



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
CARE FIRST, COMMUNITY INVESTMENT (CFCI) ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Thursday, August 6, 2026

4:00PM – 6:30PM

**Western States Carpenters Training Fund – South LA
1010 Sandhill Avenue, Carson, CA 90746**

Below is the link to this meeting's transcript:

[CART Transcript](#)

Below is the link to the full meeting
recording:

[Meeting Recording](#)

Dalar Zahrabi of the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department-Care First, Community Investment (JCOD-CFCI) read the meeting disclosures.

Welcome and Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Veronica Lewis (Chair, CFCI Advisory Committee) at 4:08pm; Dalar Zahrabi from (JCOD-CFCI) called the roll and read the disclosures.

Present:

1. Adam Bettino (as an alternate for Judge Songhai Armstead)
2. Nicolle Blackwood
3. Rafael Carbajal
4. Kelly Fischer (as an alternate for David Carroll)
5. Megan Castillo
6. Norma Cecilia Clarke
7. Cheryl Blanchette (as an alternate for Jackie Contreras)
8. Wesley Crunk
9. Victor Cyrus-Franklin
10. Michelle Gibson
11. Christopher Hendrix
12. Clemens Hong
13. Mercedes Jackson (delayed arrival)
14. Wendy Knight
15. Veronica Lewis
16. Kelly LoBianco (delayed arrival)

17. Carlos Pineda (as an alternate for Carrie Miller, delayed arrival)
18. Derek Steele (delayed arrival)
19. Joseph (Joey) Williams
20. Kyla Coates (as an alternate for Lisa Wong)

**Appeared
Remotely:**

1. Shalonda Battee

Absent:

1. Auleria Eakins
2. Michelle Fuentes-Miranda
3. Norma Garcia
4. Rosa Soto

Special Notes:

The following members/alternates of the CFCI Advisory Committee appeared remotely for the following “just cause” justifications.

Shalonda Battee: Just Cause – A need related to a physical or mental condition that is not subject to the reasonable accommodation.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Welcome and Call to Order by Veronica Lewis, Chair, CFCI Advisory Committee
2. Review Meeting Disclosures
3. Roll Call
4. CFCI Advisory Committee Land Acknowledgement. Recording played.
Attachment: [Land Acknowledgement](#)

Land Acknowledgment for the meeting, recognizing the ancestral land and people of Los Angeles. Recording played.

5. CFCI Advisory Committee Labor Acknowledgement. Recording played.
Attachment: [Labor Acknowledgement](#)
6. Review of the CFCI Advisory Committee Community Agreement read by various members
Attachment: [Community Agreement](#)

7. Administrative Reminders by Chair Lewis.
8. Review and take appropriate action on the minutes of the CFCI Advisory Committee regular meeting on July 16, 2026.

Motion made by Member Crunk for the CFCI Advisory Committee to adopt the minutes from the July 16, 2026 regular meeting. Member Hong seconded the motion. Vote taken, motion passed with friendly amendments by the following vote:

YES	1. Shalonda Battee 2. Nicolle Blackwood 3. Rafael Carbajal 4. Kelly Fischer (as an alternate for David Carroll) 5. Megan Castillo 6. Norma Cecilia-Clarke 7. Cheryl Blanchette (as an alternate for Jackie Contreras) 8. Wesley Crunk 9. Victor Cyrus-Franklin 10. Michelle Gibson 11. Christopher Hendrix 12. Clemens Hong 13. Veronica Lewis 14. Carlos Pineda (as an alternate for Carrie Miller) 15. Joseph (Joey) Williams 16. Kyla Coates (as an alternate for Lisa Wong)	TOTAL: 16
ABSTAIN	Wendy Knight	TOTAL: 1
NO	N/A	TOTAL: 0
ABSENT	1. Auleria Eakins 2. Michelle Fuentes-Miranda 3. Norma Garica 4. Mercedes Jackson (absent during time of vote) 5. Rosa Soto 6. Derek Steel (absent during time of vote) 7. Kelly LoBianco (absent during time of vote)	TOTAL: 7

Members of the public were invited to provide public comment: No public comments made.

II. ACTION ITEM

9. Discuss and take appropriate action on the 2026 CFCI Underspend and Set-Aside Allocation

Attachment: [CFCI Year 5 Spending Plan Programs](#)

Attachment: [Preliminary Spending Plan Recommendation](#)

Attachment: [Preliminary Draft Spending Plan considerations for 2026 Underspend and Set Aside \(Presented 7/16/26\)](#)

Attachment: [2026 Underspend and Set Aside Presentation \(Presented 7/9/26\)](#)

Attachment: [CFCI Set-Aside Memo FY26-27 + Additional Information from CEO's Office \(Presented 7/9/26\)](#)

Attachment: [2026 Community Engagement Summary \(April May\) \(Presented 6/18/26\)](#)

Attachment: [CFCI Funding Distribution and Expenditures \(Presented 7/9/26\)](#)

Motion made by Member Williams of the CFCI Advisory Committee to approve the recommendations for dollar amounts for job training and jobs to low income residents and community based youth development programs. Member Castillo seconded the motion. Vote taken. Motion passed.

YES	1. Shalonda Battee 2. Nicolle Blackwood 3. Rafael Carbajal 4. Megan Castillo 5. Norma Cecilia-Clarke 6. Wesley Crunk 7. Victor Cyrus-Franklin 8. Michelle Gibson 9. Christopher Hendrix 10. Clemens Hong 11. Mercedes Jackson 12. Wendy Knight 13. Veronica Lewis 14. Carlos Pineda (as an alternate for Carrie Miller) 15. Derek Steele 16. Joseph (Joey) Williams 17. Kyla Coates (as an alternate for Lisa Wong)	TOTAL: 17
ABSTAIN	1. Kelly Fischer (as an alternate for David Carroll) 2. Cheryl Blanchette (as an alternate for Jackie Contreras) 3. Kelly LoBianco	TOTAL: 3
NO	N/A	TOTAL: 0
ABSENT	1. Auleria Eakins 2. Michelle Fuentes-Miranda 3. Norma Garcia 4. Rosa Soto	TOTAL: 4

Members of the public were invited to provide public comment: In Person: Bradley Thomas, Justine Esick Online: Chris Carter, Nohemi Lopez, Byron Jose, Morgan Chandler, Anthony Martinez, Auntie's iPad, Smith

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II. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Public Comment

A) Opportunity for members of the public to address the CFCI Advisory Committee.

- B) Public comment should not exceed one minute per participant.
- C) Please Note: General public comment is limited to the matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the CFCI Advisory Committee.
- D) Public comment can also be provided via email at JCOD@lacounty.gov. Deadline for submitting written public comments will be August 5, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Written Public Comments

Attachment: [Written Correspondence](#)

III. ADJOURNMENT

- 2. Adjournment for the CFCI Advisory Committee Special Meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 6:35p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2026.