

Orange County Continuum of Care
Domestic Violence Committee
Governance Charter

At the meeting dated May 31, 2023, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved the creation of the Domestic Violence Committee. The Domestic Violence Committee was created to ensure that the CoC is actively working to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for survivors who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, and measuring progress on these efforts. The Committee will provide leadership by serving an advisory role on how to best support individuals and families whose experience of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking has led to being at-risk of or experiencing homelessness to the CoC Board.

1. Name

The technical name of this committee is the Domestic Violence Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”.

2. Purpose

The Committee will function as an advisory group to the CoC Board. This Committee aligns with the intent of ensuring that the CoC is actively working to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for survivors who are experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking, and measuring progress on these efforts. The Committee will provide leadership how to best support individuals and families whose experience of domestic violence dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking has led becoming at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. Further, the Committee will coordinate efforts to better serve survivors and their families in becoming permanently housed and achieving housing stability. The Committee will also align its efforts with the existing Orange County CoC Board vision.

3. Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for advising the CoC Board exercising the following functions:

- Support the CoC in identifying individuals and families who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, experiencing homelessness, and connecting them to the Coordinated Entry System.
- Coordinate efforts to measure progress towards ending homelessness for individuals and families who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, through the analysis of data and information sharing.
- Coordinate the delivery of services to support survivors who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking achieve housing stability and/or quickly secure permanent housing.
- Convene local, state, federal and regional stakeholders working to address homelessness for survivors of domestic violence to share information on events, discuss funding opportunities, and troubleshoot problems.

- Educate and inform the CoC on the needs and concerns of individuals and families who have experienced homelessness because of fleeing of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking.
- Inform the strategy for the identification and counting of individuals, youth and families that are experiencing homelessness as a result of fleeing from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking during the Point In Time Count processes.

4. Recommendations

Matters referred to the Committee by the CoC Board, committees or workgroups shall be placed on the calendar for consideration and action at the first meeting of the Committee after such reference. If there is an issue of importance to the Committee, the Committee may submit recommendations to the Policies, Procedures and Standards Committee and/or CoC Board for their consideration in coordination with the Collaborative Applicant. The CoC Board may adopt, amend, or reject the recommendations of the Committee in the best interest of the CoC.

5. Membership

The Committee shall be chaired by the CoC Board member elected to serve in the seat designated for the Domestic Violence Agency representative. The Committee Chair may appoint a Vice Chair, if desired.

The CoC aims to build a diverse and inclusive Committee. Diversity encompasses various backgrounds, identities, and perspectives including, race, ethnicity, geography, gender identity, lived experiences, and affiliations with specific organizations and/or entities. The Committee is to be representative of different regions, service providers, and stakeholders involved in the work of preventing and ending homelessness for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, within Orange County. The following representation within the Committee is highly desirable:

- Representative from the Orange County Domestic Violence Taskforce, Domestic Violence Death Review Team, or Orange County Family Violence Council
- Representative(s) from service providers that serve individuals and/or families who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Representative(s) with current or past lived experience of homelessness as a survivor of domestic violence
- Representative(s) from Orange County housing providers and/or Public Housing Authorities
- Representative from a health care agency that serves individuals and families who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Representative from an employment-focused agency that serves individuals and families who have experienced or are fleeing domestic violence at risk of or experiencing homelessness

6. Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet quarterly and/or as needed and will be open to the public except as otherwise determined by the Committee. Any person who attends a meeting may be asked by the Committee Chair to leave if the person is disruptive; if a conflict of interest applies; or if an agenda business item(s) is deemed by the Committee Chair to be of such nature that it involves only Orange County CoC closed session business.

7. Voting and Quorum

A quorum is necessary to conduct business and make recommendations. A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of more than 50% of the appointed members of the Domestic Violence Committee.

A majority vote of those members present is required to take any action. Each member shall be entitled to one vote; no proxy votes will be accepted.

8. Conflict of Interest

Membership of the Committee shall abstain from voting on any issue in which they may be personally or professionally vested to avoid a conflict of interest in accordance with County, State and Federal laws, regulations and ordinances and shall refrain from engaging in any behavior that conflicts with the best interest of CoC.