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MISSION

The mission of the SDYHC is to prevent and end youth homelessness in San Diego County by creating a multi-disciplinary, community-wide system, in alignment with San Diego's Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), to serve youth ages 26 and under.

VISION

Youth homelessness will decrease in San Diego County, and any housing instability faced by young people will be brief and non-recurring through our collective service efforts.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 11TH, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A steering committee meeting of the San Diego Youth Homelessness Consortium was held on 8/11/2025 in person at SD LGBT Community Center. It began at 10:08 am and was presided over by Jessica Rihan.

ATTENDANCE

- Voting members present: Beth Davenport, David Baker, Haley Varges, Jessica Rihan, Krysta Esquivel, Mauricio Torre, Melissa Haupt, Nicole Lillie & Tristian Berry
- Voting members absent: Susie Terry and Gillian Leal
- Proxy/Guests: None
- Quorum: Yes

OLD BUSINESS

- Vote: July agenda. Motion Passes

NEW BUSINESS

1	Welcomes	All
2	Vote: July Minutes Motion: Nicole Second: Beth Abstentions: Maurico, Melissa Motion Passes	All
3	Vote: August Agenda Motion: Haley Second: Krysta Abstentions: Maurico, Melissa Motion Passes	All
4	September Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canceled for Labor Day Next meeting October	Jessica Rihan

5	<p>Vision Planning Session: SDYHC Debrief & Strategic Outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What has been working well for SDYHC? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Steering Committee continues to demonstrate strong collaboration and engagement with general members. Cross-agency communication and partnerships have notably improved. The committee has returned to full capacity, now including representation from the following organizations: SDYS, YMCA, San Diego LGBTQ Center SBCS, Our Time to Act, Youth Will, North County Lifeline and the SD County Office of Education. Home Start's new CEO is looking to be the representative for Home Start Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David B. shared that he and Johnathan from SDYS will serve as co-chairs for the newly formed CoC Ad Hoc Committee focused on Youth Homelessness Advocacy. Several Steering Committee members expressed interest in applying to join the Ad Hoc Committee. November's Youth Hope Month is approaching (Youth Homelessness, Outreach, Prevention and Education Month). Discussed connecting our agencies to discuss countywide rallies and events. Looking to coordinate rally meet ups at the county building. David B. shared the dates for Solidarity Journey during Youth HOPE Month: November 4th-7th 	All
6	<p>Next Steps: Strengthening SDYHC Youth Action Board (YAB) Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicole L. proposed a greater integration of a Youth Action Board (YAB) into SDYHC's collaboration and strategic work. Suggested establishing a regional YAB to represent youth perspectives across San Diego County to re-center youth voices in advocacy efforts Challenges to Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous YAB efforts have faced sustainability issues, often dissolving due to inconsistent participation and shifting membership. Lack of long-term structure and clarity around the YAB's role and goals has been a barrier. Proposed Strategies: 	Nicole Lillie & Haley Varges

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reimagine the YAB Model: Explore new approaches to ensure long-term engagement and stability. Consider flexible structures that adapt to youth needs and interests. Ensure appropriate compensation for time and contributions. Explore merging with the existing YAB's (YHDP/ YHSI YAB's) to align efforts and resources. ○ Youth-Led Design: Empower youth to define the structure and purpose of the YAB. One idea is to have youth develop a "YAB Charter" that outlines: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What a well-functioning YAB looks like 2. Their roles and responsibilities 3. Vision for their work and impact • Need to Define Clear Goals & Purpose: Develop a foundational document or YAB Charter that outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The mission and vision of SDYHC's YAB ○ Strategic goals and priorities ○ Sustainability plan and support structures • Consider a Youth-Led Design: Empower youth to define the structure and purpose of the YAB. One idea is to have youth develop a "YAB Charter" that outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What a well-functioning YAB looks like ○ Their roles and responsibilities ○ Vision for their work and impact • Our Time to Act (OTTA) and Youth Will have offered to support youth through training and mentorship in advocacy and leadership development. 	
7	<p>SDYHC Partnership Framework: Defining Expectations and Boundaries for Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a clear framework for SDYHC's partnerships. Goal is to foster effective, respectful, and aligned working relationships • Communication strategy goals: Create a strategy for how SDYHC's committee communicates about community activities and responds to executive orders. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Articulating our commitment to best practices. ○ Advocating against policies that may harm youth, even when agencies act without transparency. ○ Ensuring SDYHC is actively shaping the regional narrative around homelessness, rather than remaining on the sidelines. ○ Humanizing the experiences of youth facing homelessness in all communications. 	All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Add the communication strategy discussion to the October committee agenda for further development and input. • Engaging General Membership: Determine how to share the communication strategy with SDYHC's general membership and align our goals for presentation and feedback. 	
8	<p>Funding Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to limited time, Funding discussion will be revisited at next Steering Committee Meeting 	All
9	<p>Concerns/Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order Impact on Youth Experiencing Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new executive order may result in the forced institutionalization of individuals experiencing homelessness, including youth. There is concern that youth facing homelessness could be subject to criminalization under this directive. ○ The Steering Committee discussed potential advocacy strategies and emphasized the importance of SDYHC taking a proactive stance. A communications plan will be developed to guide the committee's response to executive orders and related community developments. • Engagement with Local Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lucky Duck Foundation and the San Diego Housing Commission are increasing their involvement in initiatives addressing homelessness. ○ SDYHC recognizes its opportunity to influence and collaborate with these organizations to ensure youth homelessness remains a priority in their efforts. 	All

ADJOURNMENT: 12:11 pm