

Evidence-Based Solutions Committee

Minutes

March 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 (Lynette Ward, co-chair)</p>
<p>2) Approval of February 12th minutes (Lynette Ward)</p> <p>a) No edits or additions to minutes, minutes approved</p>
<p>3) Public Comment (Lynette Ward)</p> <p>a) No public comment.</p>
<p>4) Announcements (All)</p> <p>a) Spring Community Meeting: May 27 at California Endowment Center in Oakland; submit agenda ideas by March 26 (email alameda@homebaseccc.org)</p> <p>b) March Learning Community: March 24 at 12pm on Zoom; topic is Affordable Housing 101, speaker is John Lo (Alameda County HCD)</p> <p>c) ESC co-chair terms ending in June; recruiting for a new private-sector co-chair — contact Morgan, Mark, or planning team members (Tunisia, Lynette, Nic)</p> <p>i) Discussion on co-chair transition: Tunisia offered to stagger terms to avoid simultaneous turnover; members encouraged those interested to shadow and attend Planning Group meetings as a starting point</p> <p>d) Behavioral Health budget shortfall: Tunisia raised concerns about program cuts and their impacts on the system; Nic suggested raising at the next Leadership Board to build awareness and explore advocacy and alternative funding options</p>

- e) Ms. Shelley raised concerns about fragmented work across groups and the need for more coordinated information sharing
- f) Committee members overall raised questions about County's level of engagement and checks and balances with the CoC.

5) Approve Committee Agreements (co-chairs, Homebase, all)

- 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. Current agreements can be found on this agenda as well as this document. Members are welcome to begin suggesting edits to the agreements [using this google doc](#).
- b) **Action:** Approve the updated Committee agreements.
- c) Co-chairs decided to skip action item because it was not time sensitive and for the sake of time.

6) Presentation on 2024 Coordinated Entry Evaluation & Equity Implications

(Matthieu Kaman, Homebase)

- a) The ESC will hear a report on the recent Coordinated Entry Evaluation and the equity implications and learnings from the process.
- b) Previous Resources:
 - i) [2024 Memo on Coordinated Entry System Evaluation Process](#)
 - ii) [2024-2025 Coordinated Entry System Evaluation](#)
 - iii) [Response from Coordinated Entry Management Entity](#)
 - iv) [Letter about the evaluation from RCD](#)
- c) Matthieu Kaman presented slides on the 2024 Coordinated Entry (CE) evaluation and equity implications
 - i) Key finding: CE assessment tools have known biases leading to unequal access; Focus Strategies recommended adding zip code as a scoring variable to better align service distribution with geographic need
 - ii) Additional recommendation: consolidate health condition categories into one criterion to address over-prioritization of certain medical conditions
 - iii) Mattieu also shared this resource for looking at geographic inequities: <https://www.urban.org/data-tools/mapping-neighborhoods-highest-risk-housing-instability-and-homelessness>
- d) Discussion highlights on geographic equity: some areas lack adequate access to resources; Focus Strategies is analyzing who accessed resources and where throughout the system
- e) Broader concerns raised: nationwide racial bias in scoring tools, poor prediction of housing success, under-prioritization of youth and families, over-prioritization of certain medical conditions, and growing reliance on case conferencing as the primary decision engine

<p>f) Committee discussed ESC's potential response to the evaluation, including drafting a memo to OAC flagging key recommendations and outstanding questions (e.g., medical prioritization, geographic equity)</p> <p>g) Nic flagged the need to confirm OAC liaisons; Marcela identified as existing liaison with discussion of adding another</p> <p>h) Next steps: Planning Group to develop timeline for recommendations; draft memo to be prepared prior to or at planning meeting; geographic equity and Housing Resource Center RFP identified as interconnected priorities</p>
<p>7) Workplan Check-in and Workgroup Follow-up (Morgan Bernados, Homepage; All)</p> <p>a) Skipped for time.</p>
<p>8) Closing</p> <p>a) Requests for future agenda items can be sent to alameda@homebaseccc.org.</p> <p>b) The next Evidence-Based Solutions Committee meeting will be Thursday, April 9th.</p>

Resources:

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

Attendance

Committee Members:

- Caroline Topeé
- Lynette Ward
- Elsie Lee
- Ms. Shelley Gonzalez
- Nic Ming
- Sabrina Abong
- Tunisia Owens
- Fiani Johnson
- Marcela Munoz

Public and Staff:

- Pauline Blackwell, HCD
- Mark Mora, Homepage
- Morgan Bernados, Homepage
- Matthieu Kaman, Homepage