, I do think that framing certainly helps make it more possible for us. And I think that there's a lot that can go under that communications umbrella that is really worthwhile. Would be a pathway in for government folks. Other City and County employees agreed.
- Moe: We have so much of the activity of the CoC umbrella directed by public entities such as city and the county it would be good useful to have them at the table, especially if we have this kind of other organization, a kind of sister organization, that might go to supervisors meetings or go to city council meetings and advocate for certain policies but at least have it to some degree in sync with the thinking of the Board.
- Vivian: I don't think adding a committee or subcommittee and voting on this makes sense? I don't think this is the right place for it, we need to come together outside of the CoC as we are funded directly from HUD.
 - Peter also spoke to also not having a communications committee within the CoC as it needs to be outside something that is a HUD funded entity
 - Moe spoke to EOH not being an entity that is part of the Government
 - Laurie: Can we advocate through public education? Just being a source of consistent/accurate information on data and impacts?
- Aram: I am not providing legal advice. However, The CoC is not a legal entity. Like some communities make joint powers authorities and other things that they want to go that route, but it's not something you how you've done. The counter that I'm hearing on the other side is, do you want, even if it's not a government body, do you want that body making positions about federal funding and that kind of thing?
- Sharon: This is a problematic way to get the work done, and it needs to be done by a separate organization.
- Nic: As organizations and individuals involved in addressing homelessness, we are by default advocating for that. We have an advocacy framework that is built into the work that we are doing. What I am struggling with understand how setting up a group to help us to be on that baseline.
- Chloé Greene (Independent Consultant): I am hearing a distinction between advocacy work and what is being proposed I feel by the communications committee piece is narrative change work. Narrative change work is about ensuring that people in your community have the information they need to have, which is evidence based, and is supportive of the solutions that work to build community buy in around a particular thing. Often times it is a responsibility of CoC to do narrative change work in that regard, and so if I am hearing these things correctly, I would suggest that that

distinction be made and that the Communications Committee focus on narrative change while the advocacy work is moved to the separate body that you all have been discussing. [Resource 1](#), [Resource 2](#)

- Tunisia: There are two different things that need to happen at the same time, because of the legal position that people are in. We can't as a group make a statement about the criminalization of homelessness Because entities here might have ordinances or laws that are in place that do that. So the advocacy has to happen separately.
- Darlene Flynn (City of Oakland): It seems to me to decide about a role in the future that we are not certain about. I do not agree in advance as we have principles and believe in certain things, we can change how we communicate about those things however, what does that mean. Does the outcome we are going for need to be outside the CoC or within it. I thought the CoC is an advocacy body. I also don't know if the federal government will send the money to the CoC's around the country. There are outside advocacy groups that exist outside of the CoC and do this work. The question is what value can the CoC bring within these very turbulent times.
- Moe in the chat: EveryOne Home is both a collective impact initiative and the Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County Continuum of Care CA-502 (Alameda CoC) comprised of representatives from the county, cities, nonprofits, advocates, and community members, including community members with lived experience.

Action I.

i. Nic Ming motioned that the Leadership Board recommend to the full community the creation a Communications Committee that will develop strategies and provide public statements promoting and supporting the goals of the Alameda County/EveryOne Home Governance Charter. And further that the Policies and Procedures governing the Communications Committee be developed by an ad-hoc committee of the Board and presented for ratification at the community meeting of May 6, 2025.

Caroline Topeé seconded.

ii. Discussion around if the Communications group would be a full Committee or workgroup. The Board decided it would be a workgroup but still hold to the EveryOne Home Charter of having 1/3 people with Lived Experience of homelessness and represent the racial diversity of the County. The motion was modified.

Action I, Modified.

i. Nic Ming motioned that the Leadership Board recommend to the full community the creation a Communications Workgroup that will develop strategies and provide public statements promoting and supporting the goals of the Alameda County/EveryOne Home Governance Charter. And further that the Policies and Procedures governing the Communications Committee be developed by an ad-hoc committee of the Board and presented for ratification at the community meeting of May 6, 2025.

Caroline Topeé seconded the modified motion.

ii. No discussion.

iii. Roll call vote:

YES: Andrea Ford, Brenda Wadsworth, Caroline Topeé, C'Mone Falls, Elsie Lee, Frank Rogers, Kate Hart, Laurie Flores, Liz Varela, Marcell Lloyd, Moe Wright, Ms. Shelley Gonzalez, Nic Ming, Tunisia Owens

NO: Peter Radu, Sharon Cornu, Vivian Wan

Abstain: Adrienne Chambers, Jen Lucky, Dylan Sweeney, John Janosko, Suzanne Warner, Shatae Jones

Present not voting: Annie Bailey, Jennifer Pearce

iv. Motion passes with 14 Yes votes, 3 Noes, 6 Abstains, and 2 Present not voting.

8) Open Discussion (All)

- a) Following the action item and advocacy strategy, the Board begin developing further next steps.
- b) The following individuals volunteered to be part of the Communications Workgroup:
 - i) Moe Wright
 - ii) Elsie Lee
 - iii) Caroline Topeé
 - iv) Frank Rogers
 - v) Nic Ming
 - vi) Ms. Shelley Gonzalez
- c) Nic and Tunisia suggested the workgroup focus on narrative change.
- d) All the members of the workgroup will be from the Leadership Board or existing CoC Committees, 7 or fewer individuals.
- e) Vivian and other City Representatives (Peter Radu) expressed concern about statements this workgroup might issue signed as Leadership Board; concerned about any legal recourse that CoC-providers on Leadership Board might face if statements are signed by only the co-chairs.
- f) Nic suggested that any statements from the group should be signed off by the co-chairs of the Leadership Board, and as a procedure mechanism, could introduce taking digital votes by email outside of the Leadership Board meeting, could help speed up timelines.
- g) Darlene asked if the workgroup will bring back its mission statement, purpose, and operating procedures back to the Board for approval?
 - i) Moe said yes.
- h) C'Mone shared she would prefer that Leadership Board vote on prioritizes its authorized to support and anything outside of that must be brought back to the full Board for approval.

- i) The workgroup will meet and draft policies and procedures for the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

9) Community Meeting Agenda (Morgan Bernados, Homebase)

- a) The Board previewed and gave input on a draft of the Community Meeting taking place on May 6th.
- b) Nic shared more about the Wendy Jackson Service Awards. Wendy was the former Executive Director of the East Oakland Community Project and a long-time leader in the CoC. The awards ceremony will be a way to recognize the work Wendy did and her legacy of service. It will also be an opportunity to recognize current members of the CoC and the work they are doing. Nic and his planning team will come up with categories to recognize staff and community members for their service and leadership. Planned to take place the last hour of the event, financial awards will also be given out, sponsored by Social Impact Wheel.
 - i) Christoverre suggested Kim should get an award.
 - ii) Kate suggested the event be moved up earlier in the agenda to make sure more people can be in attendance, people often have to leave before the end of the full meeting.
 - iii) Moe also mentioned the planning and selection team will need to make sure the awardees can attend the meeting to accept the awards.
- c) No other feedback was given on the agenda. Morgan will work to finalize with the Leadership Board co-chairs.

10) Closing (Moe Wright)

- 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) Nic shared that the April Learning Community will be a self-care and wellness opportunity to support endurance and perseverance through this time.
- c) Vivian: I would like this body to be planning on the impact of some of the policies-- for example, when EHV (emergency housing voucher) \$\$ runs out at the end of 2026, how are we going to prioritize funding to keep people housed?

Next meeting will be held **April 17, 2025**.

Public Attendance

Homebase:

- Morgan Bernados
- Aram Hauslaib
- Kris Maun
- Lyn Nesbitt

Public:

- Anna Fellers, Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services
- Corrine Lee, Alameda County
- Christoverre Kohler, Community Member
- Jennifer Pearce, Alameda County Housing and Community Development
- Alan Guttirez, Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services
- Darlene Flynn, City of Oakland
- Patrick Anderson, Alameda County Community Development Agency
- Amy Lara, City of Oakland
- Chloé Green, Independent Consultant
- Suzanne Warner, Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services