Leadership Board

Draft Minutes

July 17, 2025

2:00pm – 4:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/81761154580

Meeting ID: 817 6115 4580

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/
- **Acronym Glossary**: https://everyonehome.org/main/continuum-of-care/coc-member-resources/

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.

Minutes

1) **Welcome / Introductions** (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)

2) **Leadership Board Public Comment** (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)
   a) No public comment.

3) **Approval of June 18th Minutes** (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)
   a) Minutes approved.

4) **Homelessness Response System Updates** (All)
   a) Jonathan Russell (Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness): The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has decided to take up full discussion of priorities for Measure W at a special meeting on July 22nd with opportunity for public comment. Measure W is a general tax so can be spent on anything the County provides in terms of services, though there was a heavy emphasis during the campaign in 2020 about homelessness. The Board of Supervisors is discussing on July 22nd the broad priorities for how Measure W funds will be spent generally.
      i) Members of the Leadership Board and public encouraged attendees to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting in person if they're able. Morgan will send an email out to the Leadership Board once the agenda and time is set for the Board of Supervisors meeting.
      ii) Pauline Blackwell (Alameda County and Housing Development) asked whether there is a current budget recommendation that the Board of Supervisors will discuss or whether the proposed allocations will be shared during the meeting.
         (1) Jonathan shared that Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness (H+H) has shared some impact scenarios with the Board of Supervisors using Home Together categories of investment and how much resources could be scaled and supported. It includes a healthy portion of federal backfill. The presentations from the Community Town Halls include high-level summaries about what amount of funding toward homelessness and housing could do. But the Board of Supervisors will be deciding at this meeting what priorities are. Our hope is that they will at least decide the homelessness vs. not homelessness buckets.
      iii) Katie Barnett shared that her organization and others are urging the Board of Supervisors to unequivocally put this funding towards homelessness. Alameda County voters imposed a sales tax on ourselves for that explicit purpose. The fact that the Board of Supervisors have the right to reallocate it shouldn't be taken as a mandate to do so, which is essentially what's happening. It's not what voters intended.

iv) C'Mone Falls asked whether H+H is also putting forward a recommendation to prioritize maintaining current shelter beds and whether there is a percentage calculation for how funds like HHAP and HOME are allocated throughout the different jurisdictions in the County.
   (1) Jonathan responded that H+H is assuming 2 things in its scenarios: significant portion of funding would just be backfill, including federal funds, and shelter funding would be to maintain current shelters and address current shortfalls.
   (2) Regarding HHAP and HOME, Jonathan responded that HHAP is spread across the County in a few ways with Oakland getting some funding directly and the remaining split between the CoC and the County. For HOME, Oakland and Berkeley have direct allocations and Alameda County Housing and Community Development gets an allocation for other cities and unincorporated areas.

b) Folks in the chat shared the location of the Board of Supervisors meeting and how to submit comments to the Board of Supervisors.

c) Michelle Starratt Alameda County Housing and Community Development) shared that on July 22nd there are two other contracts going to Board of Supervisors: First, HCD is contracting with St. Mary's to do outreach/engagement and communications about homeless/housing needs throughout county and will engage with the CoC around that messaging/need. St. Mary's Center responded to a competitive RFP. Second, the Housing Plan – which is separate from Home Together plan but works in combination – is going up for adoption. It outlines the housing needs of the whole county, not just the unhoused population - including extremely low income (ELI) and very low income (VLI) households - looks at programs needed to support entire housing ecosystem. If and when new resources become available, we can point to this plan.

5) Leadership Board Updates (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)

a) Committees are finishing Governance Review discussions in July and August.
b) The Communications Workgroup has started meeting to draft a communications strategy for the Board's input and approval
c) Letters to Public Housing Authorities regarding Emergency Housing Vouchers have been sent, responses received from Livermore and Alameda County as of July 17th, 2025.

6) Update and Feedback on HHAP-6 (Kate Bristol; Jonathan Russell, Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness; City of Oakland)

a) The County provided an update on HHAP-6 (Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention) and solicit feedback from the Leadership Board on the use of these funds. The full presentation can be found here.
b) Discussion and Questions:
   i) Darin asked about the request to share the County's inventory of encampments and if that's a tie-in to ERF? C'Mone submitted the question to the presenters and they will get back to him.

(1) Response from presenters: We don't have a lot of information about how the State intends to use the data listing all the encampments. There is a portion of the table that asks whether any of the encampments on the list are being addressed with ERF funding.

ii) Katie, Jonathan, and Sasha Hauswald from City of Oakland discussed the California Governor's budget and the reduced allocation for HHAP funding in the future. Jonathan shared that the County has always treated HHAP like one-time funding, and so they are budgeting for the future as though this funding source won't exist. The City of Oakland does use HHAP for interim programs and that will still be necessary if HHAP goes away, so there's a potential shortfall on the horizon. However because of the timing of budget signings and the time between a budget being approved and the money actually being allocated out, that shortfall is likely 2 years away. Still spending money from HHAP 4 and 5; HHAP 7 is the future round of funding that got reduced.

iii) Nic Ming asked if the County will be coming back to the Leadership Board to confirm the CoC's consensus with the HHAP 6 application after the community engagement sessions. Due to the timing of the application and the next Leadership Board meetings, this will not happen.

7) **Point-in-Time 2026 Count Update** (Kim Natarajan, Simtech)

a) Simtech provided an update on the 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count planning process, timeline, and opportunities for CoC involvement. The full slide deck can be found here.

b) If folks want to participate in the PIT Planning Team, email Kim Natarajan at info@viewcommunityadvisors.com.

Action I.

i. Elsie Lee motioned to approve the Point-in-Time Count Methodology as presented.
ii. Michelle Starratt seconded.
iii. No discussion.
iv. Roll Call Vote:

YES: Pamela Powell, Brenda Wadsworth, Caroline Topeé, C'Mone Falls, Darin Lounds, Deidre Wan, James Williams, Elsie Lee, Josh Thurman, Kate Hart, John Janosko, Laurie Flores, Michelle Starratt, Ms. Shelley Gonzalez, Nic Ming, Josh Jacobs, Sharon Cornu

NO: None.

Abstain: Tunisia Owens

v. Motion passed with 17 Yes votes, 0 Noes, and 1 Abstain.

c) The following folks volunteered to join the PIT Planning Team: Katie Alducin (Unincorporated Areas Jurisdiction Lead), Laurie Flores (City of Fremont Lead), Josh Jacobs (City of Berkeley Lead), Shatae Jones, Elsie Lee, Ms. Shelley (connect with OUSD McKinney-Vento staff), Caroline Topeé

8) Updates and Next Steps on Measure W (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)

a) In light of the upcoming Board of Supervisors decisions regarding Measure W (meeting on July 22nd, time and agenda not set at the time of this meeting), the Leadership Board discussed the current proposed uses for Measure W and other Coc priorities for the funds. Folks on the call shared that mayors from other cities, nonprofits, and several grassroots organizations have submitted letters and public comments to the Board of Supervisors advocating for maximum allocation of Measure W to homelessness services. Attendees encouraged each other to submit public comment and show up to the meeting.

b) There were questions about how the other entities are advocating and messaging to the Board of Supervisors. Some people explained that the main message to the Board of Supervisors is to spend at least 90% of Measure W revenue on homelessness as there have been ideas proposed to spend it on other social services.

   i) Some attendees went back and forth on how Measure W was marketed and written on the ballot when it was passed back in 2020 and the relevance of that for advocating to the Board of Supervisors for particular uses of the funds. There have been legal battles in the release of Measure W funds and whether or not it can be used only for homelessness or if it needs to be opened up to other uses as well. It passed in 2020 as a general tax, which only requires 51% of the vote. A tax to be used only for homeless services would have counted as a special tax, which requires 67% of the vote to pass. Other attendees chimed in that despite the history of Measure W, arguments about its intentions back in 2020 haven't been persuasive enough to convince the Board of Supervisors to allocate the money soley or primarly to homeless services.

c) While the Leadership Board has different opinions on how Measure W should be spent within the homeless service system, there was consensus that the CoC could submit a statement advocating for Measure W to be used for homelessness services in general.

d) Some attendees shared that other organizations have aligned with the Home Together Plan to avoid confusing and competing proposals.

e) C'Mone Falls proposed the following language as a statement Leadership Board members should share at the Board of Supervisors meeting or via written comment: "I am a member of the CoC Leadership Board and I support utilizing 90% or more of Measure W funds to support homeless services. With the recent loss of federal funding and prospective loss of additional federal safety net funding, it is critical that 90% or more of Measure W funds are used to support the homeless population in Alameda County."

Action II.

i. C'Mone Falls motioned to approve the above proposed language as a statement CoC Leadership Board members should submit to the Board of Supervisors. Michelle Starratt seconded.

ii. Discussion around if a letter should also be sent in addition to giving public comment. The Board decided the language from the motion could be the bulk of the letter. Homebase will prepare the letter and send to Moe and C'Mone to sign as the Leadership Board co-chairs.

   a. C'Mone Falls amended her motion to add the confirmation of sending a letter: Individual board members are encouraged to go to the Board of Supervisors meeting to share message: "I am a member of the CoC Leadership Board and I support utilizing 90% or more of Measure W funds to support homeless services. With the recent loss of federal funding and prospective loss of additional federal safety net funding, it is critical that 90% or more of Measure W funds are used to support the homeless population in Alameda County." The CoC Board will also send a letter with same message. Michelle Starratt seconded the amended motion.

iii. Roll Call Vote:

YES: Annie Bailey, Brenda Wadsworth, C'Mone Falls, Darin Lounds, James Williams, Josh Thurman, Kate Hart, Michelle Starratt, Ms. Shelley Gonzalez, Josh Jacobs, Tunisia Owens.

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Sharon Cornu

Present not voting: Caroline Topeé, Deidre Wan, Dylan Sweeney

iv. The motion passed with 12 Yes votes, 0 Noes, 1 Abstain, and 3 members present but not voting.

9) Continuum of Care Contingency Plans (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)

a) The Leadership Board discussed the current state of CoC Funding, the current administration's budget proposal, and other threats to homelessness response system funding. The Board began discussing and strategizing how to prioritize activities if funding is lost.

b) The Leadership Board discussed the loss of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) and the potential losses of ESG, CDBG, and HOME funds. The federal government also announced the potential for a CoC NOFO Competition in 2025 which goes against their earlier commitment to a 2 year cycle starting in 2024.

c) Regarding EHVs, Alameda County is looking into how to absorb the cost since they won't be able to cover all EHV current households. Measure W could potentially have a contingency plan to cover current EHV households. City of Alameda is looking into transferring EHV households to other resources but can't yet confirm.

d) For more information on how to advocate against federal action and cuts, there are resources and more updates on the National Alliance to End Homelessness website here.

e) Between this meeting and the September meeting, the Leadership Board is encouraged to think about the following questions:
   a. How do we appropriately advocate against these threats? What's our shared message?
   b. Next Steps if we do lose CoC Funding
      i. Find other funding
      ii. Develop mechanism for prioritization of projects/orgs based on what funding is available?
      iii. Do we as a CoC/Board stay intact if ALL CoC funding is gone?
   c. What is the plan for continuing this conversation? Perhaps a small subgroup could be created to talk about this. C'Mone identified a need to urgently respond to budget changes and federal action.

10) Follow Up Discussion: Formation of sub-group of Leadership Board (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)

a) Following the discussions from the June 18th Leadership Board meeting regarding the size and challenges of the current Leadership Board, the Board discussed the possibility of creating a small sub-group of the Leadership Board to oversee formal CoC responsibilities as outlined by HUD.

b) Patrick Anderson and C'Mone Falls were in favor of this question being discussed by Committees as well before the September Board meeting.

c) Tunisia, Gillian, and C'Mone clarified that the idea of a sub-group is not to scale back the Leadership Board but just redirect certain responsibilities to a smaller group because it can be hard for the full Leadership Board to reach consensus. Need for a more nimble, small group that can sign off on HUD related CoC responsibilities while the larger Board can think about bigger discussions and strategy.

d) Sharon recommended thinking of the sub-group as an emergency planning group. It's not uncertain that there will be cuts, but the timing, details, etc. are unknown. If and when there are cuts, we'll need to know how to replace those funds and continue to engage people. It would be helpful if there was a clear direction to a subgroup to research and bring back to the full Leadership Board what other CoCs are doing, options for dealing with funding, updates on funding cuts/changes.

   i) Annie, C'Mone, and Josh agreed. Josh shared there are many times when the Leadership Board gets slowed down; it's hard to find a balance between everyone being able to give input on everything and needing to act quickly.

e) Ms. Shelley expressed the need for clarity around this proposal – not sure everyone is on the same page about this idea or have been in the meetings where it was discussed. There are lots of conversations in lots of spaces so wants to make sure everyone knows what's being talked about. Nic also added there's a need for clarity on the scope of the subgroup.

f) A motion was made to create a subgroup of the Leadership Board and to come back with more discussion for what authority the group has. However, the meeting lost quorum so no formal motion was passed. A roll call vote was still taken for the record, 11 votes were in favor, 1 vote against. This item will be continued in the next meeting.

g) To prepare for the September meeting, Leadership Board members are encouraged to think about what specific information they want to help them make a decision about this item. Please send questions to alameda@homebaseccc.org or the co-chairs directly. An email will also be sent out with the proposal to support people's preliminary thinking.

11) Closing (C'Mone Falls, co-chair)

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) The Leadership Board will not meet in August per the decision of the co-chairs.

Leadership Board Attendance

Adrienne Chambers	Alameda County Probation	Absent
Annie Bailey	City of Fremont, Co-Chair Youth Committee	Present
Andrea Ford	Alameda County Social Services Agency	Sub-presented
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	Present
Frank Rogers	Community Member	Absent
Isamar Ochoa Dominguez	All Home	Present
Jennifer Lucky	Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services, Co-Chair SCF Committee	Absent
John Janosko	Wood Street Commons	Present
Jonathan Russell	Alameda County Health, 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	Absent
Marcell Lloyd	St. Vincent De Paul of Alameda County	Absent
Michelle Starratt	Alameda County Housing and Community Development	Present

Moe Wright	Community Member, Co-Chair LB	Absent
Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	Community Member	Present
Nic Ming	Community Member, Co-Chair System Impact Committee	Present
Peter Radu	City of Berkeley	Sub-present
Ray Corona	Co-Chair SCF Committee	Present
Tammy Nguyen	Youth Advisory Board, Youth Committee Co-Chair	Absent
Tunisia Owens	Family Violence Law Center, Co-Chair Racial Equity Committee	Present
Vivian Wan	Abode	Absent
Brenda Wadsworth	Community Member	Present
Deidre Wan	Community Member	Present
James Williams	Berkeley Public Housing Authority	Present
Logan McDonnell	BACS, Co-Chair HSHP	Absent
Sharon Cornu	St. Mary's Center	Present
Shelly Haynes	City of Livermore	Absent
Dylan Sweeney	Alameda County Housing and Community Development	Present