



# HAM WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, August 9, 2023

from 3pm – 4:30 pm

Zoom Registration: <https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArc--grzluGdNQndAloS4cMnGV0maFrNLC>

**Working Group Members:** Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick, Keva Dean, Iman Novin, Leslie Gleason, Wayne Earl

## AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTERS
5	I. <b>Introductions</b>	Jaime Jenett, H3
10	II. <b>Awards</b>	Jaime Jenett, H3
10	III. <b>Toolkit</b> a. ENGAGE b. LEARN c. CELEBRATE	Jaime Jenett, H3
15	IV. <b>Video</b>	Jaime Jenett, H3
20	V. <b>Community Meeting (11/7)</b>	
10	VI. <b>BOS presentation (11/14)</b> a. Presentation b. Resolution	Jamie Schecter, H3
20	VII. <b>Memorial event (12/21)</b> a. BOS Resolution b. Event	All
5	VIII. <b>Next Steps</b> a. Agenda for next meeting b. Working Group Meetings i. Video ii. Community meeting iii. Memorial	All

Working Group meetings will take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 3- 4:30 pm

Toolkit Table of Contents TBD 2023

Topic	Notes
<b>LEARN</b>	
Data on Homelessness	
Data on Housing Needs	
Connecting to Services: General	
Connecting to Services: Families with Children	
Connecting to Services: Transition Aged Youth	
Connecting to Services: Older Adults	
Connecting to Services: Veterans	
Services Available	
Coordinated Entry	
What Cities Are Doing	
Spotlight on Equity	
Spotlight on Project Roomkey	
<b>ENGAGE</b>	
Calendar of Events for November	
How to Help: Volunteer	
How to Help: Donate	
Guidance on Clothing Donations	
How to Help: Landlords	
How to Help: Faith Community	
Speak Up	
<b>RECOGNIZE</b>	
R.O.O.T.S (Reflecting On Our Truth And Stories).- Video	
Recognition: Thriving in the Face of Homelessness	
Recognition: Outstanding Volunteer	
Recognition: Outstanding Landlord	

**R.O.O.T.S.: Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories**

Intro	
• For Homelessness Awareness Month	4
• We wanted to share the stories of 5 people in our community	4
• As they reflect on how they lost their housing	6
	14
<b>Jo</b>	
• I don't understand how my family was the way that it was...	6
• and nobody asked questions or said, "Hey do you need help?"	6
• One day I started defending myself and started to hit back.	6
• Growing up, I was safer on the train tracks than I was at home	6
• I did my very first sexual act [at age 11] because I needed food.	4
• When my relative died, we lost our lease	6
• I made the choice to not go back to an abusive household	6
• Where I was the abuser.	4
• I ended up in my car.	4
Total	54
<b>Jad</b>	
• The biggest factor was being a drug addict	4
• I had some mental health problems, lack of therapy, lack of treatment	6
• I lost the trust of everyone that was close to me.	6
• I was out on the street all night, no bed, no place that I could call home	6
• no support, no money for a hotel.	
• Even as your life gets worse, you want to stop	6
• but it gets to a point where it's not a matter of will anymore.	
• I would wake up trying to figure out how where I'm going to end up sleeping	8
• or if I'm just gonna be on the streets.	
• As a man I just felt like...	8
• "I don't want to turn for help from other people, I'd rather figure this out on my own"	
Total	58
<b>Juno</b>	
• I became officially homeless when I was at a private religious university.	6
• There was no place or office you could go to for support with homelessness	6
• I would have to spend all my work study paycheck for my housing.	6
• My friends didn't know how to handle seeing somebody struggle like this.	6
• I exhausted my places to go	6
• I ended up dropping out	6
• I had to sleep on the street sometimes, but I would eventually find a couch or a bed to rest on	8
• I was doing survival and I felt like I was doing it okay	6
• I didn't feel like I was homeless	4
• I grew up in religious communities	6
• I often felt like an outsider because I'm a non-binary trans person	
• It didn't feel safe to ask for help	
	64
<b>Debbie</b>	

• A year after he asked for the divorce,	6
• the house was getting sold, and I had to move.	
• I remember thinking I'm almost fifty. I'm too old to be homeless.	4
• I could only work part-time because I was getting my hours as a Marriage and Family Therapist.	6
• I couldn't afford rent.	4
• There were people in my life that I thought would help me.	6
• They didn't.	
• It never occurred to me that I would not find my own place to live.	6
• At one point, I had to sleep in the same bed with this grown ass woman I barely knew.	6
• We did whatever we had to do.	6
	44
<b>Candace</b>	
• I first started experiencing homelessness when I was 18	6
• I didn't qualify for a lot of the services because I was in foster care before my 13 <sup>th</sup> birthday	8
• There weren't enough supports to bridge the gap	8
• Between foster care and young adulthood [ask CW if okay]	
• I couldn't talk to somebody because being at home wasn't safe	8
• living with a family friend wasn't safe	
• Where else am I supposed to go?	6
• I found myself sleeping on a park bench	6
	42
<b>Closing</b>	
• To hear more about the experiences of	6
• Candace, Jo, Jad, Debbie and Juno	6
• Come to our CoC Learning Hub on November 14, 2022 from 1 pm -3 pm	8
• LINK	
• To get help: FLYER	8
• Acknowledgements:	6
Total	40

TOTAL LENGTH: 316 seconds= 5.2 mins



# CoC Learning Hub: R.O.O.T.S- Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories

The Contra Costa Continuum of Care (CoC) Learning Hubs are biannual topic specific stakeholder meetings designed to increase learning about issues related to homelessness.

**Monday, November 14, 2022; 1:00 pm – 3:00 PM**

**ZOOM REGISTRATION:**

[https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/join/9PT\\_nipGBImoEXHe](https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/join/9PT_nipGBImoEXHe)

**IN PERSON LOCATION:** County Administration Office, 1025 Escobar Conf. Rm 110A, Martinez

## AGENDA

Agenda Item	Presenter	Time
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	- Juno Hedrick, Council on Homelessness Chair	2
<b>Recognition Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thriving in the Face of Homelessness</li> <li>• Volunteer</li> <li>• Landlord</li> </ul>	- Juno Hedrick, Chair and Jo Bruno, Vice Chair	30
<b>Panel Discussion: R.O.O.T.S- Reflecting On Our Truth and Stories</b>	- Moderators: Keva Dean, Community Representative and Wayne Earl, Faith Community Representative - Panelists: Candace Wade, Debbie Thomas, Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick	70
<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	- Moderators: Keva Dean, Community Representative and Wayne Earl, Faith Community Representative - Panelists: Candace Wade, Debbie Thomas, Jo Bruno, Juno Hedrick	15
<b>Closing</b>	- Juno Hedrick, Council on Homelessness Chair	3

## **November as Homelessness Awareness Month Proclamation 2023**

WHEREAS, the month of November is recognized as Homelessness Awareness Month in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proclamation is to educate the public and advocate with and on behalf of people experiencing homelessness about the many reasons people are homeless, including the shortage of affordable housing in Contra Costa County; and to encourage support for homeless assistance service providers as well as community service opportunities for students and school service organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are over twenty organizations in Contra Costa committed to sheltering, providing supportive services, and/or basic resources to people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County recognizes that homelessness continues to be a serious problem for many individuals and families in Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS, 10,600 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa in 2021, making up 7,725 unique households<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS this was a 3% increase in households served since 2019<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 41% of the individuals served were Black/African American<sup>3</sup>; 4x the Black/African American population in the county in 2022<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 8% of the individuals served were American Indian/Alaskan Native<sup>5</sup>; 7x the American Indian/Alaskan Native population in the county in 2022<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there was a 36% increase in people aged 65+ between 2019 and 2022<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there was a 21% increase in Transition Aged Youth (ages 18-24) between 2019 and 2022<sup>8</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 69% of the CoC households had a disabling condition<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 20% of people who accessed crisis response programs reported surviving domestic violence at some time in their lives and 37% of those people were fleeing domestic violence at the time they enrolled into the program<sup>10</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> 2022 Annual Report, Contra Costa Continuum of Care, p. 2

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 44

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 2

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p.2

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p.44

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 41

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p. 41

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 51

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 53

## **November as Homelessness Awareness Month Proclamation 2023**

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Coroner reported 106 people experiencing homelessness who died during calendar year 2022, a 38% increase from 2019<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, almost half (44%, n=3,370) of all households served in the CoC during 2022 were housed on exit or maintained housing<sup>12</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in Contra Costa, renters in Contra Costa County need to earn \$41.77 per hour - 2.7 times minimum wage - to afford the average monthly asking rent of \$2,172.<sup>13</sup>; and

WHEREAS, asking rents in Contra Costa increased by 5.3% between Q4 2020 and Q4 2021<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, people in Contra Costa can access homeless services by 1) calling 211, 2) by visiting a CARE (Coordinated Assessment Resources and Engagement) center in Richmond or Walnut Creek or 3) by connecting with a CORE (Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement) mobile outreach team by calling 211;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Contra Costa County hereby proclaims November as Homelessness Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Contra Costa County encourages all residents to recognize that thousands of people in Contra Costa do not have housing and need support from government, citizens and private/public nonprofit service entities to address the myriad challenges of homelessness.

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid, p.61

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p. 56

<sup>13</sup> Contra Costa 2022 Affordable Housing Needs Report, [https://1p08d91kd0c03rlxhmhtydpr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Contra-Costa\\_Housing\\_Report\\_2022-AHNR-rev.pdf](https://1p08d91kd0c03rlxhmhtydpr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Contra-Costa_Housing_Report_2022-AHNR-rev.pdf)

<sup>14</sup>Ibid



# CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## HOMELESS PERSON'S MEMORIAL EVENT

**Date:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 from 3 pm – 4:30 pm

**Register:** <https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcod--ppj4vGtP7FYZX7mSkXhxviB33rwnE>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>I. Welcome</b>	- Juno Hedrick, <i>Chair and Lived Experience Advisor Representative</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>II. Housekeeping</b>	- Jo Bruno, <i>Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor Representative</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>III. Opening Prayer</b>	- Wayne Earl, <i>Faith Representative, and Pastor, Rock Harbor Christian Church</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>IV. Speaking on Grief</b>	- Vita Buynevich, <i>Grief and Service Outreach Coordinator, Contra Costa Crisis Center</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>V. Ancient Stories of Homelessness</b>	- Noach Lawrence, <i>Rabbi, Temple Isaiah</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>VI. Eulogy</b>	- Leslie Takahashi, <i>Pastor, Mt. Diablo Unified Unitarian Church</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>VII. Reading of Names and stories</b>	- Multiple
<b>1</b>	<b>VIII. Moment of Silence</b>	- Wayne Earl
<b>7</b>	<b>IX. Reading of Kaddish</b>	- Noach Lawrence, <i>Rabbi, Temple Isaiah</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>X. Opportunities for Action</b>	- Juno Hedrick, <i>Chair, Youth Representative</i> - Jo Bruno, <i>Lived Experience Advisor</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>XI. Prayer of Action</b>	- Payton Silket, <i>Faith in Action</i>



## DRAFT Homeless Person's Memorial Day Resolution

### RESOLUTION NAMING DECEMBER 21, 2023 NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

WHEREAS, December 21, 2023 marks the first day of winter and is the longest night of the year; and

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2023 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Coroner reported 106 people experiencing homelessness who died during calendar year 2022, a 38% increase from 2019<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there was an 85% increase in the number of drug and alcohol related accidental deaths between 2019 and 2022 and a 25% increase in the number of deaths by natural causes among people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 10,600 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa in 2021, making up 7,725 unique households<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, homelessness raises one's risk of illness, injury and death; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County encourages all residents to recognize that thousands of people in Contra Costa do not have housing and need support from government, citizens and private/public nonprofit service entities to address the myriad challenges of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness is both an Advisory Board to the Board of Supervisors and the planning body for the Contra Costa Continuum of Care and coordinates the community's policies, strategies, and activities toward preventing and ending homelessness in Contra Costa County and welcomes community participation and engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division of Contra Costa Health, which staffs the Council on Homelessness, is committed to making homelessness short-lived and non-recurring by ensuring an integrated system of housing and support services for persons experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness Person's Memorial event will take place on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 3 pm to remember those who died while experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, by joining together and remembering our neighbors, we can honor their lives by working to provide solutions to end homelessness within the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONTRA COSTA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

That December 21, 2023 is hereby named National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in Contra Costa County, to remember those who have died while experiencing homelessness, to encourage residents to come together to celebrate their lives, and commit to working to resolve factors that lead to homelessness within the County.

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<sup>1</sup> 2022 Annual Report, Contra Costa Continuum of Care, p.61

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 61

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 2