

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, May 31, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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](mailto: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 10:03 a.m.

**Board Member Roll Call** – Becks Heyhoe, Vice Chair

Present: Nichole Gideon, Nishtha Mohendra, Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Ami Rowland, Becks Heyhoe, and Tim Shaw.

Absent Excused: Elida Sanchez, Eric Richardson, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, and George Searcy.

Nichole Gideon arrived to the meeting following Consent Calendar item 1. Christina Weckerly Ramirez arrived to the meeting following Business Calendar item 1.

**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](mailto: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.

- Carrie Buck introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC) and announced that she is happy to represent the FSC and work with families.

**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.

- Judson Brown commented on housing choice vouchers and special purpose vouchers and emphasized utilization rates. Judson Brown shared that the Housing Opportunities Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Judson Brown shared that there are two ways to assist which are 1) to talk about vouchers and utilizing vouchers and 2) show support for Assembly Bill 653 to support voucher acceleration/utilization.

## **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 April 26, 2023**

Sandra Lozeau motioned to approve the item on the Consent Calendar. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

## **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

### **1. Family Unification Program Memorandum of Understanding between the Orange County Housing Authority, OC Social Services Agency, and Orange County Continuum of Care – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination**

At the July 18, 2018, special meeting of the CoC Board, the CoC Board approved the Family Unification Program (FUP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Statement of Need with the Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA). The purpose of the non-financial MOU was to document the partnership among OCHA, OC Social Services Agency (SSA) and the Orange County CoC. On April 25, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 FUP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) which

makes \$5 million available to provide new FUP vouchers to eligible households. The FY 2022 FUP NOFO requires an updated MOU with an execution date in calendar year 2023, therefore, OCHA is seeking approval of an updated MOU from the CoC Board.

Recommended Action: Approve the FUP MOU between the OCHA, SSA, and Orange County CoC.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve the recommended action. Nishtha Mohendra seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

## **2. CalOptima Health’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updated Data Request – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Elizabeth Duong, HMIS Program Manager, 2-1-1 Orange County**

In September 2022, the CoC Board approved a data request to provide recurring monthly data reports of all persons within HMIS to complete member match with CalOptima Health enrollment data. In January 2023, an additional request to include full Social Security Number in each monthly HMIS enrollment report was approved by the CoC Board. As part of the evolving process to develop strategies and sound methodologies, CalOptima Health staff engaged with other Managed Care Plans (MCPs). Through this engagement with other MCPs, new best practices and information emerged which indicated that additional data elements are needed to better identify which members are obtaining housing, remaining housed, exiting back to homelessness, or still experiencing homelessness. Therefore, CalOptima Health is seeking a data request approval to include the data element “Exit Destination” to be added to monthly HMIS reports received from 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC).

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Nishtha Mohendra inquired if the data request was approved by the Data Committee before being presented to the CoC Board membership.
- Sandra Lozeau asked why the data element was not included in the original data requests and inquired if that process can be assisted with in the future.
- Christina Weckerly Ramirez inquired if there was a plan to have CalOptima Health report out to the CoC Board.

Recommended Action A: Approve CalOptima Health’s HMIS updated data request to support CalOptima Health’s participation in the California Department of Health Care Services’ Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP).

Tim Shaw motioned to approve the recommended action. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse seconded the motion. Nichole Gideon, Nishtha Mohendra, Judson Brown, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Ami Rowland, Becks Heyhoe, and Tim Shaw voted yes. Maricela Rios-Faust abstained. The motion passed.

## **3. CoC Vision Ad Hoc – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination**

Sarah Jones provided background on the Orange County CoC Leadership Vision for Calendar Year (CY) 2022 – 2024 and the former CoC Vision Ad Hoc which sunset on January 25, 2023. As a next step for the CoC Vision, the CoC Board leadership is recommending the appointment of a new Ad Hoc membership, which will also be called the CoC Vision Ad Hoc. The new CoC Vision Ad Hoc will identify specific metrics and thresholds that can be tracked to measure progress and discuss strategies and tactics aligned with the CoC Board CY 2023 – 2025 Leadership Vision and Objectives.

Recommended Action A: Appoint Amy Arambulo, Becks Heyhoe, Dawn Price, Nichole Gideon, Nishtha Mohendra and Tim Shaw to the CoC Vision Ad Hoc to identify metrics and thresholds for measuring progress, as well as strategies and tactics aligned with the CoC Board CY 2023 – 25 Leadership Vision and Objectives.

Christina Weckerly-Ramirez motioned the recommended action. Sandra Lozeau seconded the recommended action. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

#### **4. CoC Domestic Violence Committee – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination**

On February 1, 2023, HUD announced new resources to advance housing protections for survivors of domestic violence (DV), dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Recognizing the needs to support survivors of DV, the Orange County CoC Board has approved the prioritization of multiple projects specifically designed to serving survivors of DV as part of the annual CoC Program NOFO released by HUD. As continued funding and resources enter the homeless service system the Orange County CoC, there is a need to further coordinate efforts to prioritize, serve and house survivors of DV, as well as advance implementation of housing protections of survivors under VAWA throughout Orange County.

##### CoC Board Member Comments:

- Sandra Lozeau inquired if there was any consideration of having the DV Committee membership include representation from the disproportionate populations experiencing DV such as LGBTQ+ or Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. Sandra Lozeau suggested a revision in the recommended Governance Charter to include representation from those subpopulations.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse suggested including optional representation from the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC).
- Tim Shaw advised that the Governance Charter should be sent to the LEAC for review and should come back to the CoC Board once the revised language is included in the Governance Charter.
- Melanie McQueen suggested that the Governance Charter should be revised to include the phrasing of overrepresented groups in order to address all special populations.
- Judson Brown inquired if the DV Committee Chair would be appointed at this meeting.
- Nishtha Mohendra shared that keeping language open can often be more inclusive at times.
- Christina Weckerly-Ramirez noted a typo in the Governance Charter.

##### Public Comment:

- Wendy Seiden introduced herself as a Professor at Chapman University that teaches Homeless Practicum Policy and is the Chair of the Orange County Family Violence Council's Homelessness-Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Task Force. Wendy Seiden stated that she is happy to see that a DV Committee is being established and is hoping that the DV Committee and the Orange County Family Violence Council's Homelessness-Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Task Force can work together in collaboration and coordination.

Amended Recommended Action: Establish the CoC DV Committee to focus on ending homelessness for survivors of DV, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, and measuring progress on these efforts and approve the Governance Charter with revisions for racial equity, overrepresented groups, and involvement of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC).

Nishtha Mohendra motioned to approve the amended recommended action. Becks Heyhoe seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

## 5. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Updates – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones provided the following NOFO Updates:

- a. On April 14, 2023, HUD announced the release of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) NOFO for Round 7. The Office of Care Coordination is working closely with the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee, youth-specific service providers, and local community partners to receive community feedback and complete the application for YHDP funding. A TAY Ad Hoc comprised of members from the TAY Collaborative Committee is meeting regularly with the Office of Care Coordination to plan for the YHDP NOFO Round 7 application, which is due on June 27, 2023.
- b. On March 28, 2023, HUD announced an award of \$31,453,663 to the Orange County CoC Program for FY2022. For the FY2022 NOFO, the Orange County CoC had a total application score of 157.5 compared to the national median score for all CoCs being 154. The highest score of any CoC was 188.75 and the lowest score for any CoC was 53.5.
- c. The upcoming FY 2023 CoC Program NOFO is anticipated to be released by the HUD in Spring or early Summer 2023. The Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant, is planning to release the Agency Administrative Review portion of the CoC Renewal Application to CoC-Funded agencies in early June.

### CoC Board Member Comments:

- Judson Brown inquired if the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers are being taken into consideration for the application and also asked how long the YHDP funding was for.
- Ami Rowland clarified that the funding is typically for one year with the opportunity of renewal for three years.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe thanked Dr. Sorrells, Ami Rowland, Elida Sanchez, and other CoC Board members that have been actively working on the process for the YHDP application as there has been tremendous progress within the last year. In regard to the FY2022 CoC NOFO Debrief, Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe asked if there was any feedback from certain sections of the application.

## 6. 2023 Point In Time and Housing Inventory Count – Elizabeth Duong, HMIS Program Manager, 2-1-1 Orange County

The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and the Sheltered Point In Time Count (PIT) are submitted to HUD on an annual basis and are completed during a single night during the last ten days of January. The Sheltered PIT was conducted on January 23, 2023, and reflects the number of people staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing projects on the night of the count. The HIC reflects the beds available in Orange County that target people experiencing homelessness. To view the full Sheltered PIT and HIC Count, visit the following links: [2023 Sheltered Point In Time Overview](#) and [2023 Housing Inventory Count Overview](#).

### CoC Board Member Comments:

- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe asked for clarification on Other Permanent Housing metrics and how housing choice vouchers are counted and included in the HIC.
- Chair Dawn Price asked if the bed utilization included beds that are currently not leased and provided clarification that the PIT Count was the sheltered count.
- Sandra Lozeau inquired on the projects in the HIC that are not participating in HMIS and asked if the information can be broken down by city.
- Nishtha Mohendra thanked 211OC for their work and inquired on clarification on chronically homeless families and asked in regard to chronically homeless and the special populations breakdown.

- Judson Brown shared the approximate amount of dollars that amount in the unleased and unused vouchers on the Permanent Supporting Housing (PSH) bed utilization metric and emphasized the need to focus on increasing voucher utilization. Judson Brown stated that the PSH bed utilization metric should be at 100% with a bare minimum of 95% because 91% is not acceptable.
- Tim Shaw stated that they are proud as a community because 10 years ago, these performance metrics were not a thing and in understanding that, it is heartening to see the bed numbers in Orange County increase.
- Melanie McQueen shared that from this system data, there is a gap in the homeless service system and noted that there are gaps in the transitional housing beds.

Public Comment:

- Rebecca Kovacs-Stein stated that they applaud Judson Brown for putting a dollar amount on the underutilization of vouchers . Rebecca Kovacs-Stein shared that they are a volunteer in this work and would like further discussion and inquired if the slides can be sent to them.

**7. Orange County Homelessness Updates** – Douglas Becht, Director, and Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

a. System of Care Updates – Douglas Becht provided the following System of Care Updates:

- The County of Orange's Office of Care Coordination is seeking proposals from qualified organizations to provide Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) services for Transitional Age Youth (TAY). The Office of Care Coordination is seeking programs that can be operationalized quickly and leverage the available resources of the Homeless Service System in order to respond to the emergent needs of the community. For more information, visit the following link: [HDAP Services for TAY](#)
- Project Roomkey will sunset effective June 30, 2023. The decision to end the Project Roomkey took into consideration the utilization data for the program, as well as the COVID-19 trends in the community. The Office of Care Coordination and Health Care Agency (HCA) Public Health Services will continue working with homeless service providers to identify strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population.
- The Office of Care Coordination, in collaboration with the Commission to End Homelessness, conducted the 2023 Homelessness Survey for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Orange County with the last day of the survey being May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Twenty percent of the unsheltered homeless population were surveyed to understand the barriers preventing people from accessing services and identify where they are from and their community ties. The results of the Homelessness Survey need to be processed, which will be released publicly in Fall 2023.

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

- In April 2023, the Administration on Child, Youth, and Families' Family - Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) released four NOFOs to support youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The four NOFOS include FY 2023 Basic Center Program (BCP) NOFO, FY 2023 Street Outreach Program (SOP) NOFO, FY 2023 National Communication System (NCS), and FY 2023 Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) Training, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Center NOFO.
- On May 15, 2023, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research announced a new funding opportunity for institutions of higher education or nonprofit entities that train and support institutions of higher education to conduct research applying community-engaged research methods to address homelessness. The research funded under this NOFO will contribute to general knowledge on the topic of homelessness, as well as the programs and interventions

designed to address homelessness in communities, while elevating the perspectives and insights of people with lived experience.

- The Office of Care Coordination is working with contracted service providers to lease-up the remaining Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) as soon as possible to maximize housing stabilization services with the goal of leasing up 100% of the EHVs by September 30, 2023.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Sandra Lozeau inquired if there was a map that showed where the leased vouchers are located because identifying locations may be useful for incentives.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe inquired on who set the goal for the deadline of the EHV 100% utilization.
- Judson Brown noted that Santa Ana Housing Authority (SAHA) provided an over issuance of EHVs which was a deliberate strategy to hit the goal of the 100% lease up utilization by September 2023.

Public Comments:

- Heather stated that they are new to the community and are sad to see Project Roomkey ending and inquired where would someone go if they were experiencing illness. Heather asked if similar programs like Project Roomkey can be looked into for wellness.
- Rebecca Kovacs-Stein shared that from their experience, shelters need more couple beds, pet beds, art therapy activities, financial literacy, budgeting, 12 step programs and more. Rebecca Kovacs-Stein noted that when people get vouchers, they go through briefing from the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) but once the briefing is over, some people do not have the capacity to conduct the housing search. Additionally, Rebecca Kovacs-Stein stated that grievances should have whistleblower policy without retaliation.
- Elizabeth Andrade from Family Assistance Ministries stated that when serving on the Racial Equity Academy, she heard the symptoms of standards of performance and it was highlighted that the cause is who is being hired and the retainment of staff because with higher turnover, the more clients have to retell their story. The performance of the system, the lease up, the housing navigation has an impact and there is not a standard for the housing. Elizabeth Andrade noted that there was one agency that was recently criticized for their staffing compensation plan which is an outcome of how the contracts are structured, and inquired on how the CoC could join efforts for common trainings.
- Jennifer Friend from Project Hope Alliance shared that the Grand Jury issued a report last Thursday which identified 30,000 homeless children in the school system and emphasized the need prevent the children experiencing homelessness from going into the adult homeless service system. Jennifer Friend stated that the current PIT Count is not congruent. Jennifer Friend stated that they look forward to working with everyone to be intentional on the work being done with children. Jennifer Friend encouraged everyone to read the Grand Jury Report.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Lozeau seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.