

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
County Administration South (CAS) Building
Conference Center
425 West Santa Ana Blvd. Room 104/106
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599
[Click Here](#) for parking information.

MINUTES

Board Members

Nichole Gideon, Individual
Elida Sanchez, OC Department of Education
Eric Richardson, Volunteers of America
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Orangewood Foundation
[Secretary]
Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Health Care Agency
Jason Phillips, Individual

Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter [Chair]
George Searcy, Jamboree Housing
Sandra Lozeau, City of Anaheim
Melanie McQueen, PATH
Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual
Ami Rowland, Covenant House California
Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Vice Chair]
Tim Shaw, Individual

* In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and County Language Access Policy, those requiring accommodation and/or interpreter services for this meeting should notify the Office of Care Coordination 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-5000 or email CareCoordination@ocgov.com. Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided. *

Call to Order – Dawn Price, Chair

Chair Dawn Price called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Secretary

Present: Nichole Gideon, Elida Sanchez, Eric Richardson, Nishtha Mohendra, Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Melanie McQueen, and Robert “Santa Bob” Morse

Absent Excused: Jason Phillips, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Sandra Lozeau, Ami Rowland, Becks Heyhoe, and Tim Shaw

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 complete a Request to Address the CoC Board form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to CoC Board staff. Staff will call your name in the order received.

Members of the public may also submit public comment by emailing CareCoordination@ocgov.com. All comments submitted via email at least 60 minutes before the start of the CoC Board meeting will be distributed to the CoC Board members for their consideration and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include "CoC Board Meeting Comment" in the email subject line.

- Dr. Adela Cruz with McKinney-Vento and Foster Youth Programs of Anaheim Union High School District recommended improvements to the Coordinated Entry System process because many families are waiting for services and in crisis mode looking to get the help they need. Dr. Adela Cruz stated that there are some agencies that are stepping forward but there is a need for improvement in collaboration. Dr. Adela Cruz is willing to serve on a committee to help create solutions for the improvement of the Coordinated Entry System. This public comment was submitted via email in advance of the CoC Board Meeting.
- Roland Perez with Westminster Police Department stated he wanted to address two (2) concerns. The first concern is the lack of access to Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for law enforcement, noting they only access to data entry. The second concern is relating to the Bed Reservation System implementation, prior to the Bed Reservation System the Homeless Liaison Officers (HLOs) were able to refer people to shelter beds; however, they no longer have that ability. Roland Perez shared that the HLOs are advocates for people experiencing homelessness and would like to provide a collaborative solution. Roland Perez requested that the CoC Board allow HLOs access to the Bed Reservation System and are requesting a collaborative solution.
- Jessica Martinez with Westminster Police Department shared experience that prior to the implementation of the Bed Reservation System, she was able to reserve shelter beds. Jessica Martinez emphasized the need to work collaboratively to assist people experiencing homelessness and stated that the new Bed Reservation System hurts those who are experiencing homelessness.
- Sergeant Juan Montiel with Santa Ana Police Department provided background on his expertise working in homeless services. Sergeant Juan Montiel emphasized the need to allow shelter access immediately and not when Coordinated Entry System Prioritization is met because individuals are being left on the streets. Sergeant Juan Montiel is asking the CoC Board to consider a process similar to Carnegie Hall, an emergency shelter in Santa Ana.

Board Member Comments: Members of the CoC Board may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board.

- During the introduction of the Public Comments, Chair Dawn Price asked the Office of Care Coordination to schedule a coordination meeting with law enforcement to address concerns.
- Elida Sanchez shared that the McKinney-Vento Liaisons were surveyed and the survey identified three findings. The first finding was that families are in crisis mode and there is a delay in services being provided. Families are informed that there is a waitlist and families should expect to receive a call when an opportunity becomes available. The second finding is that McKinney-Vento Liaisons are interested in protocols and would like to know if they are standard across all access points. The third finding is

that 18 percent of McKinney-Vento Liaisons are requesting shelter for unaccompanied youth that are in high school.

- Melanie McQueen acknowledged the public comments from colleagues. Since PATH is the operator for Yale Navigation Center, Melanie McQueen would like to be included in the collaborative meeting to ensure that there is timely access for shelter beds for all vulnerable populations.
- Maricela Fios-Faust noted that these conversations call for a regular review of policies and urge to get those reviews scheduled.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse shared that he attended the first Veterans Committee and was impressed by the people in the room. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse stated that if there is a request to have the Veterans Committee meeting for more than an hour, the request should be fulfilled. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse expressed gratitude to Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells as well.

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 CoC Board Meeting Minutes from February 22, 2023

Maricela Fios-Faust motioned to approve the item on the Consent Calendar. Eric Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. FY 2023 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that allows CoCs nationwide to apply for competitive funding. The upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 CoC Program NOFO is anticipated to be released by HUD in Spring 2023. In preparation for the release of the FY 2023 CoC Program NOFO, the Office of Care Coordination as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County CoC is seeking approval from the CoC Board to appoint the recommended FY 2023 CoC NOFO Ad Hoc.

CoC Board Member Comment:

- Eric Richardson inquired if the membership of the FY 2023 CoC NOFO Ad Hoc was discussed prior to recruitment. Chair Dawn Price explained that Ad Hoc membership was discussed and approved by CoC Board Leadership.

Recommended Action A: Appoint Larry Smith, Nadia Atalah, Jason Phillips, Kelly Bruno-Nelson and Elida Sanchez to the FY 2023 CoC NOFO Ad Hoc.

Recommended Action B: Appoint Sandra Lozeau as an alternate member to the FY 2023 CoC NOFO Ad Hoc to participate should an appointed member be conflicted or unable to continue as an ad hoc member.

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommended actions. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Orange County Homeless Management Information System Data Quality Plan – Erin DeRycke, Vice President, Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County, and Becks Heyhoe, Vice Chair and Chair of the Policy, Procedures and Standards Committee.

2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead for the Orange County CoC, has developed the Orange County HMIS Data Quality Plan (Data Quality Plan) for all agencies participating in the OC HMIS. At the February 22, 2023, meeting of the CoC Board, the Data Quality Plan was reviewed and discussed in depth. The CoC Board membership motioned to delay voting on the recommended action and requested further analysis. Further analysis was completed on the proposed incentives, enforcements, data quality thresholds and the improvement plan process for agencies with data quality concerns. The Data Quality Plan returned to the CoC Board membership for approval with modifications to the Data Quality Plan enforcements section, incorporating feedback received during the February 22, 2023, meeting of the CoC Board.

Recommended Action A: Approve the recommended Orange County HMIS as recommended by the Policy, Procedures and Standards Committee.

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to approve the recommended action. Nishtha Mohendra seconded the motion. Nichole Gideon, Elida Sanchez, Eric Richardson, Nishtha Mohendra, Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Christina Weckerly-Ramirez, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Melanie McQueen, and Robert “Santa Bob” Morse voted yes. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells voted no. Motion passed.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Christina Weckerly Ramirez asked a clarifying question regarding data quality. Christina Weckerly-Ramirez requested additional information about the reinforcement of agencies losing HMIS access.
- Maricela Rios-Faust inquired if full Social Security Number is a federal standard or a local standard for data quality.
- Eric Richardson asked how the data quality plan will be considered and incorporated in the CoC NOFO process.
- Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells requested information on the capacity to provide technical assistance. Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells noted that nine (9) of the youth projects have data quality issues and shared concerns that data for youth is already limited.
- Chair Dawn Price noted that there have also been circumstances where technical assistance is offered but not accepted; therefore, since there is a need for data quality improvement and the data quality plan adds reinforcement.
- Nishtha Mohendra commended the staff and 211OC for going above and beyond in the analysis that was presented.

3. CalOptima Health Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program Update – Sarah Nance, Senior Project Manager, CalOptima Health

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) established the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) that runs from January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2024. HHIP aims to improve health outcomes and access to whole person care services by addressing housing insecurity and instability as a social determinant of health for the Medi-Cal population. To date, \$12.4 million in incentives have been earned through HHIP (\$4.1 million with the submission of the Local Homelessness Plan in June 2022 and \$8.3 million for the submission of the Investment Plan). In December 2022, the CalOptima Health’s Board of Directors approved an investment in its partnership with the County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination, as the administrative entity and collaborative applicant for the CoC Board, to fund critical activities. The grant will be awarded to County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination as the administrative entity and collaborative applicant for the Orange County CoC with a total award of \$2.2 million.

4. **Orange County Homelessness Updates** – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, and Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

a. **System of Care Updates** – Zulima Lundy provided the following System of Care Updates:

- The Office of Care Coordination is currently recruiting to fill two (2) Care Coordination Staff Specialist – Extra Help positions to support with special projects and initiatives being led by the Office of Care Coordination. If there is interest in the employment opportunity, resumes must be submitted by Friday, March 24, 2023.
- On February 22, 2023, Governor Newsom announced the availability of \$907 million in grant funding for county behavioral health agencies (BHA) under the initial round of the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program. The BHBH program funding is intended to address the immediate housing and treatment needs of people experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions, including mental illness and substance use disorders. The County of Orange is eligible to apply through the Health Care Agency, Mental Health, and Recovery Services as the BHA.
- The Orange County Cold Weather Emergency Shelter is open and provides shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness at the Independence Park Gymnasium in partnership with the City of Fullerton and PATH. The Cold Weather Emergency Shelter will be closing March 31, 2023.
- The County Procurement Office is hosting an annual Vendor Outreach Day to provide interested vendors and service providers knowledge on County of Orange procurement and contracting processes. The event will be held on May 11, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Mile Square Park, Freedom Hall. Reservation for the event is required and can be completed on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vendor-outreach-event-registration-576562151917>

b. **Continuum of Care Updates** – Sarah Jones provided the following Continuum of Care Updates:

- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Financial Incentives and Professional Support Services for People with Lived Experience of Homelessness: The County of Orange's Office of Care Coordination is seeking proposals from organizations to provide Financial Incentives and Professional Support Services for People with Lived Experience of Homelessness. The primary goal of this RFP is to identify proposer(s) to coordinate the provision of financial incentives for persons with current or past lived experience of homelessness who are partnering with the Office of Care Coordination and/or the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) as members of the CoC Board, Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Youth Action Board, and other relevant initiatives. For more information, visit the following link: [Financial Incentives and Professional Support Services for People with Lived Experience of Homelessness](#)
- HUD's Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) web portal opened March 15, 2023, for CoCs to submit their 2023 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and data. The deadline for CoCs to submit HIC data via the HDX is Friday, April 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST).

CoC Board Member Comments:

- George Searcy noted that the deadline for the BHBH application is at the end of next month and inquired if the Office of Care Coordination is engaged with the Health Care Agency for the BHBH application.
- Christina Weckerly-Ramirez shared that the Health Care Agency is current ongoing conversations on how to use that funding and if George Searcy or other community stakeholders are interested in joining the working group, she can be contacted via email to facilitate that engagement. Christina Weckerly-

Ramirez stated that the Health Care Agency is encouraging innovative ideas given the short period of time.

George Searcy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robert "Santa Bob" Morse seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.