

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
Wednesday March 24, 2021  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Webinar:**  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/694403981>

**Dial by Phone:**  
**+1 (312) 757-3121**

**Access Code:**  
**694-403-981**

## 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 2p.m.

### Board Member Roll Call – Becks Heyhoe, Secretary

Present: Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Patti Long, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, Christina Weckerly-Ramirez, and Soledad Rivera.

Absent Excused: None

Judson Brown was excused from the meeting during Business Calendar Agenda Item 2 and did not vote on Business Calendar Agenda Items 3 to 7.

**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.

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

- Jay Cole shared the location of his church and offered it as a temporary shelter. Mr. Cole hopes to see his church offer permanent solutions for people experiencing homelessness in the future.
- Callie Rutter commented on the word homeless, the negative connotations tied to the word, and recommended other words such as housing displaced, unhoused, or housing impacted be considered for use instead.
- David Duran commented on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) proposed policy presented to the Policies, Procedures and Standards Committee on March 9, 2021, and advocated for more access into HMIS.

### **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 February 24, 2021.**
2. **Receive and file approved data provided to Orange County United Way per prior CoC Board action on February 24, 2021.**

Tim Houchen motioned to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. Dawn Price seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

1. **Orange County System of Care Update** – Doug Becht, Director of Operations, Office of Care Coordination
  - a. Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program: The ERA Program assists households experiencing financial hardships who unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The County of Orange second application period starts on April 1, 2021, and will remain open until April 30, 2021. The County of Orange will provide up to \$10,000 financial assistance per eligible rental households. For more information visit [ERA.211OC.org](http://ERA.211OC.org) or call 2-1-1.
  - b. Project Roomkey: The County of Orange continues to operate Project Roomkey. Referrals into the program are made by Public Health Services, hospitals, shelters, street outreach teams, and law enforcement.
  - c. COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts at Homeless Shelters: The Office of Care Coordination (OCC) is working with Incident Management Team, Public Health Services, and the Orange County Fire Authority to vaccinate interested participants residing at shelters in Orange County. To date, 290 participants experiencing homelessness have been vaccinated with the first COVID-19 vaccine.
2. **Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Update** – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager
  - a. Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): Key findings include the following:
    - i. on a single night in 2020, roughly 580,000 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States;
    - ii. for the fourth consecutive year, homelessness increased nationwide; and

- iii. the number of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness increased by fifteen percent between 2019 and 2020.
- b. Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point in Time (PIT): The HIC and PIT is due April 30, 2021. 211OC is completing the process and following up with agencies as needed.
- c. Alternative Shelter Placement Update: Letter of Agreements for the provision of Alternative Shelter Placement will continue to be an available resource to CoC Providers. These efforts are currently assisting 64 households.
- d. Homeless Services Programs Update: The OCC is working with providers to launch the three COVID-19 Rapid Rehousing Service contracts as quickly as possible. Friendship Shelter, in partnership with Mercy House, will provide operational support to the Individual Coordinated Entry System (CES) to streamline access to services and improve care coordination for individuals in CES.
- e. Lived Experience Advisory Committee Update: The Lived Experience Advisory Committee was created ensure the perspectives of individuals with current and/or past lived experience of homelessness are included in the decision-making process for CoC activities. The CoC Board and OCC are seeking diverse membership to join the committee. Recruitment will begin in April 2021.
- f. Approved OC United Way Data Request: The CoC Board approved the OC United Way data request during the February 24, 2021, meeting of the CoC Board. OC United Way requested aggregate data from HMIS on households that entered and exited the homelessness system of care during calendar year 2020. The Consent Calendar Item 2 (page 8 and 9) includes a summary report of the requested data.

Board Member Comments:

- Dawn Price asked if comparable data to the OC United Way data request exists for other years. Becks Heyhoe agreed that comparable data year after year would be beneficial. The OCC agreed to follow up with the next steps to provide the requested data.

Public Comments:

- Callie Rutter expressed an interest in joining the Lived Experience Advisory Committee.

**3. Approve Project C – COVID-19 Responsive Homeless Services Funding Recommendations – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

- a. Zulima Lundy shared the background and timeline that led to the COVID-19 Responsive Homeless Services Funding Recommendations for Project C. Services to be provided include Outreach and Housing Navigation Services by City Net in the North Service Planning Area, Emergency Flexible Funding for Housing by Interval House in the Central Service Planning Area, and the Welcome Home OC Program by OC United Way in the South Service Planning Area.
- b. Motion: Approve the Project C – COVID-19 Responsive Homeless Services Vendor Recommendations, as recommended by the COVID-19 Homeless and Prevention Response Request For Proposals (RFP)Panel.
  - i. Kingdom Causes, Inc. dba City Net for COVID-19 Responsive Homeless Services for the North Service Planning Area for the term of May 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$575,073.

- ii. Interval House for COVID-19 Responsive Homeless Services for the Central Service Planning Area, for the term of May 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$176,088.
- iii. Orange County United Way for COVID-19 Responsive Homeless Services for the South Service Planning Area, for the term of May 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$998,728.

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommendation. Tim Houchen seconded the motion. Matt Bates, Becks Heyhoe, Patti Long, and Dawn Price abstained from voting. The motion passed.

**4. Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Update** - Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager, Maricela Rios-Faust, Vice Chair, and Erin DeRycke, 2-1-1 Orange County

- a. Vice Chair Maricela Rios-Faust and Zulima Lundy provided an update on the proposed policy for HMIS access and minimum participation requirements. The next steps from the PPS Committee are to create an Ad Hoc to meet and provide feedback on the proposed draft policy. The PPS Committee will make a policy recommendation to the CoC Board on May 26, 2021, and will allow the opportunity for public comments and stakeholder feedback. Changes in HMIS access will be updated once the proposed policy is approved by the CoC Board.
- b. Motion: Approve the creation of an ad hoc comprised of CoC Board members to work in collaboration with the PPS Committee membership to advise on and develop a policy for HMIS access and agency minimum participation requirements and bring a recommended to the CoC Board in May 2021.

Donald Dermit motioned to approve the recommendation. Tim Houchen seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

- c. Board Member Comments:
  - i. Soledad Rivera, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Donald Dermit, Jeanne Awrey, and Natalie Bui volunteered to participate in the ad hoc.
- d. Public Comments:
  - i. Callie Rutter recommended that participants of HMIS programs have access to their own records much like medical records through online portals.
  - ii. Brooke Weitzman suggested that deactivated agencies from HMIS be reactivated until the new policy is approved.
  - iii. Lauren Smith noted that Legal Aid SoCal’s mission is to provide legal aid to people experiencing homelessness and wrap around services. Access into HMIS would allow her to provide additional support for her clients.
  - iv. David Duran expressed his support for legal representative agencies having HMIS User access to assist their clients.

**5. System Performance Report Submission Overview** – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Erin DeRycke, 2-1-1 Orange County

- a. Erin DeRycke shared an overview of the 2020 Orange County CoC System Performance Measures Reports submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The HUD System Performance Measures Report measures the performance of a CoC as a whole. The System Performance Measures Report analyzes the performance of street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (including permanent supportive housing, rapid-rehousing, and other permanent housing) project types in the Orange County CoC that

participate in HMIS. The System Performance Measures Report can be found on the OCHMIS.org website: <http://ochmis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final-SPM-Year-Over-Year-2015-2020-2.pdf>

**6. Open Letter to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

- a. Zulima Lundy shared that on March 2, 2021, the Institute for Urban Initiatives, contacted the OCC, seeking broad support for an open letter to the HCFC asking them to include Trauma-Informed Design and Care under the “Key Principles and Practices” in its draft Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California.
- b. Motion: Approve the Orange County CoC to sign a joint letter to the HCFC to include Trauma-Informed Design and Care in the list of “Key Principles and Practices” within the HCFC Draft Action Plan

Vice Chair Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve the recommendation. Christina Weckerly-Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion passes by unanimous consent.

**7. HMIS Data Release Request from Children & Family Futures – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

- a. Zulima Lundy shared that Ms. Larisa Owens from Children & Family Futures requested aggregate data from HMIS on veteran families enrolled in homeless programs, by program from 2018 to 2020. The data request looks at the incidence of mental health, substance use, domestic violence, and child welfare cases in veteran families. Ms. Owens submitted the request as an individual requesting the information for personal use and noted the data will not be published. 211OC has evaluated the requested data points and determined that of the listed data points only items 6 to 9 can be provided based on information collected in HMIS. Ms. Owens was invited to speak and noted that the data would be for personal use and she is seeking a baseline knowledge for veteran families enrolled in homeless programs.
- b. CoC Board Member Comments:
  - i. Becks Heyhoe asked Ms. Owens to clarify how the data would help with public understanding and activities and asked if the data would be shared publicly. Ms. Owens noted that she is seeking to establish a baseline knowledge that is not currently publicly available. Ms. Owens seeks to look at ways to review aggregate data and activities in Orange County and noted that she wants the report for personal use but would also like to make it publicly available.
- c. Motion: Approve Children & Family Futures data release request utilizing HMIS data. Children & Family Futures requests aggregate data from HMIS for all homeless projects from 2018 to 2020 regarding veteran families experiencing homelessness and incidence of mental health, substance use and domestic violence.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve the recommendation. George Searcy seconded the motion. Vice Chair Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez abstained from voting. Soledad Rivera voted YES.

Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Patti Long, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, and Tim Shaw voted NO.

The motion did not pass.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:58 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.