



## MINUTES

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ADVISORY BOARD January 29, 2026 - 6:00 PM

Chair – Jonathon Hammel  
Vice Chair – Jignesh Padhiar  
Secretary – Joe Pena  
Board Member – Dennis Pappas  
Board Member – Stephen Quinn  
Board Member – Zachary Newkirk  
Board Member – Vacant

Staff Liaison – Charles Kovac, Housing Manager  
Staff Liaison – Gregory Hoang, Sr. Administrative Analyst  
Staff Liaison – Skyler Barthold, Management Aide

#### CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Hammel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

#### ROLL CALL

Present: Jonathon Hammel  
Jignesh Padhiar  
Dennis Pappas  
Joe Pena  
Stephen Quinn  
Zachary Newkirk

Absent: None

Staff Present: Charles Kovac  
Gregory Hoang  
Skyler Barthold

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **1. Approve the Minutes of the Citizen Participation Advisory Board Meeting of January 15, 2026.**

Motion by Secretary Pena to approve the Minutes of the Citizen Participation Advisory Board meeting of January 15, 2026, as submitted. Second by Member Newkirk, carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

### **2. Review of Annual Community Development Block Grant Public Services Program Applications for the 2026-27 Program Year.**

Charles Kovac, Housing Manager, presented a review of the Annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Program applications for the 2026–27 program year. He reported that fifteen percent of the City’s CDBG allocation is designated for public services and discussed potential available funding, noting that nine organizations applied with total funding requests of \$459,915. The Citizen Participation Advisory Board (CPAB) will hear applicant presentations and forward funding recommendations to City Council on February 19. A joint study session with City Council is scheduled for March 17, with final consideration on May 5 as part of the 2026–27 Action Plan. Funding levels may be adjusted proportionally or equally if HUD’s final allocation differs from estimates or is delayed.

### **3. Applicant Presentations**

#### **City of Huntington Beach Oak View Family Resource Center**

Oak View FRC Drop-in Recreation Program – Grant Request \$85,000

Presentation given by Kristin Martinez (City of Huntington Beach),

Nayelli Ascencio (All for Kids/Oak View Family Resource Center)

Ryan Brenes (Boys and Girls Club of Huntington Valley)

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley is requesting \$85,000 to operate an after-school enrichment program at the Oak View FRC to serve 150 school-age children of low-income Huntington Beach families. The program offers a safe environment for children to learn, play, and explore during non-school hours including spring and summer breaks, addressing the need for childcare when parents work. Partnerships also provide essential resources, such as meals for the children, and non-perishable foods for their families.

**NAMI OC**

NAMI OC WarmLine & ETS Program for Students – Grant Request \$40,000  
Presentation given by Amy Durham

WarmLine is a free, non-crisis support line staffed by trained peer mentors who provide empathetic listening, crisis screening, and connections to community resources. By offering early intervention and warm transfers to crisis services when needed, WarmLine helps prevent escalation, reduce strain on emergency systems, and support the wellbeing of diverse and vulnerable populations in multiple languages. NAMI OC is projecting to serve 800 members of the community.

**Something More**

HB Care Connection – Grant Request \$45,000  
Presentation given by Kristi Hels and Karen Richmond

Something More is a nonprofit providing trauma-informed care coordination, health navigation, and housing support to low-income and/or homeless Huntington Beach residents with complex needs. Through its HB Care Connection program the organization helps remove barriers to care by supporting transportation, documentation, and access to medical, behavioral health, and housing services—reducing crises, improving health outcomes, and promoting long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

**City of Huntington Beach Senior Center**

Senior Center Care Management - Grant Request \$48,000  
Presentation given by Michelle Yerke

The City of Huntington Beach Senior Center Care Management Program supports residents age 60 and older who are at risk due to housing instability, health challenges, limited mobility, inadequate nutrition, or lack of support. With older adults now making up 26% of the city’s population—and that number continuing to grow—the demand for services is increasing. Operating since the 1980s, the program provides professional care management, referrals, and coordination of essential services to help more than 700 seniors annually. The program focuses on access to services, housing stability, home safety, social and emotional wellness, transportation, and basic needs to help seniors age safely and independently in their homes. The program is requesting \$48,000 to fund two part-time care managers serving at least 175 vulnerable older adults.

**Robyne’s Nest**

Robyne’s Nest Support Services to Homeless & At-Risk Youth in Huntington Beach  
Grant Request \$50,000  
Presentation given by Natalie Moser

Robyne’s Nest supports homeless, unaccompanied, abandoned, and at-risk

Huntington Beach high school students and transitional-age youth by providing wraparound services that promote housing stability, academic success, mental

wellness, and life-skills development. Through its Youth Homelessness Prevention and Support Services Program, Student Care Coordinators and Mental Health & Wellness staff deliver daily case coordination, crisis prevention, basic-needs assistance, academic guidance, and independent-living skills training. By stabilizing vulnerable youth and supporting graduation, employment, and postsecondary pathways, the program prevents homelessness, strengthens workforce readiness, and advances the City's goals for public services and housing stability for low- and moderate-income residents.

### **Save the Brave**

Save the Brave Offshore Fishing - Grant Request \$75,000

Presentation given by Nick Velez and Eulalio Lopez

Save the Brave is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans' mental health through outreach programs that build resilience, connection, and community. Its Save the Brave Offshore program provides free therapeutic offshore and inshore fishing experiences—"Saltwater Therapy"—that promote emotional well-being, peer support, and successful reintegration. The program will expand services to Huntington Beach veterans, strengthening mental health, social connection, and overall community stability while addressing the public service needs of this vulnerable population.

### **StandUp for Kids Orange County**

StandUp for Kids Street Outreach - Grant Request \$26,915

Presentation given by Denise Zermeno and Elle Martinez

StandUp for Kids highlighted their continued efforts to address youth homelessness in Huntington Beach through their Street Outreach program. In 2025, they served 1,600 youth, with 97% of those assisted in housing remaining stably housed. For 2026, they plan to serve 75 youth locally, providing basic needs (meals, clothing, hygiene), case management, mental health counseling, crisis intervention, and access to emergency or transitional housing. The program uses a tracking system to monitor services, outcomes, and referrals, coordinating with local shelters, the Department of Education, and the Coordinated Entry System. Their goal is to maintain high service levels, prevent youth homelessness, and help at-risk youth achieve stability, education, and self-sufficiency.

### **Project Hope Alliance**

Site-Based Case Management for Youth Experiencing Homelessness –

Grant Request \$50,000

Presentation given by Celso Fuentes and John Eumurian

Project Hope Alliance works to break the cycle of youth homelessness in Huntington Beach by providing on-campus case managers, basic-needs support, and enrichment opportunities tailored to each student. Their programs supply food,

school supplies, backpacks, and holiday gifts while maintaining regular check-ins to ensure academic progress and personal stability. Last year, they served 121 youth and 101 families across four high schools, reaching about 11% of the city's unhoused students. By supporting graduation and fostering self-sufficiency, the program helps youth achieve financial stability, reduces future homelessness, and empowers them to contribute positively to their community. They are requesting \$50,000 to continue and expand these services.

### **Pathways to Independence**

Pathways to Independence - Grant Request \$40,000

Presentation given by Diana Hill.

Pathways to Independence is a 35-year-old Huntington Beach organization supporting young women aged 18–35 from backgrounds of adversity, helping them achieve education, housing, and life stability. They provide long-term, wraparound services including case management, mentoring, mental health therapy, life skills workshops, and access to college education, aiming to break generational cycles of hardship. Currently serving 38 clients, 31 locally, they maintain safe, independent housing with community spaces and structured programs. Their approach has led to an 80% graduation rate.

## **MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION**

Staff Liaison Kovac offered closing remarks encouraging the Board Members to contact applicant organizations with questions and to consider arranging facility tours.

Board Member Padhiar thanked all the presenters and appreciates the work they are doing for the community.

Board Member Newkirk appreciated the presenters and encouraged them that the board members will do their best when creating a funding distribution recommendation to the City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hammel adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Citizen Participation Advisory Board, Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Huntington Beach Civic Center, Lower Level, Room B-7, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California.

Prepared By:

---

Skyler Barthold, Management Aide

Adopted February 19, 2026:

---

Joe Pena, Secretary