

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

May 7th, 2025

Via videoconference and telephone

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

Cody Zeger, Cal ICH Director of Statewide Policy, called the meeting to order at 1:12pm.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

- **Ludmilla Bade** – Homelessness Advocate
- **Doug Bond** – President & Chief Executive Officer Amity Foundation
- **Joe Colletti** – Chief Executive Officer, Hub for Urban Initiatives
Health & Wellness
- **Jennifer Hark Dietz** – Chief Executive Officer, PATH
- **Janet Kelly** – Founder & Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
- **Jody Ketcheside** – Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Turning Point of Central CA
- **Moriah McGill** – Housing Development Construction Manager, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority
- **Alisa Orduña** – Founder & Executive Director, Florence Aliese Advancement Network
- **Sharon Rapport** – Director of California State Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
- **Reba Stevens** – Homelessness Advocate
- **Megan Van Sant** – Senior Program Manager, County of Mendocino
- **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

Advisory Committee Members Not Present:

- **Al Ballesteros** – Chief Executive Officer, JWCH Institute
- **Samantha Batko** – Principal Research Associate, Urban Institute
- **Carolyn Coleman** – Executive Director, League of California Cities
- **Charlene Dimas-Peinado** – President & Chief Executive Officer, Wellnest Emotional
- **Vitka Eisen** – President & Chief Executive Officer, HealthRIGHT 360
- **Philip Mangano** – President & Chief Executive Officer, American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness
- **Chris Martin** – Policy Director, Housing California
- **Luana Murphy** – President & Chief Executive Officer, Exodus Recovery
- **Janey Rountree** – Executive Director, California Policy Lab at UCLA
- **Emilio Salas** – Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority

II. Consent Calendar

There was one item on the Consent Calendar: *Adoption of the [Meeting Summary for the February 5th, 2025](#), Advisory Committee Meeting*

Ludmilla Bade made a motion to vote on the item and Janet Kelly seconded the motion. Motion passed to approve consent calendar.

Public Comment: No public comments made.

Vote: The Committee voted to approve the Consent Calendar with 14 members voting yes, 0 members abstaining, and 10 members absent during the vote.

III. Executive Officer Updates

Cal ICH Executive Officer, Meghan Marshall: Discussed the proposed restructuring of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, which currently oversees Cal ICH. The plan would divide the agency into two: the California Housing and Homelessness Agency and the Business Consumer Services Agency and elevate Cal ICH to a standalone department. This change supports the Governor's housing and homelessness priorities by creating a cabinet-level Secretary focused solely on those issues. If the Legislature raises no objections, the reorganization will move forward on July 6, 2025. Marshall concluded with a preview of upcoming Cal ICH initiatives, emphasizing greater support for local decision-making, including two recent examples where Cal ICH engaged with communities to provide outreach and offer strategic input on local proposals.

Jevon Wilkes: Requested the names of the communities mentioned earlier for advocacy purposes. He expressed interest in ensuring collective support and, specifically from a youth services perspective, identifying where additional advocacy and collaboration are needed.

Meghan Marshall: Identified Turlock (Stanislaus County) and the City of Sacramento. Cal ICH has reached out to city leadership to request a meeting involving county and Continuum of Care partners, emphasizing the need for regional collaboration.

Alex Visotzky: Asked for an update on guidance Cal ICH had been developing regarding pathways to sober living environments within a Housing First framework. He referenced a previous meeting where there was a robust discussion on the topic and inquired about any progress or next steps.

Meghan Marshall: Responded that the guidance is under review. The team is consulting with both state and local partners, including experts in recovery housing, to ensure the final guidance is useful and supportive for communities with varying levels of experience.

IV. SB 914 Update

Cal ICH Research Data Specialist, Molly Miller: Introduced a presentation on the implementation of Senate Bill 914 (the HELP Act), which focuses on reducing homelessness among survivors of domestic violence, their children, and unaccompanied women. She explained that the bill requires the state to set and track goals, reduce service barriers, and promote cross-system partnerships. She gave an overview of Cal ICH's work to date, including data analysis, partner engagement, and upcoming guidance and technical assistance for

localities. She noted that a public dashboard showing progress on these goals is in development.

Cal ICH Director of Local Initiatives, Jeannie McKendry: Presented findings and recommendations related to Goal 3 of Senate Bill 914, which focuses on reducing barriers and strengthening cross-systems partnerships for survivors of domestic violence, their children, and unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness. Based on community feedback, five key barriers were identified: unsafe or inaccessible shelters, difficulty accessing services, lack of provider training, discrimination (including against voucher holders and gender identity), and weak coordination across service systems. Solutions include improving shelter safety and oversight, streamlining access to services, increasing trauma-informed training, addressing discrimination, and fostering stronger collaboration between housing, health, and social service systems. She also shared that Cal ICH is developing technical assistance tools such as checklists, coordination resources, and public data dashboards and invited feedback from the Advisory Committee on how best to distribute these supports and identify additional best practices.

Roxanne Wilson: Highlighted challenges in serving domestic violence survivors through the coordinated entry system, especially in protecting their information within HMIS. She noted that non-victim service providers, who aren't covered by the VAWA Act, can still enter client data into HMIS, raising concerns about privacy and safety.

Janet Kelly: Expressed concerns that the presentation didn't address the needs of her community, especially young people experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence. She emphasized the importance of culturally relevant resources that consider challenges like gang violence, human trafficking, and dangerous environments that survivors might face when accessing services. Kelly urged greater inclusion of youth and people from high-violence communities in feedback and planning, highlighting the real risks survivors and staff encounter in shelters. She stressed that future efforts should incorporate these voices to better reflect diverse and complex community needs.

Ludmilla Bade: Highlighted the need for a safe, accessible feedback system for people experiencing homelessness, especially those in shelters, to share successes, concerns, and suggestions without fear of retaliation. She emphasized that such a system should go beyond just handling complaints and capture positive experiences and community contributions. She suggested exploring options like a lived-experience advisory committee at the local level to receive and process this feedback, stressing the importance of involving those with lived experience to improve the system and make better use of resources.

Reba Stevens: Emphasized the urgent need for more readily available shelter beds in L.A. County, along with employment and childcare support. She raised concerns about rigid policies like the 16-day hotel voucher program from DPSS, which blocks families from accessing other services during that window creating a major barrier. She called for clear definitions of "partnership" and "barrier," noting they often lack real world alignment. She echoed the importance of youth and community input and supported creating safe feedback loops to capture both positive and negative experiences. Lastly, she stressed the emotional toll on families, especially children, when temporary relief is followed by a return to instability urging decision makers to truly understand the lived experience behind the data.

Roxanne Wilson: Highlighted ongoing challenges in cross-systems collaboration between victim service providers (VSPs) and the broader homelessness sector. She pointed out that integration issues go beyond HMIS, touching on housing-first guidelines and a lack of willingness from homeless service systems to engage meaningfully with VSPs. With an

estimated 20% of the homeless population affected by domestic violence, she stressed the urgency of improving data collection and infrastructure particularly as agencies seek funding from ESG and CoC programs. She emphasized that better coordination is essential, and that basic, anonymous data not personal details should be enough to support more effective partnerships and planning.

Jennifer Hark Dietz: Representing a homeless service provider with some domestic violence coordination, expressed concern about the overly complex systems currently in place. Echoing earlier points, she questioned why support often only begins in crisis instead of through early access and education. She emphasized the need for a more proactive, customer service-oriented approach that simplifies processes, reduces verification burdens, and focuses on human connection. She urged a shift in mindset to create streamlined, accessible pathways for those in need especially given the generational nature of homelessness and trauma for many families.

Reba Stevens: Emphasized the critical need for empowerment in services, highlighting that true self-esteem and confidence come not just from housing or resources but through wellness, mindfulness, and emotional support. She raised concerns about the overlooked impact of early childhood education on children experiencing homelessness, particularly in Los Angeles County. She also pointed to a lack of discussion around federal barriers and funding uncertainties, which directly affect service delivery. She underscored the mounting pressures on providers, including current struggles to pay landlords and keep people housed, and stressed the importance of acknowledging the mental health implications for both unhoused individuals and frontline workers amid this instability.

Moriah McGill: Highlighted the importance of breaking the cycle of domestic violence by expanding the focus beyond immediate response to include prevention and recovery. She underscored the need to support children and youth, promote healing for survivors of all genders, and foster healthy relationships. Her call was for a holistic, community driven approach grounded in culture, wellness, and empowerment summed up in her vision to break cycles, build healthy relationships, and heal communities.

Jeannie McKendry: Concluded by outlining Cal ICH's next steps for implementing SB 914. In fiscal year 2025–26 and beyond, the team will continue gathering partner and tribal feedback to refine goals and methods. Plans include launching a public dashboard to track progress, distributing technical assistance to local partners, and creating guidance for state departments. Jeannie emphasized an ongoing commitment to improving cross-systems partnerships and reducing barriers through regular data updates and sustained engagement.

V. Advisory Committee Wrap-Up

Meghan Marshall: Led a wrap-up discussion on the future structure of the Advisory Committee, recognizing this as the final meeting under its current membership. She acknowledged members' contributions and invited feedback on improving onboarding, strengthening member engagement, and enhancing meeting impact. Meghan highlighted which seats are codified in statute and shared that the Council voted to expand membership to include additional areas of expertise, such as Tribal communities, families with children, and managed care plans. She emphasized the importance of using data to guide future configurations and encouraged members to share ideas for improving committee effectiveness.

Roxanne Wilson: Recommended that future Advisory Committees consider forming subcommittees focused on specific policy areas. She noted that while the full committee

meetings provided valuable high-level discussion, more targeted, action-oriented workgroups could lead to deeper policy development and greater impact.

Meghan Marshall: Supported the idea of the Advisory Committee taking a more active role in Cal ICH working groups, especially around policy. Meghan also acknowledged Jennifer's comment in the chat suggesting in-person meetings to build stronger rapport. She agreed that while the geographic diversity of committee members is a strength, it does present challenges for in-person convenings though the desire for at least one in-person gathering is noted and appreciated.

Alex Visotzky: Recommended that future Advisory Committee meetings adopt a more collaborative approach to agenda-setting. He noted that important developments in homelessness across the state were sometimes not reflected in meeting discussions. To address this, he suggested creating co-chair roles responsible for gathering input from members between meetings on topics they want to discuss. This would ensure the agenda reflects broader member priorities and prevent discussions from being too narrowly directed by Cal ICH staff.

Sharon Rapport: Echoed Alex's comments about agenda setting and shared ownership. She emphasized the need for greater clarity on how the committee's input influences Council decisions or Cal ICH staff actions. Sharon recommended providing regular feedback on where the committee has made an impact or, alternatively, being upfront about the advisory nature and limitations of the committee's influence. She noted this would help members better understand their role and the value of their contributions.

Meghan Marshall: Emphasized the importance of clarifying Cal ICH's role and limitations from the outset. She noted that transparency about what the agency can and cannot do helps ensure respectful use of members' time.

Alisa Orduña: Suggested that the committee could have been better utilized for timely briefings on major statewide initiatives such as CARE Court, CalAIM, wildfire response, and encampment solutions so members could be informed and prepared to support local conversations. She recommended more topic specific briefings between meetings to both share feedback and stay updated. Alisa also emphasized the importance of having full-committee discussions on foundational concepts like Housing First, equity, and harm reduction to ensure shared understanding and alignment across diverse perspectives, particularly as these principles are tied to state funding mandates.

Ludmilla Bade: Urged the inclusion of law enforcement voices especially from community policing models and marginalized groups within police departments to provide insight from frontline interactions with people experiencing homelessness. She also highlighted a missed opportunity for deeper collaboration between Advisory Committee members with lived experience, suggesting more intentional integration and connection with the Lived Experience Advisory Board to avoid siloing. Ludmilla recommended adding agenda space early in each meeting for members to raise emerging local issues, allowing the committee to stay more responsive and grounded in real time challenges. Lastly, she emphasized the need for regular legislative briefings, acknowledging that as a volunteer, it's difficult to track policy developments without support.

Meghan Marshall: Affirmed the importance of connecting with enforcement entities involved in homelessness response. While she clarified that the Advisory Committee's membership will remain fixed for the next three years to test the current data informed structure, she emphasized Cal ICH's intention to build relationships with a broader range of enforcement partners. Cal ICH is actively working to introduce itself and its mission to foster better local collaboration, even if these groups are not formally added to the Advisory Committee at this time.

Roxanne Wilson: Emphasized the importance of ensuring that individuals with lived experience do not feel isolated within advisory structures. She recommended that the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) consider appointing a dedicated representative to the Advisory Committee, which would allow members to feel supported and connected through a shared community. Additionally, she strongly advocated for the Advisory Committee to be given the opportunity to provide input on the rollout of NOFAs and RFPs, especially citing concerns with HHAP 6. Roxanne noted that the funding requirements placed unrealistic burdens on local jurisdictions, including expectations to manage encampments outside their authority. She pointed out that the state has previously sought early feedback with Homekey Plus, and recommended adopting a similar approach moving forward to ensure local insights are considered.

Meghan Marshall: Shared that the Council has approved two designated seats on the Advisory Committee for members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB), ensuring greater continuity and integration between the two bodies. This aims to strengthen the voice and inclusion of individuals with lived experience in the advisory process. Additionally, she highlighted the inclusion of two seats specifically for Northern and Southern California tribal communities, acknowledging the importance of incorporating their distinct perspectives and needs into statewide homelessness policy discussions.

Reba Stevens: Expressed concern about the lack of connection between the Advisory Committee and the working groups, describing the siloed structure as problematic. She also emphasized the missed opportunity of never meeting in person, noting that face to face interaction would have helped build stronger relationships. Additionally, Reba suggested that committee members could have piloted specific initiatives such as those related to domestic violence in their own communities and reported back with findings and solutions, allowing for more practical, ground level input into policy development.

Megan Van Sant: Shared a candid reflection on her time with the committee, questioning whether her participation had been a good use of her time. She expressed frustration that important items were often brought to the group too late in the process, when decisions were already made, making the input feel more like a procedural requirement than meaningful engagement. Megan pointed to the rollout of HHAP 6 as missed opportunity where early feedback from the committee could have addressed major concerns. She emphasized the importance of bringing items to the committee at a point when input can still influence outcomes. Additionally, she raised concerns about the expanded size and diversity of the committee, suggesting that without careful structuring such as the use of focused workgroups it may become too large and diffuse to be effective. Megan cautioned that attempting to represent too many perspectives could dilute the committee's impact and make participation less appealing to members.

Reba Stevens: Emphasized the urgent need for the committee to prioritize addressing the deep and persistent racial inequities affecting Black individuals experiencing homelessness in California. She expressed frustration and pain over the lack of change despite ongoing

conversations, urging that these disparities be treated as a priority. Reba also called attention to the rising death rates among unhoused individuals as another critical issue. She encouraged the committee to take bold, meaningful action, pointing out that with the governor's term ending in 2026, there is a limited window to make significant, lasting impact on these urgent challenges.

Ludmilla Bade: Suggested improving the effectiveness and timing of input by sharing materials and agendas for meetings further in advance. This would allow advisory members time to review issues, consult with local groups such as homeless action committees, and gather broader community input prior to meetings. She noted that often, by the time members learn about a topic during a meeting, it's too late to offer meaningful feedback before the issue moves forward. Ludmilla emphasized that knowing both the topics and the decision timelines ahead of time would help members feel more meaningfully involved and better equipped to contribute thoughtful, community informed perspectives.

Roxanne Wilson: Recommended increasing the frequency of Advisory Committee meetings. She emphasized that the current meeting schedule contributes to poor timing for feedback, as members are often asked to weigh in on issues that are already near completion. More frequent meetings, she suggested, would allow the committee to provide timely input while issues are still active and evolving, making their contributions more relevant and impactful.

Meghan Marshall: Mentioned the flexibility the committee has learned around Bagley-Keene regulations, noting that emergency meetings can be called, if necessary, though ideally not frequently. She encouraged members, especially those not continuing, to complete an upcoming exit survey to provide any additional thoughts or suggestions more on the survey is to come. Meghan also reminded everyone about the next council meeting on June 4th, inviting Advisory Committee members to attend either in person or virtually to be officially recognized and hear directly from the Council.

VI. General Public Comment

Ariane Dalla Dea: Speaking from Sacramento as a woman with lived experience of homelessness, expressed her deep appreciation for SB 914, noting that it will significantly inform her advocacy work. Her efforts are focused on peer support, counseling, and empowerment for women who, like herself, became homeless due to a loss of income and experiences of domestic violence without any substance use issues. She highlighted that women in these circumstances are often overlooked due to the lack of "ranking qualifiers." Ariane encouraged the Advisory Committee to explore or recommend ways to fund projects like the one she is launching. While currently connected with lived experience advisors in San Diego, she is initiating her own advocacy efforts in Sacramento. She concluded by thanking the Advisory Committee and Cal ICH for their work, expressing how honored she feels to be part of such a committed group.

Noah Whitaker: Offered general feedback based on his experience attending Advisory Committee meetings remotely for over two years. He expressed concern about the noticeable absence of key state departments that are critical to addressing homelessness. Despite Cal ICH's stated role of coordinating across agencies, Noah noted that he has not seen participation or presentations from entities such as HCD, CDSS, CalHHS, CDPH, CDE, Caltrans, the Rail Authority, or CWDB. He emphasized that each of these agencies plays a significant role in the homelessness response and that their lack of involvement undermines the goal of policy alignment and coordinated implementation across the state. Without this coordination, local communities are left struggling to navigate conflicting or siloed state policies, often outside their scope or capacity. Noah stressed the importance of having these state partners present and

engaged in Advisory Committee meetings to collaboratively address complex policy issues, such as those raised in the HHAP 6 NOFA, which he also described as deeply problematic.

VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Director Zeger closed the meeting and informed the group that the next Council Meeting will be held on June 4th, 2025, at 1:00pm while the next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on August 6th, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

The Cal ICH Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.