



CONTRA COSTA POLICY COMMITTEE

June 24th from 2:00-4:00pm

Join them meeting via Teams at the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGVjN2U1ZjEtNDk4NS00NWZILWE5OWQtNTQ4MDM0OGZjNWFI%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222820d9de-dc2d-4363-8626-f2b003438c45%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222f963328-3040-4998-8105-b35c2e33b2cb%22%7d or via phone by dialing +1 925-391-1667 US Toll and entering the **Meeting ID:** 374440977#

Committee Members:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Deanne Pearn | 4. Lavonna Martin/Erica McWhorter | 6. Lynn Peralta |
| 2. Doug Leich | 5. Lindy Lavender | 7. Margaret Schiltz |
| 3. Jo Bruno | | |

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTERS	DESCRIPTION
Welcome & Roll Call	Doug Leich, Chair	Identifying & welcoming attendees of the committee
Public Comment	Doug Leich	Open Period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda.
Minutes (ACTION ITEM)		REVIEW and APPROVE minutes from the 4.15.21, 4.23.21 and 5.27.21 Policy Committee meetings.
State Legislation	All	Discuss identified bills at the state legislature to educate committee members and public attendees on bills and county positions. Bills for discussion include Homelessness Bills, other bills committee members identify and the Governor's 2021-22 budget.
Federal Policy		Discuss federal policy items to educate committee members and public attendees. Items for discussion include the American Rescue plan and the HUD 100-day summary.
Measure X	All	Update on Next Steps
Adjourn	Doug Leich	Close meeting

RESOURCES

Local:

[May 10 Report on State Budget and Legislation of Interest to CCC](#)

Priority Bills for Contra Costa County- [State Net](#) | [Search Legislation Private File](#)

State:

Housing California Policy Agenda- [2021 Bills, Budget, & Program... | housing \(housingca.org\)](#)

Moved Forward

- AB 816 – Accountability

Two-Year Bill

- AB 71 – Bring California Home Act
- AB 328 – Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program
- AB 258 – Low Barrier

Second House

- AB 27 (Rivas) Homeless Children
- AB 118 (Kamlager) CRISES Program
- AB 362 (Quirk-Silva) Shelter Safety
- AB 369 (Kamlager) Street Medicine-
- AB 1017 (Quirk-Silva) Right to Restroom
- AB 1043 (Rivas) Deeply Low Income
- SB 57 (Wiener) Overdose Prevention
- SB 629 (Roth) Identification Cards **(6/15/21 Asm Public Safety at 9 a.m.)**
- SB 678 (Rubio) Unaccompanied Women **(6/22/21- Asm Housing and Community Development at 1:30pm)**

Unknown

- AB 411 – VHHP
- AB 413 – TAY
- AB 771 – Driver’s License Fee Waiver
- AB 977 – HMIS
- AB 1043 – Deeply Low Income
- AB 1220 - Interagency Council
- AB 1360 – Roomkey
- AB 1575 – Needs and Gaps Analysis

Governor’s Budget- (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HOMELESSNESS-CRISIS-FACT-SHEET.pdf>)

May revision: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2021-22MR/#/BudgetSummary>

[California Roars Back: Governor Newsom Presents \\$100 Billion California Comeback Plan | California Governor](#)

Federal:

American Rescue Plan-

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/Factsheet_Housing_Provisions_American_Rescue_Plan_Act-2021.pdf

HUD 100-day summary-

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/FACTSHEETHUD100Days.pdf>



COH Policy Committee

April 15th from 2:00-3:00pm

Meeting Recording:

[https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/0ebf0af0-9977-4acc-
adb6-0b52281cf492](https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/0ebf0af0-9977-4acc-adb6-0b52281cf492)

Policy Committee Members: Jo Bruno, Lynn Peralta, Lindy Lavender, Margaret Schiltz, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Lavonna Martin, Erica McWhorter, Cassie Hourlland

MINUTES

1. Welcome

- Cassie welcomed all policy committee members and noted the correction to Margaret's last name on the agenda.

2. Review Purpose of Policy Committee

- Cassie defined the purpose of the Policy Committee as it is written on page 13 of the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness Bylaws¹. The Policy Committee reviews issues related to homeless policy opportunities, develops strategic approaches, and makes recommendations for action to the Council. Membership on this committee will include, at minimum, the Council Chair and a representative from the Collaborative Applicant as the body that reports to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the CoC.

3. Define Structure of Policy Committee

- Cassie informed the committee members that this meeting will need to be public and will need to follow the guidelines of the Brown Act meaning all meetings and meeting materials will be publicly posted and members of the public will be able to join meetings and provide public comment.
- There will also need to be quorum of committee members in order to hold the meetings.
- Cassie asked the group what the process on making decisions in the committee meetings should look like, how frequently the members would like to have the meetings and if there are additional thoughts on how to structure the meetings.
- Deanne asked if the committee could invite non council members to be on the committee or at least serve in an advisory capacity for the Policy Committee. She is specifically thinking about the Residents Empowerment Group. Doug and Jo expressed interest in allowing others, including consumers involved in the

¹ <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/Governance-Charter-By-Laws.pdf>

discussions at the Policy Committee meetings. Jo expressed a need for outreach to consumers to help engage consumers.

- Doug provided clarification on a comment from Jo to help understand the purpose of the Policy committee and the discussions that would happen in the meeting.
- Suggestion on 2-3 meetings in the fall and a few meetings in early spring to align with the state legislative process.
- The committee decided that the meetings do not need to occur monthly all year around and should meet in the Spring and in the Fall. The committee will hold 2-hour monthly meetings from April-June and then pick meetings back up again in September. Future years will have meetings starting in March, April, May, June and then picking back up in the fall to hold meetings in September, October, and November. Meetings will also be scheduled as needed.

4. Identify Additional Policy Committee Members

- There was discussion on how to add community members to the discussions. Options included official seats to add committee members, public comment period, and inviting individuals as presenters to committee meetings.
- Additional official members would require a process to equitably choose members.
- The group decided to keep official membership to COH members and will invite additional members to join meetings or invite them on agendas to present at meetings when discussing specific policy issues. Meetings will be announced at COH meetings so the public can join as they wish.

5. Identify Chair

- This item was not discussed and will be moved to the next meeting agenda. Jo requested that we include a description of the responsibilities of the chair in the next communication.

6. Discuss Process for Creation of Agendas

- Jo asked how members will receive the legislation that will be discussed.
- Cassie explained that in planning other meetings H3 staff will meet with the chair and co-chair to develop the agenda. Committee members can bring forward agenda items by sending them to H3 to compile. Cassie also mentioned the use of a tracker as a tool to try to identify additional items that need to be discussed and track policy items. Lindy mentioned this process can happen in email as well if there isn't a need to have a meeting.
- Doug pointed out that H3 staff also compile policy items and bring to the COH meetings. Cassie said H3 can continue to do this but asked members to raise issues as well to make sure there were no policy items missed that members

wanted to discuss. Erica echoed the ask for committee members to bring agenda items forward.

- The shared document was discussed but was decided against because of compliance with Brown Act.
- Doug expressed that he is involved in other spaces where policy is discussed and can bring forward policy items.
- The group decided to have H3 staff work with the chair to create the policy committee meeting agendas. Committee members can send agenda items and potential presenters to be included on the agenda to H3 who will compile items and add them to the agenda.

7. Identify Process for taking policy action or lifting recommendations.

- The group discussed the process for lifting recommendations to the COH to take action. Cassie explained the current process. H3 is also a County agency so may not be able to lift items on behalf of the CoC if the County has a different position.
- Doug and Lavonna stated that items for action or recommendations can only be lifted to the COH from this group and then voted on by the COH.
- Lavonna reiterated that H3 might have a different position on recommendations than the committee. There may be times where H3 is asked for a staff recommendation that might counter what the COH thinks.

8. Questions/Concerns

- Lindy asked if there was someone from H3 who would take the lead on Measure X or should this committee discuss Measure X.
- Lavonna explained that the County employees should not weigh in or participate so H3 will not take a formal position around advocacy. Lavonna recommended that the COH use their voice to have these conversations if they would like to speak on behalf of Measure X because the COH has a different ability to advocate.
- H3 can provide information or data if needed. The gaps analysis can be helpful in these discussions.

9. Identify Next Meeting Date

- There was a request to schedule a meeting to discuss Measure X before the next COH meeting scheduled for May 6th.
- Cassie will reach out to schedule the meeting to discuss Measure X.



COH Policy Committee

April 23rd from 1:00-2:00pm

Meeting Recording:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/e1653c34-4eca-42bc-b6c8-1f643737d417>

Policy Committee Members: Jo Bruno, Lynn Peralta, Lindy Lavender, Margaret Schiltz, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Lavonna Martin, Erica McWhorter, Cassie Hourlland

Present Attendees: Jo Bruno, Lynn Peralta, Lindy Lavender, Margaret Schiltz, Deanne Pearn, Erica McWhorter, Cassie Hourlland

MINUTES

1. Welcome

A. Cassie welcomed all policy committee members.

2. Identify Chair

A. Cassie informed the group that Doug was not able to attend today but he did volunteer via email to be the Policy Committee Chair. The committee chair will help to facilitate the meetings and create agendas.

B. The group decided to appoint Doug as the Committee Chair.

3. Discuss Measure X

A. Lindy provided an overview of Measure X. The initiative started in 2018 with a committee organized by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to put together a needs assessment that would inform a potential sales tax measure. The measure was put on the ballot in November and passed. There is a 17-member board that is the Measure X Committee with ten alternate members, including Lindy. The committee is tasked with doing a needs assessment and makes recommendations on how the funds should be spent, with the final decision being made by the Board of Supervisors. The meetings are on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30pm.

B. Deanne provided additional context, explaining a lack of conversation about housing and homelessness in the follow up conversations around Measure X. There are a lot of people interested in using the money to support fire and the hospitals.

C. Policy committee members discussed Measure X to identify if there were recommendations on how to spend the ongoing funding and the one-time funding available that could be brought to the COH for consideration. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- i. Members discussed the idea of receiving guidance on the carve outs for the funding and expressed interest in advocating for funding to go to housing and homeless services since it was an initial driver for the funding. There was group interest to propose a percentage of the funds for housing and homeless services or provide a concrete funding request using data to show the need.
- ii. Members discussed the connection between housing and addressing homelessness to other services such as mental health, fire, safety, etc. Addressing housing and seeing it as a public health issue will relieve other county services.
- iii. Members discussed developing recommendations for the Measure X committee around process of gathering information to inform how the funding will be spent.
- iv. Members discussed the needs of the homeless service system recognizing that there is a need to identify funding that will help build capacity for the CoC to help get more people permanently housed.
- v. Members discussed what the ask for the one-time funding and the ongoing funding might be stating the importance to spend the funding efficiently and in a way that will be effective. There was mention of importance to build housing capacity in the homeless system of care, connect the funding to other systems such as mental health and invest in youth and young adults. Ideas for the funding are included below.
 1. One-Time funding- more investments for housing for young adults/runaway homeless youth, intersection of mental health, additional housing subsidy, seed housing capacity (purchase, acquisition, land trust, PSH for youth), housing for people who don't fit into existing programs or are difficult to house.
 2. H3 shared that PSH would be an idea place to money towards right now if there would be an opportunity. There is a need to provide the ongoing services and supports that go with sustaining a PSH program in order to build projects. H3 also mentioned some ongoing funding streams that go through other County agencies such as DCD that may be coming to support building out programs. There is a need to sustain programs and get providers onboard to run the programs. When building out programs there is a need to make sure the right people are at the table to help plan projects.
 3. There was a request to make sure the conversation is brought back to the root of the issue which lies with the consumers. The

community voice should be built into a letter or recommendations that are lifted.

4. The group closed deciding they want to lean towards a recommendation that would suggest ongoing funding to address housing and homelessness. The funding could go towards building capacity for the system of care, but that would not be sufficient. The recommendation should be clear and include the right partners, time and resources to make sure projects are built out and sustained.

D. Jo volunteered to track policy items for the group. Deanne will connect Jo with the documents that the REPs use, and Lindy will send Jo items as well.

4. Next Steps

- A. The group decided to report out at the COH meeting in May to make Councilmembers aware of the discussion on Measure X and to share the thoughts on where the suggestions for recommendations for the Measure X Committee.
- B. Lindy will look to see if there is a process for identifying how the one-time funding will be spent.

5. Identify Next Meeting Date

- A. Cassie will send a doodle poll to members to schedule the COH Policy meeting for May and June.



COH Policy Committee

May 27th from 2:00-4:00pm

Meeting Recording:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/4addfb54-2634-49a6-b377-cbcce9f59415>

Policy Committee Members: Jo Bruno, Lynn Peralta, Lindy Lavender, Margaret Schiltz, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Lavonna Martin/Erica McWhorter (H3 designee)

Staff- Cassie Hourlland, Jaime Jenett

Present Attendees: Doug Leich, Lynn Peralta, Margaret Schiltz, Lindy Lavender, Jo Bruno, Erica McWhorter, Deanne Pearn, Jaime Jenett, Cassie Hourlland

MINUTES

1. Welcome

A. Doug welcomed all policy committee members and facilitated introductions.

2. Public Comment

A. There was no public comment.

3. Measure X

- A. Doug introduced the Measure X topic and opened the floor for discussion around specific recommendations that can be brought to the COH.
- B. Lindy provided an update on the Measure X Committee activities announcing that housing will be discussed at Measure X committee on June 30th. H3, Housing Authority, and DCD will be presenting. Lavonna Martin will present to the Measure X Committee on June 30th.
- C. The Policy committee's role is to lift recommendations related to Measure X to the COH for action. The recommendations from the COH can be provided in written form to the Measure X committee. Erica stated a few COH members might be able to participate in the scheduled presentation to the Measure X Committee.
- D. Lynn shared that EHSD presented to the Measure X committee and shared their experience and shared tips for developing the presentation, including preparing many questions and determining whether or not to include a financial ask in the slides.
- E. There was discussion on how the COH can act as an Advisory body. It was determined that the COH can advise the Measure X Committee and the BOS in their capacity as Advisory Body to the BOS.

- F. Erica explained the complex role of H3 and the potential conflicts of interest with all roles. H3 is the Health Services department, CoC collaborative applicant, and staff to the COH. The Measure X committee allowed for H3 to present separate from Health Services as an agency. H3's perspective will be more targeted in the presentation.
- G. Erica mentioned the BOS Quarterly Report as another opportunity to lift recommendations. Jaime provided an overview of the presentation to the Board of Supervisors of the Quarterly Report.
- H. Doug suggested the two recommendations below from the Q1 BOS report to be part of the recommendations for the Measure X Committee.
 - i. The COH recommends the Board of Supervisors consider directing funding towards Prevention and Permanent Housing including Permanent Supportive Housing to increase outflow by housing people and reduce inflow by supporting individuals before they enter the homeless system of care.
 - ii. The COH recommends the Board of Supervisors consider investing in specific funding for additional PSH when dedicating funding to meet the County homeless system of care's greatest needs.
- I. Jo raised concerns on her own role as she also wears multiple hats because she is on the COH and is being invited to present at the Measure X committee as part of H3's presentation. She was looking for a way to make sense of where she is an advocate and an advisor. Doug provided guidance stating she should speak for herself unless the COH has approved a specific message for when she is authorized to speak on behalf of the COH. Erica stated she would be connecting with Jo and will support her in this. Schedule a call to connect Jo to other resident empowerment groups to help her become active with her voice.
- J. Margaret asked about incorporating behavioral health into the recommendations. Behavioral health support or awareness should be included in the solutions.
- K. Suggestion to propose written comments from the COH to the Measure X community advisor board. At least the two recommendations from the Quarterly report be included in recs. Doug asked for thoughts from COH. Lynn, Erica, and Deanne support this.
 - i. Committee members expressed interest in also including a recommendation that the Measure X funds promote multi-disciplinary partnerships across systems. The discussion was specifically focused on Behavioral Health. H3 will try to link this in the presentation.
- L. Written comment from COH to Measure X Advisory Board to include two recommendations from quarterly report.

- M. The group decided to use the rest of the time to draft the written comments that would be submitted to the Measure X Committee from the COH.
- N. Reviewing recommendations in list
 - i. #1- approved
 - ii. #2 reduce jargon (i.e., inflow/outflow)
 - iii. #4 took term “seed” out
 - iv. Lindy wants to see system build capacity through the utilization of a housing/land trust
 - v. #6 is too specific (Deanne). We want Measure X to fill gaps, leverage state/fed funding like community land trust that allow us to max leverage funding. Measure X should fill gaps that aren’t being covered by fed/state (eg, TAY who aren’t chronic). Don’t want it to be a redundant funding source.
 - vi. Jo: expressed confusion about this document and what the purpose is and who audience is. Doug: this doc intended to be a one-time doc that goes to Measure X meeting.
 - vii. Deanne: how is this different from H3’s presentation to the BOS every quarter? JJ clarified that Quarterly Report is from COH, not H3.
- 4. Doug asked if Cassie could support drafting the letter with the recommendations and send it out to the group prior to posting with the COH packet.
- 5. Doug asking for a vote whether we approve of going forward with the plan to approve draft to go to the council.
 - A. Deanne in favor of some version of the doc
 - B. Margaret yes
 - C. Lindy yes, hope to help
 - D. Lynn yes
 - E. Jo yes in hopes that can review
 - F. Doug, yes
- 6. Adjourn**
 - A. 3:58 adjourned
 - B. Don’t have next meeting officially scheduled- will pause meeting for summer months and pick back up in September or October.
 - C. Deanne, proposed have another meeting after state budget is signed. Doug agreed
 - D. H3 to send out a doodle poll for meeting in July. Also explore state/federal policy items at that meeting?

- E. Jo wants to track policy too. Deanne to connect Jo to REP team.
- F. Deanne proposed setting a regular time/date and don't use it if don't need it. Policy does have a June meeting- June 24th. Looks like last Thursday of the month from 2-4. Hold it as regular meeting.

ASSEMBLY BILL 816 (CHIU, BLOOM, BONTA, QUIRK-SILVA SANTIAGO, WICKS)

HOMELESSNESS ACCOUNTABILITY

This bill ensures that local governments and relevant state agencies are held accountable for addressing California's historic homelessness crisis.

THE PROBLEM

On any given night, over 150,000 Californians are homeless, and California has the highest rate of unsheltered homeless individuals in the nation. Even as people are housed, more fall into homelessness: In Los Angeles County, for every 133 people housed, 150 fall into homelessness; in Oakland, for one person housed, two more become homeless; in San Francisco, for one person housed, three become homeless.

African Americans are disproportionately represented among California's homeless population. While 6.5 percent of Californians identify as African American almost 40 percent of the state's homeless population are African American, far outpacing the rates of poverty among African Americans in general.

Before coronavirus, local governments had come under intense pressure to address homelessness from constituents, civil rights advocates, business communities, and people experiencing homelessness, and the latest pressure point is in the courts.

The landmark *Martin v. Boise* case challenged a municipal quality of life offense against homeless individuals. Last year, the US Supreme Court refused to overturn the 9th Circuit case that held the local law violated the 8th Amendment's "cruel and unusual punishment" clause: "as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter."

Subsequently, advocates successfully sued Orange County after Santa Ana riverbed encampments were cleared without alternatives for people to sleep. While the federal court under Judge David Carter successfully held local governments accountable to provide emergency shelters, the process was complex, expensive, and time-consuming for both litigants and local governments. Attorneys have since filed lawsuits in or sent demand letters to Los Angeles, San Diego,

Santa Cruz, Sacramento, San Francisco and other jurisdictions.

In the beginning of 2020, before coronavirus, the Governor's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors proposed the creation of an enforceable, results-based accountability mandate to end homelessness, since purely voluntary efforts by a myriad of local and state agencies and billions of dollars of funding have failed without accountability. Coronavirus has only intensified the moral, public health and community imperatives to address homelessness.

THE SOLUTION

AB 816 creates a process for holding state and local governments accountable for housing the unsheltered based on measurable goals and existing resources they have identified for that purpose.

Specifically, AB 816:

- Requires state and local governments to assess available resources to address homelessness.
- Requires local governments to develop an actionable plan to end homelessness that includes specific actions that will be taken to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities among people experiencing homeless by 2029.
- Based on goals, requires the state and local governments to develop an actionable plan to reduce homelessness to functional zero by December 31, 2029.
- Establishes a Homelessness Inspector General that can bring a public right of action against the state or local government for failing to submit a plan or not follow a plan.
- A public right of action would be limited to existing resources within a jurisdiction.

Rather than waiting for coronavirus outbreaks or expensive, time-consuming lawsuits to force the question of how to address homelessness, AB 816 would proactively establish plans, metrics, accountability and enforcement of progress towards plans. By holding all governments levels accountable

based on benchmarks, AB 816 would move California towards finally addressing the moral crisis of our day.

SUPPORT

Corporation for Supportive Housing (sponsor)
Housing California (sponsor)
Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Co-chair of
Governor's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors
(sponsor)
Steinberg Institute (sponsor)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lisa Engel, Assembly Housing & Community
Development Committee (Lisa.engel@asm.ca.gov)