

Recording: <https://youtu.be/yTt6xw7BeuU>



COC COMMUNITY MEETING: CENTERING PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

March 7, 2023 from 1:00-3:00

INTRODUCTIONS

Juno Hedrick, *Chair & Lived Experience Advisor*

Purpose of the Meeting: *These quarterly meetings are a place for anyone in the community, especially people with a lived experience of homelessness, to come learn and/or provide input on specific topics related to homelessness in Contra Costa.*

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

In the Chat

- Name and preferred pronouns
- Affiliation (agency, neighborhood, city, group, etc)

Poll

1. What part of the County do you live/stay/work in?
2. Do you have lived experience of homelessness?
3. What best describes your racial identity?



WELCOME

Jo Bruno, Vice Chair & Lived Experience Advisor

BEST PRACTICES

Emily Downey, *Intern, H3*



BEST PRACTICES

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Dedicated Resources

- Payment for time
- Childcare/transportation assistance
- Technology support
- Dedicated staff
- Translation services

Meaningful Work

- Get clear about intention for engaging people with lived experience
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

Welcoming Environment

- Trauma Informed
- Clear expectations and feedback
- Training
- Flexibility
- Language access

Authentic Engagement

- Larger number of participants
- Diverse perspectives
- Variety of opportunities
- Investment in relationships v. transactions

RESOURCE LIST

- [Nothing About Us Without Us: Seven principles for leadership and inclusion of people with lived experience of homelessness | The Homeless Hub](#)
- [Engaging People with Lived Experience Toolkit - Community Commons](#)
- [Youth Collaboration Toolkit.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- [Homeless-Leadership.docx.pdf \(nationalhomeless.org\)](#)

KEY QUESTIONS



DEDICATED
RESOURCES



MEANINGFUL
WORK



WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT



AUTHENTIC
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE THE WORK IS HAPPENING: CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Continuum of Care Participant Satisfaction Survey
- Point in Time Count
- Council on Homelessness Equity Committee



COC PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Brendi Velasquez, The Bay Church



Dedicated Resources

Payment for Time
Technology Support
Dedicated Staff



Meaningful Work

Intentions for engaging people
with lived experience
Planning and Implementation



Welcoming Environment

Flexible



Authentic Engagement

Diverse perspectives

BEST PRACTICES

POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT

O'Neill Fernandez, SoS Richmond and PIT
volunteer

OVERVIEW

- Safe Organized Spaces Richmond (SOS) was asked to participate in the January 2023 Point In Time (PIT) Count
- SOS Mission: “Housed and Unhoused neighbors working together on Jobs, Encampment Services, Outreach, and Safe Living Spaces as solutions to homelessness
- SOS’s 28 of 32 active employees hired from encampments
- Contra Costa County Health Housing and Homelessness (H3) trained 12 SOS employees to assist with PIT Count

DEDICATED RESOURCES

- Community members participating in PIT received \$20/hour gift certificates
- SOS staff were provided in-kind for PIT
- Multiple County staff provided overall support
- County's technical support team led the community's outreach: pre-training; day of PIT at launch meeting; phone support

MEANINGFUL WORK

- Important to utilize unhoused leaders who have deep knowledge of encampment locations, residents, and their dynamics
- Helps outreach teams, including SOS, to visit encampment locations not regularly visited – expands outreach and services

WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

- Multiple 90-minute pre-training options, in-person and virtually
- Pre-training committed community members, SOS staff in advance
- Pre-training made it easy to meet expectations
- Proactive communication allowed for flexibility – changes in teams and assigned areas
- PIT was conducted more efficiently and completed on-time

AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT

- Important to have diverse outreach teams best suited to impact specific environments with their talents
- Outreach teams have members with lived experience
- SOS has staff with current/active lived experience
- 2 ways to play roles: day-of PIT event; surveys with details
- Surveys detail: demographics; # in household; frequency and experiences being homeless; health status

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Plan and schedule the area assignment – for example, schedule shelter counts before shelters are emptied
- More people with active lived experience -- maximize these available resources (such as SOS and encampment stewards)

COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS
EQUITY
COMMITTEE

Keva Dean, Community Representative

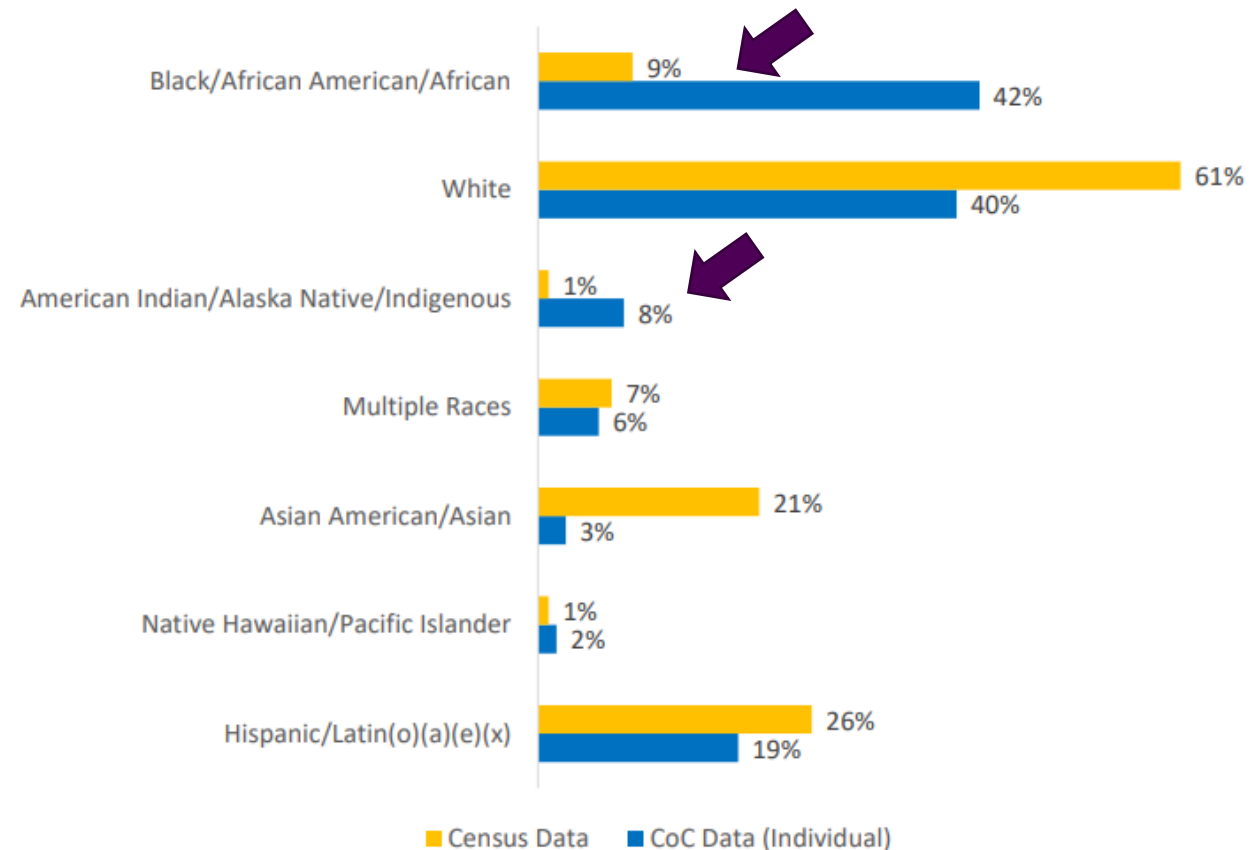
QUESTION

Can you name
Michael Jackson
songs whose title
could start an
equity
conversation?



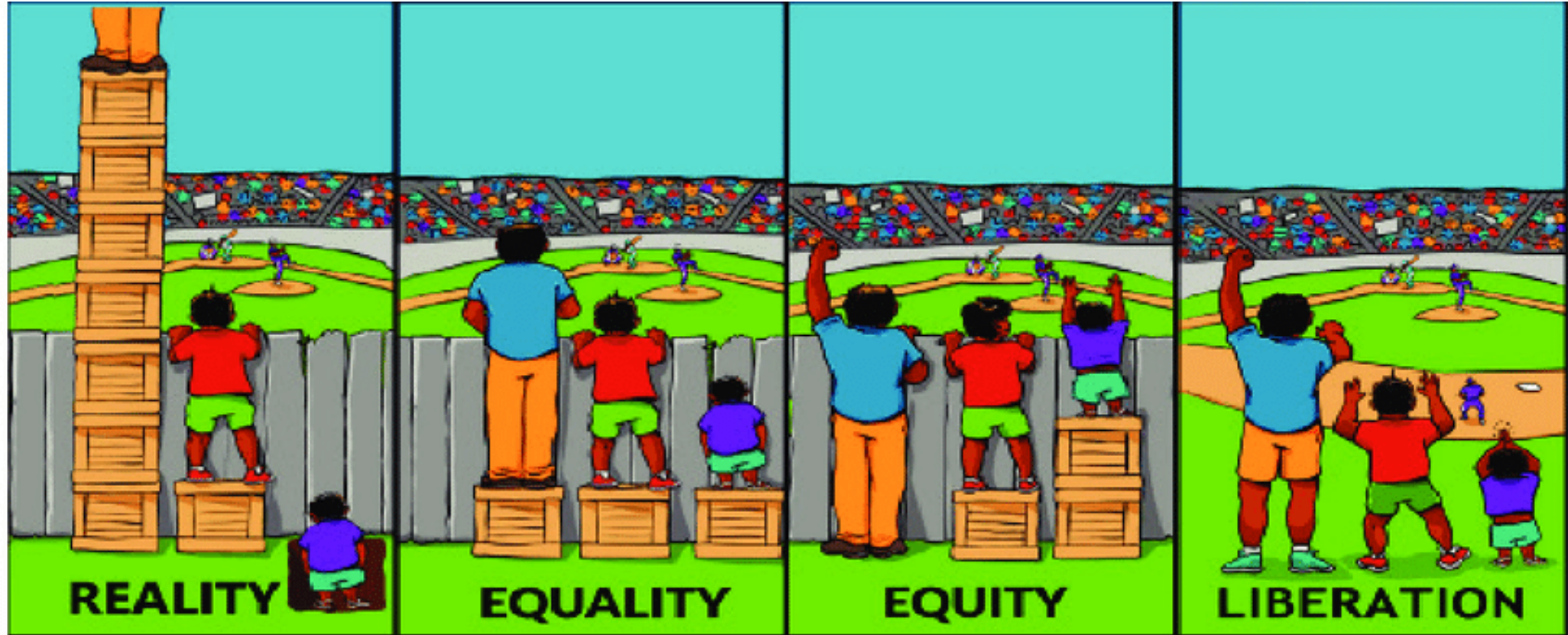
CONTRA COSTA DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure Twenty-One: Race Distribution in the CoC* Compared to 2019 County Census Data



* County census data is available at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/contracostacountycalifornia>. Race distribution for Figure Twenty and Figure Twenty-One are different because 1) census data does not include a "missing" category thus the CoC data was run without "missing" in the denominator and 2) census data is run at the individual level, not household, therefore, the CoC data was run at individual level for this graphic.

“Dictionary Definition: The quality of being fair and impartial – “equity of treatment”



EQUITY COMMITTEE 2023 GOAL

“By December 31, 2023, create accessible information, outreach, and educational materials to engage underserved and/or previously unreached communities in Contra Costa County so that people experiencing or at risk of homelessness have equitable access to housing resources and housing outcomes.”

2023 WORK PLAN GOALS

Planning (Q1)

- Goal: By end of Q1, 1) assess existing educational materials and information gaps, 2) identify key target populations and 3) identify current information channels and amplifiers.

Drafting (Q2)

- Goal: By the end of Q2, 1) draft educational materials and 2) identify key amplifiers and channels to share information on homeless services.

Testing (Q3)

- Goal: By the end of Q3, test newly revised materials with People With Lived Experience, providers and amplifiers

Launching (Q4)

- By the end of Q 4 1) Refine and launch revised materials, 2) Assess success of engaging new amplifiers, and 3) Determine priorities for 2024

BEST PRACTICES ENGAGED?

Dedicated Resources

- Payment for time
- Childcare/transportation assistance
- Technology support
- Dedicated staff
- Translation services

Meaningful Work

- Get clear about intention for engaging people with lived experience
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

Welcoming Environment

- Trauma Informed
- Clear expectations and feedback
- Training
- Flexibility
- Language access

Authentic Engagement

- Larger number of participants
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- Variety of opportunities
- Investment in relationships v. transactions

WHERE THE WORK IS HAPPENING: AGENCIES

- Homeless Youth Initiatives (H3)
- Youth Action Council (H3)
- Resident Empowerment Program (Hope Solutions)

HOMELESS YOUTH INITIATIVES

Jamie Schechter, *H3*

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

Youth Needs Assessment

Community of Practice

Funding opportunities

YOUTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- According to the Contra Costa CoC 2021 Annual Report, Youth ages 18-24 make up 8% of individuals accessing CoC services.
- Historically, young people have been undercounted and underserved in CoC programs
- This year, Contra Costa County will work to conduct a Youth Needs Assessment with the goal of learning what will best support young people in gaining and maintaining stable housing

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- Coordinated with support from Tipping Point and youth serving agencies in Contra Costa County. H3 is serving as the anchor organization for the Community of Practice
- A goal is to create a learning community that will lead to better supports and resources for Youth and Young Adults in CCC
- Also aiming to get ready to apply for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) from HUD

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program – Youth Set-Aside
- YHDP – more flexible eligible activities than typical CoC funding

KEY QUESTIONS



DEDICATED
RESOURCES



MEANINGFUL
WORK



WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT



AUTHENTIC
ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

Juno Hedrick, *Youth Action Council Member*

Tamara Diaz, *H3*

Chelsy Cororcan, *H3*

YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL (YAC)

- **Dedicated Resources**
 - Payment for time : in process
 - Dedicated staff: CCYCS staff supports group
- **Meaningful Work**
 - Planning: contributing to upcoming grants related to youth that H3 is applying for
 - Planning: youth focused PIT survey
- **Authentic Engagement**
 - Diverse perspectives : rebuilding the team to include current and former youth

RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

William Goodwin, REP Member

Jocelyn Vera, Hope Solutions

RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



Jocelyn Vera

Policy Associate & Community Organizer



William Goodwin

REP Housing Policy Consultant



PURPOSE STATEMENT

Resident Empowerment Program (REP) empowers affordable housing residents and community members at large to advocate for the creation and retention of affordable housing and supportive services. We raise and equip new leaders to help with the advocacy efforts by providing public speaking and leadership skills needed to speak truth to power.



BACKGROUND AND VALUES



Membership and Founders



Uplift Resident Voices



Cultivating Trust, Awareness and Partnerships



Strengthen Recognition and Reputation

WHO ARE WE?

Our Stories have the power to influence, connect, change dominant narratives and shape the future.



HOW WE CENTER PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE



INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

1

Work Culture on Racial, Gender, and Class Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

2

Program Strategic Plan

3

Work Plans, Logic Models, Program Evaluation

4

Personal Development Trainings

5

Title Recognition and Wage Compensation

6

Co-creating Community Organizing and Policy Strategies

7

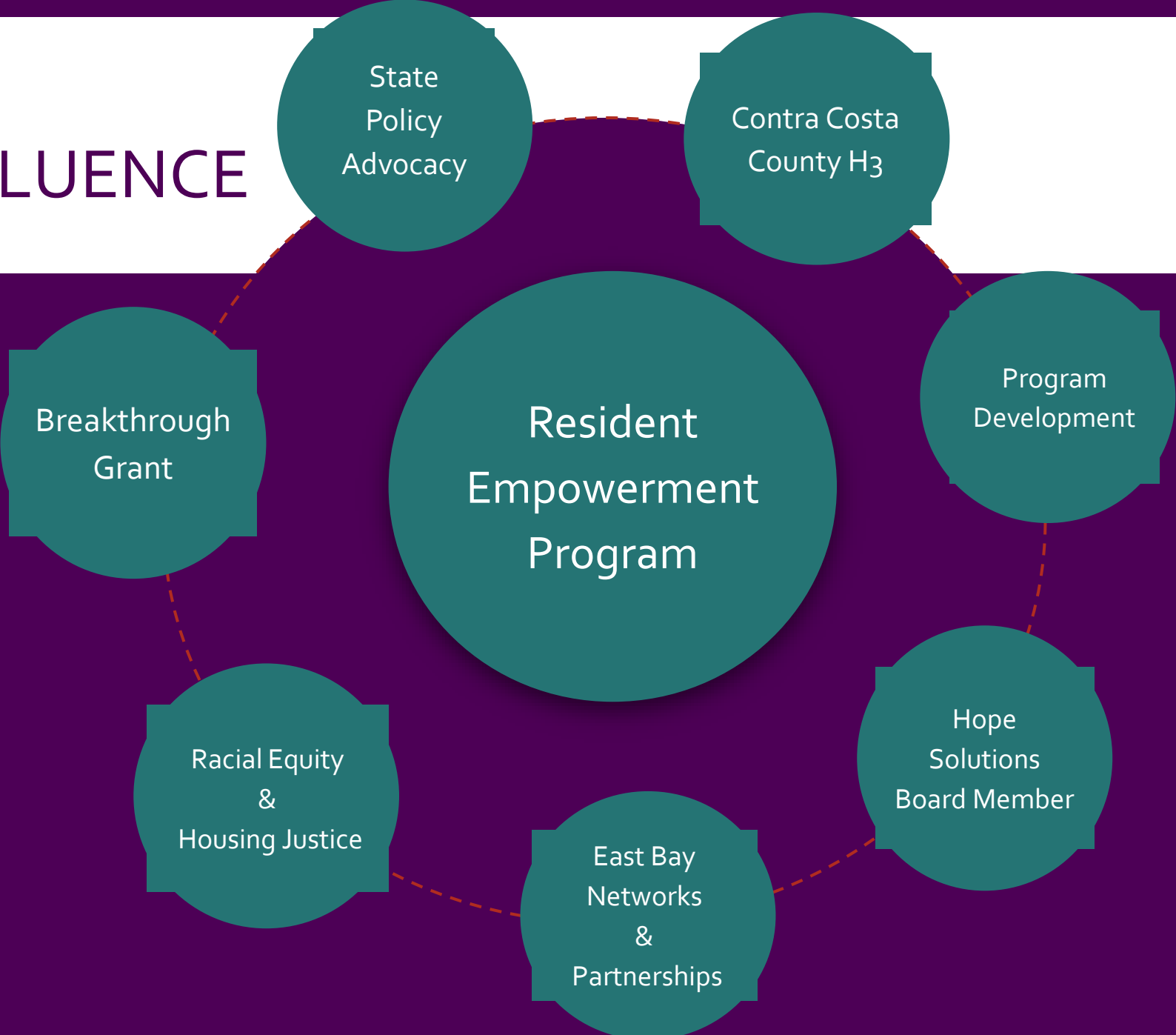
Voice in Decision Making

8

Facilitating Presentations and Community Meetings

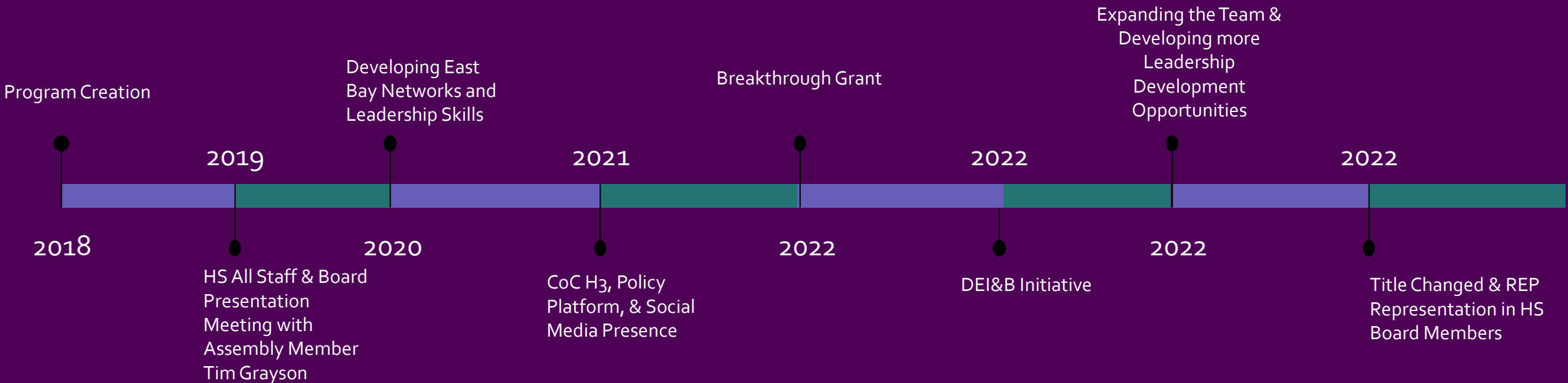


REP COMMUNITY INFLUENCE





WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LEADERSHIP MEETS OPPORTUNITY



BREAKTHROUGH GRANT

Increase housing inventory

Leverage unused faith owned land for new affordable housing

Encourage low income homeowners to build ADUs

Policy changes

Zoning ordinance reform

Building permit free structure reform

Train and advocate local leadership

Residential empowerment program (REP)

Work alongside faith communities

Listen, learn, and share stories

Faith based organizations

Unhoused

Residents

CBOs

Social, racial and economic equity + environmental justice

HOW WE ARE CENTERING COMMUNITY VOICES IN OUR POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Education and Awareness

Build Stronger Relationship

Intentionally Center People with Lived Experience

Cultural Competence and Community Involvement

KEY QUESTIONS



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RESOURCES



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WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT



AUTHENTIC
ENGAGEMENT

**WHERE THE
WORK IS
HAPPENING:
OTHER
PARTNERS**

Contra Costa Behavioral Health Office for
Consumer Empowerment



CONTRA COSTA
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH OFFICE
FOR CONSUMER
EMPOWERMENT

Jennifer Tuipulotu, Office for Consumer
Empowerment



Dedicated Resources

Payment for Time
Dedicated Staff



Meaningful Work

Implementation and
Evaluation



Welcoming Environment

Training for specific
populations



Authentic Engagement

Diverse perspectives

BEST PRACTICES

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

All

4 groups

20 mins total

Jamboards

Report out 2 highlights

INSTRUCTIONS

KEY QUESTIONS

Who in our community is doing a good job of centering People With Lived Experience? What are they doing?

What gets in the way of centering People With Lived Experience?

What do you want to see more of?

REPORT BACKS

All



NEXT STEPS

All