



MINUTES



Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)

Administering Board (Standing)

Monday, April 13, 2026, 5:30 PM

City Hall – 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Hearing Room 3

Board Members Present: Monique Rivera (Chair), Sandra Johnson (Vice-Chair), Andrea Ford (Treasurer), David Walker (Secretary), Councilmember Carroll Fife (Tonya Love), Mayor Barbara Lee (Dr. Atiya Rashada), Councilmember Ken Houston (Nelida Rocha), Councilmember Noel Gallo (TBA), Mitchell Margolis, Patricia Schader, Rana Matly, Michelle Edmond, and Terrence Riley.

Board Member Excused: Supervisor Nate Miley (Angelica Gums), Supervisor Lena Tam (Cesley Ford-Frost), and Dr. Kimberly Mayfield

Board Vacancies: Low-Income District 1 and Alameda County Low-Income.

Staff: Interim HSD Director Lea Lakes

- A. Call to Order/Recite Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP) Promise**
Chair M. Rivera called the April 13, 2026, Administering Board Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The AC-OCAP Promise was recited.
- B. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**
Staff L. Lakes performed Roll Call; a quorum for the Administering Board Meeting was established at 5:37 p.m.
- C. Approval of Agenda**
MOTION: To approve the April 13, 2026, Administering Board Agenda.
M/S/Carried: A. Ford / T. Riley / Motion Carried
- D. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP) Administering Board Meeting of March 9, 2026 (Attachment D)**
MOTION: To approve the March 9, 2026, Administering Board Meeting Minutes.
M/S/Carried: T. Riley / A. Rashada / Motion Carried
- E. Public Comment: (Specific Agenda item(s): Audience Comment Period) – None**
- F. Community Action Partnership Board (CAP) Updates:**
- Welcome/Introduction CAP Manager Ashlee Jemmott**
 - Food/beverage for future board meetings** – Chair M. Rivera noted that this discussion will be revisited at the Executive Board Meeting on April 23, 2026.
 - Approval of District 7 Appointment Letter for Nelida Rocha (Attachment F1):**
MOTION: To approve Nelida Rocha's appointment representing Councilmember Houston District 7 to the AC-OCAP Board.
M/S/Carried: D. Walker / A. Rashada / Motion Carried

3. Executive Committee:

- a. **AC-OCAP By-Laws Updates** - Chair M. Rivera explained that they have received the first draft of the bylaws from the City Attorney. The plan is for the Bylaws Subcommittee to review the draft first, followed by the Executive Board, and then the Administrative Board for broader review. Currently, P. Schader is the only board member signed up for the Bylaws Subcommittee, but others are invited to join. The meetings may need to be held in the evening, as M. Rivera is expected to work on this outside of her regular job hours. The board does not have to accept everything in the City Attorney's draft; they may add or adjust provisions as needed. There is also interest in potentially adjusting the name/branding, such as whether to emphasize Alameda County versus Oakland Community, or to find another formulation that "flows better."

Action Item(s):

- M. Rivera will meet with A. Jemmott to review the City Attorney's draft and plan the review process (Subcommittee → Executive Board → Administrative Board).
- b. **National Updates** – T. Love reports that the federal government has not provided the full Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds to the state, resulting in Oakland not yet receiving its CSBG allocation. This situation is creating budget uncertainty for both grantees and staff. The President's proposed budget includes cuts to CSBG to help fund an additional \$500 million for defense. In some areas, cities have been informed that CSBG funding has been completely eliminated. This is a nationwide issue affecting not only CSBG but also Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and related block grant programs, impacting regions beyond just Oakland and Alameda County. The board discusses collaborating with the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) and other national partners to develop clear talking points and templates for letters to Congress. Their goal is to coordinate messaging to advocate for the protection of existing CSBG funds and to push for reauthorization. Chair M. Rivera and T. Love emphasize that individual letters from board members remain important, even if the wording is not perfect.

Action Item(s):

- Board members to send letters to their senators, congressional representatives, and state legislators within the next two weeks (by May 4), using draft language provided by M. Rivera and T. Love.
- c. **Strategic Planning Updates** - Chair M. Rivera and staff are currently working on their sections of the plan and verifying the data. The plan utilizes two data sources: Census data and community outreach data, which includes surveys from seven meetings and an additional outreach round. Staff members have been asked to ensure they have a representative sample of community data before finalizing the numbers. They need to confirm the appropriate outreach periods (e.g., 2019, 2020, 2025, as discussed). Additionally, staff is reviewing how the ROMA (Results-Oriented Management Accountability) standards are incorporated, aiming to clearly define them in the document. It is important for board members to understand ROMA so they can confidently discuss the plan and utilize it to drive metrics and graphs.

Action Items:

- M. Rivera will meet with A. Jemmott to clarify the timeline for the strategic plan deliverables.
- Ensure that the numbers, ROMA measures, and outreach data are organized and aligned before presenting the next version to the board.

4. Fund Development:

- a. **Updates on Funding Research** - R. Matly reported that she is continuing follow-up discussions with the James Irvine Foundation regarding their career initiatives. She has requested a summary of career-related and career-empowerment grants for AC-OCAP to review. R. Matly is currently preparing funding materials and noted that the executive summary is ready. She also has a grantee summary and an attachment that compiles information from existing reports. During the last meeting with Sharon, they identified the need for additional elements in the materials, including budget amounts, percentages of the total budget, and details on the communities and individuals served. R. Matly has sent an updated list to staff M. Huynh for inclusion in the summary and has requested assistance from AC-OCAP staff to update and refine the grantee/impact summary.
- b. **Updates on Funding Material** – refer to F4a.

Action Item(s):

- The Fund Development Committee will review funding research updates at its upcoming meeting on April 16th.
- Finalize the funding material set, if possible.
- R. Matly confirmed she will send her compiled document (listing all organizations, their purposes, and grant amounts derived from the quarterly report) to support this work.
- A. Jemmott to prepare materials for The James Irvine Foundation report on the career initiative.

5. **Program Planning:**

- a. **Planning Update** – None

6. **Advocacy:**

- a. **Draft Legislative Platform - Discussion and Approval** - T. Love stated that the draft legislative platform could not be fully discussed or approved because she had submitted a list of legislative ideas that were not included in the packet. As a result, board members did not have the content available for review. T. Love formally requested that this item be deferred to the Administrative Board meeting on May 11th. The board agreed to postpone the discussion and any approval of the legislative platform until that date, when members will receive the complete list of proposed legislative priorities. This will give them the opportunity to review, discuss, and potentially adopt a legislative platform for staff use.
- b. **2026 Potential Legislative Ideas (Attachment F6a)** – refer to F6b.

G. Informational Item:

1. **2026 NCAF D.C. Takeaways: Monique Rivera, Tonya Love, and Lea Lakes Tonya Love NCAF Conference Report (Attachment G1)** - In Washington, D.C., the delegation noted that the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is typically a bipartisan issue. However, the President's budget proposes cutting CSBG funding to allocate an additional \$500 million for defense. This reduction poses a threat not only to CSBG but also to other crucial anti-poverty programs nationwide, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Head Start, affecting regions beyond just Oakland/Alameda County. National leaders, including Bernie Sanders and the Chair of the Agriculture Committee, highlighted the contradiction between being the "richest country in the world" while facing high levels of poverty and homelessness. They emphasized the essential role of CSBG and similar programs in combating income inequality, food insecurity, and basic needs. Chair M. Rivera, T. Love, and L. Lakes primarily met with congressional staff for Senators Padilla and Butler, as well as Representatives Lee, Swalwell, and others. They explained AC-OCAP's work and its impact on grantees, advocated for the reauthorization and increased funding for CSBG, and emphasized requests from local partners, such as food banks and Alameda Health. Senator Padilla's office underscored the importance of constituent

stories and the value of community action boards. They engaged with members from other states and districts, fostering bipartisan dialogue. T. Love and M. Rivera pointed out that personal stories, such as those of VITA clients using Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds to secure housing and stabilize their families, tend to be more impactful than data alone. These narratives will be crucial for future correspondence, Hill visits, and state-level advocacy efforts. The trip reinforced the importance of building relationships with other Community Action Programs (CAPs) across the country—such as those in Fresno, Minneapolis, Hawaii, Baltimore, and Long Beach—that face similar challenges. Utilizing these networks for joint strategies and learning, particularly regarding advocacy and fundraising, is essential. M. Rivera committed to exploring closer engagement with legislators from the opposite political party by focusing on shared values, such as faith-based initiatives to provide food and housing. T. Love noted that participating in travel advocacy is a privilege that requires time off and personal funds, making it inaccessible to everyone. Therefore, board letters, calls, and emails remain critical for all members to engage in national advocacy, even if they cannot travel.

2. **NCAF Community Action (Simon) (Attachment G2)** – refer to G1.
3. **2026 CalCAPA Advocacy Day - Sacramento (May 13th - 14th)** - CalCAPA Advocacy Day in Sacramento will take place on May 13–14. Several board members, along with one staff member, are planning to attend. T. Love is collaborating with the CalCAPA/state team to schedule meetings with state legislators. Once the meeting schedule is confirmed, an agenda and logistics plan will be developed and circulated, detailing who is going where and when attendees should meet up. Participants will receive follow-up communication from Tonya, which will include information about legislator meetings, times, and locations, and how the group will coordinate their advocacy messages. CalCAPA Advocacy Day aims to reinforce support for CSBG and related anti-poverty funding at the state level while highlighting local stories and the impact of grantees from Alameda County/Oakland in discussions with state legislators.
4. **Head Start Children Fairyland – Oakland (April 17th) (Attachment G4)** – None

H. Community Action Partnership Programming Updates:

1. **Board Membership Terms (Attachment H1)** – refer to H2.
2. **Board Vacancies: Low-Income Alameda County, and Low-Income Oakland District 1 (Attachment H1)** - Chair M. Rivera emphasized the importance of adhering to term limits and seat requirements to prevent the loss of any board positions. She highlighted ongoing challenges with the District 1 seat and the County-appointed seat. Additionally, M. Rivera mentioned that she has identified a potential candidate for the Councilmember Gallo seat, enabling this individual to attend future board meetings.

I. Open Forum (General Audience Comment Period) – None

J. Announcements:

- a. **United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County:**
Sandra Johnson – United Seniors Convention
35th Convention of United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County
Date/Time: May 29, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Cherryland (flyer emailed to staff)
Officer elections, speakers, exhibitors, Continental breakfast, and lunch. Free for members, but advance registration is required.
- b. **Alameda County Social Services/Board of Supervisors** – No Report
- c. **City of Oakland** – Councilmember Noel Gallo emphasized an important item at the City Council meeting: a 9:30 a.m. vote on changes to the homeless encampment policy. This includes regulations regarding sleeping in vehicles and conditions on public rights-of-way. He stressed the necessity for cooperation between the City and County to address homelessness. Gallo expressed concern that children may normalize homelessness when they observe individuals living on sidewalks. Oakland is facing some of the most significant challenges related to homelessness and violence in the county. Additionally, CM Gallo mentioned an upcoming City Council meeting at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the illegal dumping policy. He pointed out that Oakland has one of the highest waste management costs in California, largely because the City requires Waste Management to collect approximately \$40 million in franchise fees to be returned to the

City, which is not voter-approved. This contributes significantly to the high rates charged to residents. He criticized the ineffective coordination between Alameda County and the City of Oakland. While the County receives substantial state funding for homelessness, Oakland often only gets studies and counts, which are inadequate and do not provide enough direct services or solutions. When large encampments are closed (for example, due to actions by Caltrans or Newsom), people are frequently displaced into neighborhoods rather than being housed. CM Gallo invited board members and the community to participate in Council meetings, whether in person, via television, or through Zoom. He encouraged community advocacy on issues related to homelessness, illegal dumping, and neighborhood conditions. He framed these matters as long-term priorities that require ongoing action by the community and government.

d. **Board Members/Others:**

Terrence Riley – Community Wellness Event

EORDC Wellness Fair - Free wellness resources and support

Date/Time: April 17th (3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)

K. Attachments:

- D** Draft Minutes from February 9, 2026, Administering Board Meeting
- F1** District 7 Appointment Letter (Nelida Rocha)
- F4b** Grantees Summary
- G1** Tonya Love NCAF Conference Report
- G2** NCAF Community Action (Simon)
- G4** Head Start Children Fairyland – Oakland (April 17th)
- H1** Board Membership Terms
- H2** Board Vacancies Notices

L. Adjournment:

- a. **The Next In-Person Meeting: May 11, 2026**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm

M/S/Carried: S. Johnson / P. Schader / Motion Carried.