



Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee

January 28, 2026
1:00-2:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

[Link to Zoom Meeting](#)
Phone: [1 386-347-5053](tel:13863475053)
Meeting ID: 83085774509

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 Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zPoP9Q_HT-Q9rCaXvKazzlURH-vfndxt?usp=sharing
- **Website page** (on EveryOne Home website) for the Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee: <https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/housing-stability-and-homelessness-prevention-committee/>
- **Acronyms and Glossary:** <https://everyonehome.org/main/continuum-of-care/coc-member-resources/>

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee is to develop strategies and collaborations to prevent new homelessness, including for formerly homeless people who have moved into housing. Learn more about the Committee's purpose [here](#).

Meeting Purpose / Overview

The purpose of this meeting was to: (1) review Committee ground rules, (2) review a proposal from the Leadership Board, and (3) workplan for 2026.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome/Introductions (Dylan Sweeney, HCD, Kelsey Knutson, BACS; Co-Chairs)

- a. November 26th, 2025 minutes approved.

2. Public Comment (Dylan Sweeney, Co-Chair)

a. Jesse McCaffery (Community Member):

- i. There are 40 residents at the Peralta and 3rd Street tiny home village. We were told a few months ago that we would have to move out. We have nowhere to go, and so we've decided as a collective that we're going to stay, and we're currently trying to organize. I'm going to be looking for a non-profit to partner with to submit a bid to the City of Oakland, and I just wanted to let this be the first time to go on record.

b. John Marks (Community Member):

- i. My name's John Marks. I'm a community member with lived experience of homelessness. I'm someone who works directly with unhoused residents navigating COC-funded programs. To Jesse, I support you. If you need any help, we're at 14th and Poplar. I'm going to be blunt, because prevention requires honesty. Last week, I personally assisted a client at an HCD-managed site. The client was physically thrown to the ground by site management from his wheelchair after having a stroke last week. This was not an emergency, this was not de-escalation. This was a publicly funded homeless provider committing violence against the homeless person. The incident is not an outlier. It's a predictable outcome of a system that funds providers without enforceable accountability, and then calls it the fallout individual failure. So when this committee talks today about ground rules, leadership restructuring, dashboards, and the 2026 work plan, I need to say this clearly. There are far more rules governing how unhoused people have to behave than rules governing how providers are allowed to treat them. If the prevention dashboards announced today don't check provider misconduct, assaults, threats, retaliation, unpaid labor and complaints, then they are not prevention tools, they are performative. If the leadership board wants to be more effective, effectiveness must mean that providers who harm people lose contracts, not just get technical assistance. If the work plan does not explicitly name and address provider-caused homelessness, then this committee is avoiding the most uncomfortable truths in the room. A significant amount of new homeless in Alameda County is created by the various systems claiming to prevent it. People don't just fall back into homelessness, they're pushed by violence, retaliation, and unaccountable power. Prevention starts with stopping the harm. Anything else is just odds. Thank you.

c. Zae (Youth Spirit Artworks):

- i. I just wanted to use this time to talk about the work that we're doing with the Home Together plan. I just want to identify and know this is

something that we all know, that we cannot achieve equity for transition-age youth (TAY), which is our focus population, if we treat them as a monolith. Aggregate data often hides the distinct crises facing either BIPOC and or LGBTQ+ populations that we know are disproportionately pushed into homelessness due to systemic family rejection and institutional failures. And so something we've been thinking about with policymakers and with these kinds of public-facing committees are things like mandated disaggregated reporting, because we need to see the specific data for TAY outreach success rates, broken down specifically for that population. Cultural-specific programming and providers, because often TAY are lumped in with adults, especially if they're not a part of an adult-headed household. And also, disaggregated data to also let us see the folks that are couch surfing versus those that are out on the street, because we have a large subset of a population that is an invisible homelessness. We know we just did the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, but there is a large ghost population that's not accounted for in those counts, and we're aware of that. I would just continue to bring that forward, recognizing the unique, growth period, especially for the Identification and treatment of early onset mental illness and severe mental illness. That's why TAY are identified as the priority population under Proposition 1. We would just continue to advocate for disaggregated data as much as possible. We know we've come a long way, and there's still a long way to go. We're working on data dashboards and other things, and it's just really important that we be able to disaggregate the data for that subpopulation. I really appreciate everyone's work, because we know how complex the needs are.

d. Luke Barnesmoore (Front Porch):

- i. May I jump in for a plus one, but for older people on that front? We know that in the Alameda CoC, the highest rate of returns to homelessness from a permanent housing solution is for older people. All Home was able to provide us with some of that information during the system's modeling technical work group, but we still don't know from which programs. And so I think a really important next step would be to say, if we know that older people are more likely to return to homelessness from a quote-unquote permanent housing solution, I say quote-unquote because that includes rapid rehousing, which is by no means permanent. Which are those programs that older people are more likely to be falling back into homelessness from? And once we know that, are there strategies that we can use to shift funding to the interventions that are actually working to keep people housed in the long term? Thank you.

e. Ms. Shelley Gonzalez (Community Member):

- i. Just for the record and the reminder that we have different types of learners in this space, and this public comment sounds hopeful, so

everyone is bringing a bit of expertise, a bit of hope, a bit of contribution, and a willingness to do their part, collectively and singularly in order to do something about what we've been trying to do something about for a very long time. So yeah, sometimes we might need to hear what's in the chat, just get that verbalized. It's wonderful to be here. I appreciate everybody.

- f. Richard Nudelman (Community Member) from chat:
 - i. \$24 billion dollars squandered for the homeless has been squandered, look to Housing Assistance Program.

3. Announcements (All)

- a. We are also happy to announce that the HSHP Prevention Dashboards are now live on the [EveryOne Home website!](#)
- b. Learning Community 2026:
 - i. The Evidence-Based Solutions Committee is looking for feedback on their Learning Community so they can plan for 2026!
 - ii. Feel free to give ideas for 2026 or feedback on 2025 if you participated: <https://forms.gle/3dnyMfutbDwjyS779>.
 - iii. The Learning Communities will take place on the 4th Tuesday at noon, with the first one being January 27th.
- c. New Resource: Homebase Staffing for 2026:
 - i. As we look to the new year we wanted to give an updated staffing directory! We've had the request to make this kind of document as we know it can be hard to know who to contact for what purpose on the Homebase team. It's located two different places on the website ("CoC Member Resources" [here](#) and "Get Involved" [here](#)) and located in the "Resources and Information" folder of the CoC Google Drive ([linked here](#)).
- d. New Resource: CoC Membership Roster:
 - i. Another new resource is this Google Spreadsheet of all of our committees, voting members, staff, and term dates! If you want contact information of a voting member, please reach out to alameda@homebaseccc.org to request that.
 - ii. The rosters for each Committee are already public on the website, but we have been asked to create this type of one-stop-shop document for our voting members.
 - iii. You can find it in the "Resources and Information" folder of the CoC Google Drive ([linked here](#)).

4. Evidence-Based Solutions Committee (ESC) Report Out (Elsie Lee, ESC Liaisons)

- a. The liaisons from the Evidence-Based Solutions Committee highlighted the Learning Community survey and led the next item on the agenda.

5. Annual Review Committee Ground Rules (Homebase, Co-Chairs, ESC Liaisons)

- a. Per page 12 of the [Policies and Procedures](#), Committees may establish their own sets of norms and should review/update them annually. This is an opportunity to reflect on how meetings have been going and if/how the current meeting norms are working for the group.
- b. Elsie Lee, the ESC Liaison for HSHP, and Morgan Bernados from Homebase walked the Committee through a few sample agreements to add to the existing ground rules. Committee members shared some edits and general consensus was reached. **Committee members will have an opportunity to further reflect and offer suggestions on these agreements by [commenting on this Google Doc](#) before they are confirmed at the March meeting.**
- c. Proposed new agreements:
 - i. Acknowledge the biases you bring into the meeting, assume good intent, treat others the way they expect to be treated, respect is in the eye of the beholder. Honor your own trauma and don't hold others responsible for your triggers.
 - ii. Address/name the harm/disrespect in the moment. You can drop an emoji like a skull or a stop sign in the chat to signify if you feel you've experience harm. If we don't have time to address it in that moment because of other time-sensitive items, then commit to it being the first thing that is addressed at the next meeting. If you don't feel comfortable naming the issue in the meeting space, you can share about the experience via email/phone call to Homebase staff and/or Committee co-chairs within 72 hours of the meeting and they will follow-up with you on how to address it.
 - iii. 90 seconds for contributions, give everyone a chance to share before you shared a second time. The co-chairs are responsible for maintaining integrity of the meeting and keeping people on topic in a respectful way, reminding people of what's on the agenda and what the goal of the meeting is.

6. Review Leadership Board Proposal (Morgan Bernados, Homebase)

- a. At their January 15th meeting, the Leadership Board approved [this proposal](#) for forming a workgroup of the Board that will work on ideas for how to make the Leadership Board run more effectively. The Board co-chairs are requesting that all Committees review the proposal, so Homebase walked through the proposal during the meeting.
- b. If you have ideas for this workgroup to consider about how to restructure the Board, or ideas for how the workgroup members should be selected, please share that feedback with your Homebase staff or leave comments directly on the document.

- 7. 2026 Work planning** (Kelsey Knutson, co-chair)
- a. The Committee discussed and brainstormed what they want to work on in 2026 now that the Government Performance Lab work and Prevention Dashboard work is complete.
 - b. The ideas generated were captured in [this Google Document](#). The co-chairs and Homebase staff will begin to work out how to implement these ideas into a Committee workplan for the year.
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- 8. Closing** (Dylan Sweeney and Kelsey Knutson, Co-Chairs)
- a. Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 25th, 2026 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm.
 - b. The Committee members will identify and discuss any agenda items for the next Committee meeting. You can also submit agenda ideas to alameda@homebaseccc.org.

Committee Members

Dylan Sweeney	Alameda County Housing and Community Development (HCD)	Present
Eleni Spiru	Swords to Plowshares	Present
Hugo Ramirez	City of Oakland	Absent
Myette Anderson	City of Berkeley	Present
Jeannette Rodriguez	Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services (H&H)	Absent
Kelsey Knutson	Bay Area Community Services (BACS)	Present
Luke Barnesmoore	Home Match—Front Porch	Present
Hamilton Hunt	BOSS	Absent

Ms. Shelley Gonzalez	Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Leadership Board	Present
Richard Nudelman	Community Member	Present
Freeway	Cadera Health	Absent
Elsie Lee	Sistas With Voices, Leadership Board	Present
Michael Esparza	Tri-Valley Haven	Present

Committee Ground Rules

1. When you first speak, state your name, your pronouns if you have a preference, where you live or work, and your agency or organization. Members are also asked to introduce themselves in the chat.
2. One person speaks at a time. Raised hands are not required unless the moderator decides they are necessary in the situation.
3. This is a public discussion, not a debate. The purpose is not to win an argument, but to hear many points of view and explore many options and solutions.
4. Everyone is encouraged to participate. You may be asked to share what you think, or we may ask for comments from those who haven't spoken. It is always OK to "pass" when you are asked to share a comment. People can participate via chat and are not obligated to come off mute or turn their camera on.
5. No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion. If you have already voiced your ideas, let others have an opportunity. When you speak, be brief and to the point.
6. Commit to racial justice and equity in decision making.
7. Do your best to understand the pros and cons of every option, not just those you prefer. Be as objective and fair-minded as you can be.
8. Seek first to understand, not to be understood. Ask questions to seek clarification when you don't understand the meaning of someone's comments.
9. Assume good intentions. Handle one another with grace.