

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Webinar:
<https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/j.php?MTID=m78381b0705d5cda70df63e3c20e22480>

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MINUTES

Board Members

Jeanne Awrey, OC Dept. of Education
Matt Bates, City Net
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Natalie Bui, Veteran Affairs CRRC
Donald Dermit, The Rock Church
Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Secretary]
Tim Houchen, Hope4Restoration
Patti Long, Mercy House

Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter
Albert Ramirez, City of Anaheim
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options [Vice Chair]
Soledad Rivera, Families Together of OC
George Searcy, Jamboree Housing
Tim Shaw, Individual [Chair]
Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Health Care Agency

Call to Order – Tim Shaw, Chair

Chair Tim Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Felicia Boehringer, Continuum of Care Administrator

Present: Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Patti Long, Albert Ramirez, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy, Tim Shaw and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez. Tim Houchen joined the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Absent excused: Becks Heyhoe, Dawn Price, and Soledad Rivera.

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board on items listed within this agenda or matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board. Members of the public may address the CoC Board with public comments on agenda items in the business calendar after the CoC Board member discussion. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes.

To address the CoC Board, members of the public are to enter their name and agenda item number in the WebEx chat box to be placed in a queue. CoC Board staff will call your name in the order listed in the chat box.

- Pat Davis commended the CoC for the work being done on the Racial Equity Roadmap and expressed hope that the CoC Board can support that work and model it in other areas.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters are approved by one motion unless pulled by a Board Member for discussion or separate action. The CoC Board requests that only pertinent information be discussed during this time.

1. Approve Continuum of Care Board Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2021.

Donald Dermit motioned to approve the item on the Consent Calendar. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Tim Shaw abstained. Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Patti Long, Albert Ramirez, George Searcy, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez voted yes. The motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Orange County Homelessness Updates – Doug Becht, Acting Director, Office of Care Coordination and Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager

- a. Doug Becht provided the following System of Care Updates:
 - **Orange County Cold Weather Armory Emergency Shelter Program** – The Orange County Cold Weather Emergency Shelter program provides shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness at the National Guard Armory in Santa Ana. The Armory is located at 612 East Warner Ave. in Santa Ana.
 - **Project Roomkey** – The County of Orange continues to operate temporary isolation shelters with a total capacity of 100 beds for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 sick or symptomatic. Referrals into the program are made by the Public Health Services, hospitals, shelters, street outreach teams, and law enforcement.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts** – The Office of Care Coordination is working with Public Health Services and two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) on vaccination efforts for those experiencing homelessness. The FQHCs are Families Together of Orange County in Tustin and Share Our Selves in Costa Mesa.
 - **The State of California’s Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program** – The State of California’s ERA Program is referred to as CA COVID-19 Rent Relief or Housing is Key. Orange County tenants with rental arrears and/or past due utility bills are encouraged to apply for assistance.
- b. Zulima Lundy provided the following CoC Updates:
 - **HOME-ARP Updates** – HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) funding provides HOME grantees, in collaboration with other community stakeholders, a chance to make targeted, strategic investments in housing and other assistance for people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. HOME jurisdictions are required to engage in the consultation with the CoC and public participation processes and develop a HOME-ARP allocation plan. The CoC will be facilitating a consultation with the Cities of Fullerton, Irvine, and Huntington Beach on January 6, 2022. The Office of Care Coordination will be sending information on how to participate in the HOME-ARP consultation process via email.
 - **2021 Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) Data Submission** – The Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) 2.0 opened for LSA uploads on Monday, December 6, 2021. The Office of Care Coordination is working with 211 Orange County, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead, to ensure accurate data is being reported. The LSA report provides the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Continuums of Care (CoCs) with critical information

about how people experiencing homelessness use their system of care. An update on the LSA data submission will be presented to the CoC Board in February 2022.

- **Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Update** – The CoC has partnered with local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to distribute EHVs to assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness; fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or were recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the household’s homelessness or having high risk of housing instability. Zulima Lundy reviewed the progress on the issuance and leasing of EHVs by the PHAs.
- **EHV Dashboard** – HUD has established an EHV dashboard, which showcases EHV data at the national, region, field office, state, and PHA-level. The public-facing dashboard is accessible at the following link: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ehv/dashboard.
- **Funding Opportunities** – Zulima Lundy reviewed the details of the Domestic Violence Shelter-Based Program Request for Proposals (RFP) and the City of Santa Ana and Santa Ana Housing Authority Affordable Housing Development RFP, which are currently open to the public. The Office of Care Coordination will be releasing the North Service Planning Area COVID-19 Homeless Response Services RFP shortly.

2. **Brown Act Update and Determination in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

Zulima Lundy provided a background on the Brown Act legislation as it relates to holding virtual meetings. The Orange County CoC has been conducting the Board and Committee meetings in accordance with the waivers as authorized in Executive Order N-908-21. With the waivers coming to an end and in accordance with subsection (e) to Government Code Section 54953, the Orange County CoC will be considering the circumstances of the recommended action to continue teleconferenced meetings for the next 30 days.

Continued teleconference meetings for the next 30 days will support the Orange County CoC in continuing to meet to further the goals of the CoC and ensure continuity of CoC activities. Additionally, it will provide the CoC Board and the CoC general membership ample time to plan for the transition to in-person meetings and implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols.

Recommended Action:

- a. Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the Orange County CoC Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and has determined that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommended action. Natalie Bui seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

- Pat Davis and John Underwood requested that the CoC Board consider a hybrid model as meetings return to an in-person format to address transportation and accessibility concerns.
- David Duran reiterated that public access needs to be considered with a shift to in-person meetings and stated that the CoC Board may miss the representation of important community issues if the meetings are not accessible in a hybrid format.

3. C4 Innovations Racial Equity Roadmap Data Request – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Lisa Bahadosingh, C4 Innovations

Zulima Lundy provided an overview of the Office of Care Coordination’s partnership with C4 Innovations to conduct a Racial Equity Analysis of the Orange County CoC. As part of the Racial Equity Roadmap, C4 Innovations will be analyzing data by race and ethnicity to identify, understand and address racial inequities in the Orange County CoC. Zulima Lundy provided a summary of the data request by C4 Innovations, including the HMIS data points being requested and reporting period.

Lisa Bahadosingh from C4 Innovations provided context for the data request and benefits of the data in identifying racial inequities and potential gaps in data. Lisa Bahadosingh shared that there will be three foundational sessions beginning on January 13, 2022, for the CoC to participate.

Recommended Action:

- a. Approve C4 Innovations’ data release request utilizing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to inform the Racial Equity Roadmap as recommended by the Office of Care Coordination.

Patti Long motioned to approve the recommended action. Matt Bates seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Judson Brown expressed that the Racial Equity Analysis is important to City of Santa Ana, as the lowest income city in Orange County. Judson Brown stated that he hopes C4 Innovations is able to capture the larger picture of the inequitable distribution of people experiencing homelessness in Orange County and its effects on the City of Santa Ana.
- Matt Bates expressed the importance of broadening the perspective of the analysis to include system performance and to consider the historic barriers of housing to people of color in Orange County. Matt Bates stated that understanding the legacy of racial systemic discrimination will help the CoC to frame efforts moving forward.

Public Comments:

- John Underwood inquired about why C4 Innovations will not be looking granularly at data narrowed down by zip code.
- David Duran stated that since the clearing of the Santa Ana Riverbed, many individuals experiencing homelessness have returned to the City of Santa Ana due to the proximity of services, leading to a high population of individuals experiencing homelessness.

4. 2022 Orange County Point In Time Count Presentation – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Matt Bates, City Net

The Office of Care Coordination has contracted with City Net to conduct the 2022 Unsheltered Point In Time (PIT) Count. Matt Bates from City Net presented information about the 2022 PIT Count, including the benefits of the PIT Count, methodology, timeline and important dates, volunteer needs, and COVID-19 safety considerations.

Zulima Lundy shared that information will be sent to the CoC regarding upcoming virtual volunteer information sessions and the updating of the PIT Count website: <http://www.everyonecountsoc.org/>

Board Member Comments:

- Tim Shaw asked for clarification on how to connect with City Net to support the 2022 PIT Count efforts. City Net encouraged emailing info@everyonecounts.org for further information.

Public Comments:

- Nikki Buckstead shared the ways in which the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC) is supporting the 2022 PIT Count efforts. FSC will be opening their nine access points as walk-in centers on January 25th and 26th to engage with families experiencing homelessness and provide supportive services and incentives. FSC will be conducting a training with City Net around completing the survey and engaging with families.
- John Underwood inquired if there is a role for law enforcement in accompanying PIT Count team members to remote locations where unhoused residents are located.
- David Duran stated that in past years, one of the challenges was the timely report of the PIT Count and inquired if there is an estimate of the date the report will be released in 2022.
- Pat Davis reiterated John Underwood's comment regarding law enforcement and wondered how to best outreach and build trust with the people experiencing homelessness who are surveyed during the PIT Count.

5. Orange County CoC Leadership Vision for Calendar Year (CY) 2022-24 – Tim Shaw, Chair and CoC Vision Ad Hoc

On February 20, 2021, the CoC Board approved the creation of a CoC Vision Ad Hoc. The CoC Vision Ad Hoc developed a draft of a three-year Leadership Vision for the Orange County CoC Board, focusing on efforts that:

- Permanently house those experiencing homelessness
- Ensure an efficient, dignified system
- Promote an equitable and just system
- Drive system-wide engagement and collaboration
- Strengthen regional leadership and accountability
- Smartly allocate funds to match the greatest needs

Recommended Action:

- a. Adopt the Orange County CoC Leadership Vision for CY2022-24 as recommended by the CoC Vision Ad Hoc.

Patti Long motioned to approve the recommended action. Donald Dermit seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Patti Long emphasized that good leadership requires vision and the desire to be bold, stating that serving on the CoC Board is not about building a resume, but effecting change.
- Zulima Lundy read a statement of support on behalf of Dawn Price for the work of the CoC Vision Ad Hoc and the resulting document that is before the CoC Board today.
- George Searcy commended the CoC Vision Ad Hoc and voiced support for the implementation. George Searcy emphasized the importance of the CoC supporting the need for more available housing, especially when it comes to diversity and inclusion.
- Judson Brown expressed concern about the use of the terminology "homeless prevention" in the CoC Leadership Vision, as this term is often used broadly as an excuse to not take action towards ending homelessness. The CoC Vision Ad Hoc responded that the language was included as a literal interpretation of the CoC's roles and responsibilities.

Public Comments:

- Pat Davis expressed support and appreciation of the direct and realistic approach of the CoC Board.
- Nikki Buckstead expressed appreciation for the innovative approach, forward thinking, and leadership of the CoC Board.
- Rebecca Kovacs-Stein, a volunteer for housing search assistance, emphasized the lack of available housing in Orange County and suggested that housing navigation programs employ the services of part-time realtors to assist clients.
- David Duran expressed hope that the CoC Board will not fall into the perception of the public and begin using negative rhetoric against out housed community.

6. 2022 CoC Board Recommendations – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager

Zulima Lundy provided an overview of the CoC Board nomination and election process, including CoC Board seats to be filled, and the timeline of the nomination and election process from October 2021 to present. The Orange County CoC has identified nine candidates to fill the CoC Board seat vacancies.

Recommended Action A:

Ratify the results from the CoC Board election to appoint the following candidates to the available CoC Board seats:

- i. Elida Sanchez for the McKinney-Vento representative seat
- ii. Eric Richardson for the veteran representative seat
- iii. Albert Ramirez for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Entitlement Jurisdiction or Funded Agency/ Recipient Agency seat\
- iv. George Searcy for the at-large seat prioritizing Affordable Housing Development Background and Expertise
- v. Dawn Price for the at-large seat representing expertise on homeless services and/or subpopulation focus, prioritizing People with Disabilities
- vi. Nikki Buckstead for the at-large seat representing expertise on homeless services and/or subpopulation focus, prioritizing Families
- vii. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells for the at-large seat representing expertise on homeless services and/or subpopulation focus, prioritizing Transitional Aged Youth
- viii. Becks Heyhoe for the at-large seat with no prescribed area of expertise/experience
- ix. Tim Shaw for the at -large seats with no prescribed area of expertise/experience

Recommended Action B:

Approve the 2022 CoC Board Meeting Calendar as recommended by the Office of Care Coordination.

Patti Long motioned to approve recommended actions A and B. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

- Rebecca Kovacs-Stein commented that she would like to see the results of the election and is not comfortable with anyone in any active litigation being appointed to the CoC Board.

7. Homekey Program Update and Recommendation – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Albert Ramirez, City of Anaheim

The County of Orange, including OC Community Resources and Office of Care Coordination, has identified Homekey Program Round 2 project proposals that will submit an application in advance of the January 31, 2022, deadline for the bonus award and geographic pools. Zulima Lundy provided background on the CoC Board Special Meeting on December 9, 2021, and the proposed partnership with the City of Anaheim Studio 6 Motel Conversion project to create a viable and competitive application.

Albert Ramirez presented on the details and timeline of the Studio 6 Motel Conversion project, which will operate as interim housing for a period of up to five years prior to rehabilitation of the motel into Permanent Supportive Housing. The projects will offer 119 units total, of which 83 units will be part of the Homekey Program and the remaining 28 units will be used by other partners. The Studio 6 Motel Conversion project proposal requires a funding commitment of \$7.92 million to operate as interim housing for up to five years.

Zulima Lundy clarified that the Office of Care Coordination is recommending the use of \$2,000,138 in Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 2 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC to provide enough funding for up to three years of interim housing operations, along with additional funding identified by Health care Agency (HCA) and the Office of Care Coordination.

Recommended Action A:

Approve the allocation of \$2,000,138 in Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 2 funding to the Studio 6 Motel Conversion, a Homekey program Round 2 project application by the City of Anaheim, if awarded by the California Department of Housing & Community Development, for operating subsidies during interim housing phase.

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommended action. Jeanne Awrey seconded the motion. Maricela Rios-Faust confirmed her support for the recommended action via the chat. Albert Ramirez abstained. Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Patti Long, Tim Shaw and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez voted yes. The motion passed.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Shaw voiced his support that this is an efficient use of HHAP Round 2 funding and highlighted the direct tie to the CoC Vision of identifying opportunities to expand housing availability via the Homekey Program.
- Patti Long requested clarification on this item in comparison to the items voted on during the CoC Special Board meeting on December 9, 2021.
- Donald Dermit expressed gratitude to the Cities of Anaheim, Huntington Beach, and Costa Mesa for pursuing Homekey Program funding and requested clarification about the targeted age range of this project, emphasizing the need for housing for individuals ages 65 and older.

Public Comments:

- Pat Davis expressed that she is happy to see this project moving forward and hopes this is just the beginning.
- Rebecca Kovacs-Stein inquired about what is happening to individuals who are currently sheltered at the Studio 6 Motel location, as she is working with an individual who received an eviction notice.
- John Underwood provided context about the lessons learned in Los Angeles County as it relates to Homekey and the robust “adaptive re-use” projects and urged the CoC to broaden their Homekey methodology.

8. The Longest Night Virtual Candlelight Vigil – Tim Houchen, CoC Board Member

Tim Houchen provided information on the Longest Night Virtual Candlelight Vigil, hosted by Home 4 Restoration & Women Driver’s Interfaith Group. On this night, the lives of Orange County neighbors who died without a permanent, safe, and secure place to call home are commemorated. The event will begin on December 21, 2021, at sunset. To receive a link to this year’s vigil by signing up on Women’s Driver’s Email list: <https://eepurl.com/hle9jp>.

Tim Houchen provided an update on his efforts to create a taskforce or commission to better understand homeless mortality in Orange County and begin identifying ways to reduce the number of deaths. Tim Houchen expressed the importance of comprehensive data to create programs to reduce the deaths. This item was brought to the Lived Experience Advisory Commission for discussion.

Public Comments:

- David Duran expressed that the number of individuals that pass away due to the effects of experiencing homelessness is much higher than the 386 being represented.

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.