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

August 5, 2026

Via videoconference and telephone

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 pm**.**

Advisory Committee Members Present:

- **Lauren Carden** – Director, California Housing Advocacy, Justice in Aging
- **Timothy Heavin** – Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board Support
- **Kevin Klahn** – Lived Experience Advocate
- **Graham Knaus** – Chief Executive Officer, California State Association of Counties
- **Christina Mills** – Executive Director of the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- **Lisa O'Connell** – Director, Enhanced Health Services
- **Carolina Reid** – Faculty Research Advisor, Terner Center for Housing Innovation
- **Jonathan Russell** – Director of Housing and Homelessness, Alameda County Health
- **Alex Sanchez** – Cal ICH 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 of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
- **Semaj White-Algere** – Lived Experience Advocate
- **Jevon Wilkes** – Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

- **Songhai Armstead** – Director, Justice Care and Opportunities Department
- **Joseph James** – Chairman Yurok Tribe
- **Dachelle Kendrick** – Director, Survivor Empowerment Services
- **James Mackey** – Program Manager, Community Medical Centers
- **Alejandro Martinez** – President, CRCD Partners
- **Alex Visotzky** – Senior California Policy Fellow, National Alliance to End Homelessness

II. Consent Calendar

There were four items on the Consent Calendar: *Adoption of the Meeting Summaries for May 6, 2026, February 4, 2026, November 5, 2025,* and *August 6, 2025, Advisory Committee Meetings.*

Public Comment: No public comments were made.

Vote: The Committee voted on the Consent Calendar with thirteen members voting yes, one member abstaining, and six members absent during the vote. The motion passed.

III. Executive Director Updates

Cal ICH Executive Director Meghan Marshall: Welcomed new Advisory Committee member Jonathan Russell, Director of Alameda County's Housing and Homelessness Services Department. Announced that the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) has transitioned into a standalone department within the new California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA) on July 1.
Provided an update on the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Noted federal departures from evidence-based practices including Housing First and federal actions that may result in potential statewide implications for rehousing efforts and data. As previously discussed, the Months of Awareness initiative, adopted by the Executive Council, will spotlight populations and issues related to homelessness throughout the year. August focuses on students in California experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

IV. Older Adult Homelessness

Meghan Marshall: Provided an overview of older adult homelessness prior to Committee member presentations. Outlined the need for cross-system coordination across healthcare, disability, long-term care, and housing. Noted inconsistencies in defining "older adult" across systems, including gaps in supports for individuals ages 50 – 65. Described pathways in which older adults enter homelessness and the associated health and economic challenges. Highlighted distinctions between prevention, diversion, and intervention services. Sustainable interventions may require creative solutions, such as shared or social housing where people with fixed incomes pool resources, with the goal of maintaining suitable housing as people age. Full presentations for this agenda item can be found in the Meeting Presentation and Meeting Recording.

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging Executive Director, Christina Mills: Provided an overview of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Noted that older adults are the fastest-growing population experiencing homelessness and face barriers related to ageism, ableism, fixed incomes, and complex service needs. Described the statewide network of 33 AAAs and the range of services they provide. Shared examples of local programs supporting older adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness and outlined recommendations including early intervention, pairing housing with supportive services, expanding affordable and supportive housing, increasing operating subsidies, and strengthening cross-sector partnerships.

California Housing Advocacy, Justice in Aging Director, Lauren Carden: Outlined affordability, accessibility, and service coordination challenges facing older adults experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness. Noted high rent burdens, limited access to technology, and high prevalence of one or more disabilities or chronic health conditions among older adults. Underscored gaps in shelter accessibility and supportive services, as well as delays in In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) access. Provided examples of effective local programs such as shallow rent subsidies and improved service coordination. Outlined the importance of rental assistance, tenant protections, and integrated housing and healthcare strategies.

California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH) Executive Director, Alicia Sebastian: Discussed unique rural, Tribal, and farmworker housing challenges linked to limited infrastructure, high costs, and misaligned state and federal program criteria. Highlighted the invisibility of rural homelessness and barriers to accessing services due to geographic isolation

and transportation limitations. Described aging housing stock, utility access issues, high insurance premiums due to wildfires, and the disproportionate number of older adults in rural regions. Identified the need for tailored solutions, expanded definitions for farmworker housing, rural-specific funding approaches, smaller-scale supportive housing models, and improved coordination with Tribal partners.

Advisory Committee Member Discussion:

Meghan Marshall: Asked members to identify what the Advisory Committee should elevate to the Executive Council for consideration, particularly regarding statewide policy coordination, data, and system alignment. Noted that the next Executive Council meeting will focus on older adult homelessness and emphasized the importance of establishing a framework to guide that discussion.

Christina Mills: Suggested compiling the recommendations shared by the three presenters into a collective list for the Executive Council.

> **Meghan Marshall:** There will be a readout of the Advisory Committee's recommendations for the Executive Council at a future meeting, to be delivered by Advisory Committee Co-Chair Alex Visotzky.

Advisory Committee Member Timothy Heavin: Recommended that the committee elevate the need for rental subsidies, suggesting the development of a permanent rental subsidy program as a key recommendation.

Advisory Committee Member Jevon Wilkes: Expressed interest in information on the number of older adults accessing CalAIM rental assistance and asked how managed care plans are delivering post-hospitalization services. Also requested clarity on support available to older adults under Prop 1's behavioral health components so state and local leaders have accurate data to understand service needs.

> **Meghan Marshall:** Acknowledged the need to understand whether older adults who are disproportionately experiencing homelessness are accessing available services.

Advisory Committee Member Adrienne Shilton: Suggested larger-scale efforts to support older adults, including the possibility of set-asides similar to youth-focused initiatives. Shared that she and Jevon Wilkes are working on a bill to establish an Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention and suggested a comparable model for older adults.

Advisory Committee Member Carolina Reid: Highlighted the need for clearer definitions and integration with health systems and the importance of aligning CalAIM with broader housing and health strategies, including supports for older adults in affordable housing units who require a higher level of care. Highlighted challenges navigating fragmented systems and suggested improving pathways so older adults can access services more easily.

Alicia Sebastian (in chat): Life expectancy changes by zip code and can be tracked from one freeway exit to the next. Aging in affordable housing requires resources that support preservation, acquisition, rehab, and ongoing investment in the maintenance of affordable housing, something the State has had to shift away from when limited resources are shifted towards production. CCRH and partners ran a pilot of Johns Hopkins CAPABLE program in rural communities and affordable housing providers.

Christina Mills (in chat): About 1.5 million people over 65 are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Advisory Committee Member Jonathan Russell: Described how coordinated entry and rental assistance programs are shaped around federal CoC models such as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. Noted that older adults experiencing homelessness follow two different pathways, and current models do not meet the needs of those experiencing economic hardship later in life or those with physical health needs beyond traditional Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) capacity. Suggested long-term rental assistance options with integrated healthcare services. Presumptive eligibility and expedited Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application processes can improve access to federal benefits and create effective paired programming.

> **Meghan Marshall:** Acknowledged the challenges older adults face when navigating coordinated entry systems that rely heavily on digital access. Explained ways in which Cal ICH has considered opportunities to support relationship-building with partners such as faith-based organizations, food pantries, and community feeding programs, which often serve older adults on the brink of homelessness.

Christina Mills: Raised the issue of digital literacy as a significant barrier for older adults accessing services. Described challenges older adults face navigating websites, apps, and digital communication tools. Suggested that digital literacy may need to be considered an activity-of-daily-living challenge and encouraged broader advocacy to ensure older adults are not left behind as systems become increasingly digital.

Meghan Marshall (in chat): Encouraged Advisory Committee members to find the AAA in their local communities using the California Department of Aging's consumer search tool.

Timothy Heavin: Suggested a streamlined and regularly updated, state-level resource guide to help older adults and service providers identify available supports. Proposed a state-issued homeless identification card, potentially including a QR code, location updates, case manager information, and a list of rights to assist with service access and interactions with law enforcement.

> **Meghan Marshall:** Highlighted the importance of clearly communicating state and local roles so individuals know where to seek assistance, noting that Cal ICH is not a direct service provider.

Meghan Marshall: Cal ICH staff are tracking all recommendations shared and will prepare a readout for an upcoming Executive Council meeting. Any future directives from the Executive Council will be communicated back to the Advisory Committee. Highlighted the significance of statewide messaging in supporting local partners.

V. General Public Comment

Ruby Torralva, Member of Kings Tulare Homelessness Alliance (KTHA): Shared personal experience with disability and homelessness, stating that homelessness should not be viewed solely as a housing issue. Described challenges navigating multiple agencies while experiencing significant physical limitations. Spoke about the difficulty in accessing legal representation in Kings County and the need for legal support beyond policy guidance. Requested greater accountability across systems. Stated that Disability Rights California does

not consistently provide the representation its materials indicate. Encouraged Cal ICH to consider rural legal barriers in discussions of homelessness.

Robert Aguirre: Discussed difficulty receiving follow-up assistance after requesting help for his family's housing situation. Stated that families in rural counties can fall through the cracks due to lack of response from organizations. Families experiencing homelessness may risk child welfare involvement when staying in motels or temporary housing, even without abuse or neglect. Requested stronger statewide accountability measures, including follow-up standards, response timelines, and transparent reporting for agencies receiving public funds.

Alana Martinson, on behalf of Serving Seniors: Described San Diego-based nonprofit agency Serving Seniors' whole-person care model. Older adults are the fastest-growing group becoming unhoused due to fixed incomes that do not match rising costs. Shallow rental subsidies, sometimes as low as $300 per month, help keep older adults housed and out of hospitals, and are far more cost-effective than homelessness. Serving Seniors operates eight rental subsidy programs with housing stability rates between 96 and 100 percent. Highlighted the importance of homelessness prevention services for older adults.

Marijke Melman, California Commission on Aging: Highlighted the role of chronic health conditions, behavioral health needs, and substance use issues in older adult homelessness. Aging and homelessness compound these conditions, and successful rehousing requires healthcare integration within supportive housing or acute care settings. Requested that the Advisory Committee elevate continued funding for programs such as Home Safe, HDAP, CCE, and CCE Preservation, and monitor Prop 1 implementation to ensure older adults are included. Suggested expanding housing navigation capacity at AAAs and improving integration with CoCs.

Elizabeth Stone, Resident of Santa Clara County: Shared personal experience with homelessness following serious medical diagnoses and difficulty accessing services while staying in hotels. Explained that being perceived as self-reliant reduced eligibility for assistance, contributing to prolonged instability. Reported positive updates on recent medical treatment and the ability to regain housing through part-time teaching. Encouraged continued opportunities for people with lived experience to participate in developing solutions from the earliest stages.

Brandi Nuse-Villegas, Community Advocate in Fresno: Urged consideration of assistance for older adults living in vehicles who lose their housing and then become unsheltered when vehicles are towed. Described issues related to medical emergencies leading to loss of housing protections and shelter exits when medical needs exceed shelter capacity. Noted the absence of grievance systems for shelter exits. Suggested creating more ways for unhoused individuals to share input, including message lines, online portals, or handouts distributed by service providers. Requested improved access to disability rights resources during encampment resolutions. Supported shallow rental subsidies and highlighted the impact of rising rents on older adults living on fixed incomes.

VI. Final Remarks and Adjournment

Meghan Marshall:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 pm.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be on November 4, 2026, at 2:00pm.