



Evidence-Based Solutions Committee

Minutes

February 12, 2026

11:00am – 1:00pm

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. Written comments can also be submitted in advance of the meeting to alameda@homebaseccc.org.

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?usp=sharing
- **Website page** (on EveryOne Home website) for the ESC: <https://everyonehome.org/about/committees/evidence-based-solutions-committee/>
- **Acronyms and Glossary:** <https://everyonehome.org/main/continuum-of-care/coc-member-resources/>

Committee Purpose

The primary purpose of the Evidence-Based Solutions Committee is to ensure that the Continuum of Care (CoC) centers and integrates evidence-based data and practices to effectively identify, prioritize and provide solutions to serve the people and populations who are most vulnerable to and disproportionately impacted by homelessness across Alameda County.

The Evidence-Based Solutions Committee plays a key role within the CoC's collective impact model. It fosters collaboration and ensures accountability for all CoC committees and workgroups, including the Leadership Board. The Committee provides oversight to implement and integrate measures, goals, metrics, outcomes, policies, and practices aimed at addressing the systemic and structural root causes of housing disparities. This work focuses on reducing disproportionalities in homelessness response systems that affect the communities most at risk.

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.

Agenda

<p>1. Welcome / Introductions (Mark Mora, Homepage)</p> <p>a. The meeting was called to order and attendees introduced themselves.</p>
<p>2. Approval of January 8th Minutes (Mark Mora, Homepage)</p> <p>a. The January 8th minutes were approved.</p>
<p>3. Public Comment (Mark Mora, Homepage)</p> <p>a. Ms. Shelley Gonzalez: Raised concerns about the fragmented nature of work across CoC committees and related county-level bodies. They noted that many of the same community members participate across multiple committees, and that the work — from housing stability to outreach and prevention — substantially overlaps. They encouraged staff to help agendize liaison reports so that relevant updates (e.g., from Alameda County Health and Homelessness, HSHP, and OAC) are consistently brought back to the ESC. Called for a shift from a “plan for a plan” approach to a “plan to action” model, emphasizing the need for clear timelines, explicit expectations, and follow-through when decisions are made across committees. Also highlighted the importance of co-chair preparedness, including regular pre-huddles and clear role delineation. A trio model — two co-chairs plus an advisor — was recommended to manage the scope of CoC committee work, particularly given the skills in de-escalation and trauma-informed facilitation that the role requires.</p>
<p>4. Community Building Activity (All)</p> <p>a. The group participated in a community building activity.</p>
<p>5. Announcements (All)</p> <p>a. A committee member was congratulated on recently moving into a new home.</p> <p>b. The group extended congratulations to a community member on their appointment to the City of Oakland Commission for Homelessness.</p>
<p>Discussion Items</p>
<p>6. Feedback and Presentation on Evaluation Definitions Project (Lyn Nesbitt, Homepage; CoC Standards, Compliance, and Funding Committee)</p>

a. The CoC Standards, Compliance, and Funding (SCF) Committee presented their Evaluation Definitions project and invited the ESC to provide feedback. The group reviewed proposed definitions and discussed whether they were appropriately scoped and aligned with EveryOne Home's values.

b. Discussion highlights:

- Members questioned whether a single set of definitions is appropriate across all evaluation types, or whether definitions should be tailored per context.
- A suggestion was made to reference the memorandum of understanding (MOU) to make expectations and standards explicit.
- Members asked for clarification on what "Needs Improvement" means in practice — specifically what process or consequences follow that rating.
- The group generally affirmed that the definitions reflect EveryOne Home's values.
- Members provided plain language feedback: definitions should be accessible and jargon-free. A specific punctuation edit was suggested (remove semicolon after "deliverables" and add a period).
- A version of the definitions tied to the MOU was suggested so that expectations are fully explicit for all parties.

Next Steps:

- ESC feedback to be compiled and brought back to the SCF Committee.
- Staff to send MOU links to meeting attendees.

7. Review Committee Agreements (All)

a. Per page 12 of the Policies and Procedures, committees are required to review and update their meeting agreements annually. The group reflected on how current agreements are functioning and discussed potential updates, including new language around what to do when an agreement is broken and a formal timekeeping policy.

b. Discussion highlights:

- Timekeeping policy: Members discussed adding a formal timekeeping structure, including time limits for individual comments, a rotating timekeeper role shared among committee members, and recognition that active participation via chat is a valid alternative to verbal engagement.
- Members discussed adding clear language about the response process when an agreement is broken. A proposed 72-hour timeframe raised questions — does it represent a window to engage and repair, or for staff to reach out? Members agreed that harmed parties should feel supported and not pressured to act before they are ready.
- Co-chair and facilitation preparation: Strong support was expressed for co-chairs holding regular pre-huddles before meetings. A trio model (two co-chairs plus an advisor) was recommended given the complexity of CoC committee work. Skills in de-escalation and trauma-informed practice were identified as essential for those leading meetings.
- External references: A member suggested referencing established meeting standards from bodies such as HUD or ICH to provide shared authority and context for agreements.
- Camera flexibility: The group reaffirmed that cameras may not always be possible, and that participation via chat should be actively acknowledged and valued.

- A new proposed agreement was offered: “Throw glitter, not shade” — be supportive and kind to one another.
- Members were not ready to vote on updated agreements at this meeting and preferred to receive a follow-up email before acting.

Next Steps:

- Staff to circulate proposed updated agreement language via email after the meeting.
- Updated agreements to be brought back to a future Committee meeting for review and vote.

8. Workplan Check-in and Look Ahead (Homebase, All)

a. The committee checked in on the 2026 ESC Workplan and discussed priorities for upcoming months. Given that co-chairs were not fully available for this portion, the group agreed to defer definitive decisions but offered input.

b. Discussion highlights:

- Members expressed interest in scheduling a quarterly in-person ESC meeting to strengthen community connection and engagement.
- A request was made to add direct links to the workplan (e.g., PIT Count volunteer sign-up, CoC survey) to make it a more useful reference document.
- Staff noted the importance of ensuring the workplan is accessible and easy to share with all members.
- Three committee members expressed interest in joining the ESC planning group.

Next Steps:

- Staff to add relevant links to the 2026 ESC Workplan.
- Staff to follow up with interested planning group members.
- Begin discussion of scheduling a quarterly in-person meeting.

9. Closing

- Requests for future agenda items can be sent to alameda@homebaseccc.org.
- The next Evidence-Based Solutions Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 5th.

Resources

- [Evidence-Based Solutions Framework](#)
- [Centering Racial Equity Training](#) (*Foundational Training for Committee Members*)

Attendance

Committee Members:

- Ms. Shelley
- Jared DeFigh
- Sabrina Abong

- Sunita Garret
- Marcela Munoz
- Fiani Johnson

Public and Staff:

- Mark Mora
- Caroline Topée