

September and October 2026 LEAB and YLEAB Policy Board Update

The Lived Expertise Action Board (LEAB) and Youth Lived Expertise Action Board (YLEAB) continued joint meetings this fall. Their current work centers on member development, peer-led projects, and opportunities for community partners to seek lived experience input. No Policy Board action is requested in this update.

Joint board work

At the September and October meetings, members advanced LEAB and YLEAB projects, reviewed compensation and laptop policies, and identified training priorities. Homebase continues to facilitate meetings, support members, and administer stipends. It reviewed the compensation structure in September and discussed potential effects of stipends on taxes and public benefits in October. Members identified 2026–27 training interests in equity, public speaking, project management, and advocacy, along with practical skills such as CPR and first aid or Mental Health First Aid. A tax workshop with United Way Bay Area is planned for the November joint meeting.

LEAB

Membership and representation

LEAB welcomed a new member, Dawn Jacobson in August. The group is also mourning the death of a former member, Alyson Greene who passed away on September 30 at the Armory. As a member of LEAB, she shared her perspective and lived experience to help inform our work. We are grateful for her contributions and will remember her as a valued member of our Housing for Health community. Manuel Caceres remains the LEAB Policy Board liaison, with Rosie Garcia as alternate. Lisa Bordenave continues as LEAB liaison to the Operations Committee.

Projects and partner requests

LEAB is developing Thrive Beyond Survival, a written, self-guided resource informed by lived experience for people navigating prolonged stress and homelessness. The

current draft contains six short lessons on grounding, managing limited capacity, rest, small choices, and planning for stability. It remains a draft; the content and intended use need further review before distribution.

LEAB continues to accept external project requests through the online form, allowing community partners to seek lived experience input on their work.

YLEAB

Membership and recruitment

The new YLEAB member, Rayna Terry attended their first YLEAB meeting in August. Vi Saleem resigned effective October 1 after getting a job offer out of county. YLEAB is currently recruiting for two open seats; members have interviewed one candidate and are planning further outreach.

YLEAB Current projects

- Advising Youth Outreach Connectors on ways to expand and improve outreach to youth experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County.
- Helping Casa Sankofa, a new youth transitional housing program, create a warm and welcoming space through artwork and visual elements.
- Preparing to participate in Casa Sankofa's planned January grand opening and contribute messaging that reflects the perspectives of youth the program will serve.

YLEAB also continues to accept external project requests through the online form. Rayna Terry will serve as the Policy Board liaison and Chase Perry as its YHDP Collaborative liaison. The YLEAB Operations Committee liaison seat is open following Vi Saleem's departure.

Next meeting

The next joint LEAB and YLEAB meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2026.