

**SUMMARY FOR THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE  
CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Via videoconference and telephone**

**I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgment, and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

*Advisory Committee Members Present:*

- **Semaj Algere** – Lived Experience Advocate
- **Songhai Armstead** – Director, Justice Care and Opportunities Department
- **Lauren Carden** – Director, California Housing Advocacy, Justice in Aging
- **Monique Guerra** – Lived Experience Advisory Board Support
- **Dachelle Kendrick** – Program Manager, Volunteers of America
- **Kevin Klahn** – Lived Experience Advocate
- **Graham Knaus** – Chief Executive Officer, California State Association of Counties
- **James Mackey** – Program Manager, Community Medical Centers
- **Alejandro Martinez** – President, CRCD Partners LLC
- **Novalie McDarment** – Executive Director, Tule River Indian Housing Authority
- **Christina Mills** – Executive Director, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- **Lisa O’Connell** – Director, Enhanced Health Services
- **Tunisia Owens** – Policy and Advocacy Manager, Family Violence Law Center
- **Carolina Reid** – Faculty Research Advisor, Turner Center for Housing Innovation
- **Melanie Robledo** – Lived Experience Advisory Board Support
- **Alicia Sebastian** – Executive Director, California Coalition for Rural Housing
- **Adrienne Shilton** – Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Strategy, California Alliance of Child and Family Services
- **Karla Thomas** – Executive Director, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
- **Alex Visotzky** – Senior California Policy Fellow, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Jevon Wilkes** – Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth
- **Roxanne Wilson** – Homeless Services Director, County of Monterey

**II. Advisory Committee Co-Chair Updates**

Advisory Committee (AC) Co-Chairs Alex Visotzky and Roxanne Wilson welcomed new members. New [AC members introduced themselves](#) and shared how their work intersects with Cal ICH’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

**III. Introduction to Cal ICH and the State’s Response to Ending and Preventing Homelessness**

**Cal ICH Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall:** Provided a history of the state's response to preventing and ending homelessness, the scope of the crisis, existing disparities, and Cal ICH's statutory requirements. Additional details can be found in the [presentation materials](#).

Advisory Committee Member Discussion:

**Graham Knaus:** Discussed the value of having a statewide statutory framework that lays out what's trying to be accomplished, who's doing the work, and what the funding commitment is. Further emphasized support the AC can provide at the practice level in areas of housing, resources, and services supports.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Expanded while state law outlines the role of county administration in delivering specific services, it does not specify who holds local responsibility for addressing homelessness within communities. The Action Plan progress report to be published next spring will reflect what has been accomplished over the past year. The final report at the conclusion of the 3-year Action Plan could serve as an opportunity for this committee to put forward recommendations such as roles and responsibilities to address homelessness.

**Alex Visotzky:** Championed a focus on the changing federal landscape, including potential funding cuts, in upcoming meetings. Cautioned against policymakers employing a business-as-usual approach during this pivotal moment. The AC could uplift best practices for policymakers who may be less familiar with this work.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Cal ICH is working to expand engagement opportunities with the legislature, including providing support to member departments at committee hearings. Additionally, there may be educational opportunities that the AC could support.

**Adrienne Shilton:** Expressed concern about the federal administration's executive order on homelessness and inquired about issuing statements that are more visible to policymakers around what is positive and what is harmful.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Noted Cal ICH is working very closely with the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office to understand potential impacts and is doing assessments of state investments that are also braided with federal funds to understand the impacts to Continuums of Care (CoCs), Counties and providers to best mitigate disruption.

**Dachelle Kendrick:** Expressed desire for the AC to meet more frequently and was interested in efforts of previous AC members and others impacting this work.

- **Meghan Marshall:** Clarified Bagley Keene requirements provide rules for how the AC may meet and invited the LEAB members on the AC to contribute their experience in collaborating with Cal ICH projects.
- **Monique Guerra:** Shared the LEAB recently gave feedback to Cal ICH on how Housing First should be implemented in local communities, emphasizing a person-centered, trauma-informed approach

- **Melanie Robledo:** Shared the LEAB also recently provided input on safety protocols and policy on criminalizing homelessness. The LEAB provides input, feedback, and encourage those efforts to materialize.

## **VI. General Public Comment**

**Noah Whitaker:** Representing the County of Tulare, warned that a new presidential executive order could block HUD funding for Housing First projects, conflicting with California law and threatening housing programs statewide. He urged Cal ICH to address the issue and seek guidance to prevent people from losing housing.

**Gregory Fearon:** Behavioral Health Board representative for Sonoma County, engaged in developing an integrated plan on homelessness from a behavioral health and substance use lens. Shared desire for Cal ICH to hear about their plan and braid that into their scope of responsibility.

## **VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment**

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 5, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.