

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, November 15, 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.

AGENDA

Board Members

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

Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter [Chair]
George Searcy, City of Irvine
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

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Call to Order – Dawn Price, Chair

Board Member Roll Call – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Secretary

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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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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1. **Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2023**
2. **Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from October 25, 2023**

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **2023 Homeless Survey Presentation** – Doug Becht, Director, Office of Care Coordination
2. **2023 CoC Nominating Committee Update** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and CoC Nominating Committee Membership
3. **CoC Code of Conduct Ad Hoc Update** – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination; Maricela Rios-Faust, CoC Board Member and Domestic Violence Committee Chair; Robert Morse, CoC Board and Lived Experience Advisory Committee Member; and Ami Rowland, CoC Board Member
4. **2024 Orange County Point In Time Count Update** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination
5. **Orange County Homelessness Updates** – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations and Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. System of Care
 - b. Continuum of Care
6. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
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Conference Center
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Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599
[Click Here](#) for parking information.

MINUTES

Board Members

Nichole Gideon, Individual
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

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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: Eric Richardson, Nishtha Mohendra, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Ami Rowland, and Becks Heyhoe.

Absent Excused: Nichole Gideon, Judson Brown, and Tim Shaw.

Maricela Rios-Faust arrived to the meeting before Public Comments.

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- Terry Rains shared that she is a resident of Westminster and attended many meetings via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic. Terry Rains stated that the State and County have spent billions to address homelessness and that everyone must all work together. Terry Rains stated that the Westminster Police Department has four Homeless Liaison Officers. Terry Rains went into detail regarding the 2022 Point In Time Count and noted there is no one size fits all solution to homelessness.
- Roland Perez with the Westminster Police Department stated that they have waited over five months to hear the reasoning as to why law enforcement may not have full access to Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and shared examples of other communities where law enforcement has HMIS access. Roland Perez shared that residents in Westminster experience a disadvantage when trying to connect to all services in the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Roland Perez stated that CES is meant to have a "no wrong door" policy and when in need, people should not guess where they need to go for services.
- Paul Hyek stated that he would like the County of Orange (County) to create a "walk in, walk out" policy for County-operated shelters and ensure that the County-operated shelters are in close distance to public transportation. Paul Hyek suggested a pilot program where people experiencing homelessness can gain employment opportunities at shelters and suggested working with Metrolink and outreach programs to relocate individuals experiencing homelessness living on the railroad tracks.
- David Gillanders from Pathways of Hope highlighted the ongoing crisis of shelter availability for families experiencing homelessness and provided details on how many families are waiting a long period of time for shelter beds to become available. David Gillanders explained that one problem is that there are not enough shelter beds, and the second problem is that families in sheltered are not able to exit into permanent housing. David Gillanders noted that Pathways of Hope will have to convert some of the shelter units to permanent supportive housing (PSH) units. David Gillanders stated that this problem will continue to get worse.
- Yvette Ahlstrom from HomeAid Orange County echoed David Gillanders's comment. Yvette Ahlstrom explained that HomeAid Orange County privately owns the Family Care Center (FCC) which has been open for years and nearly 1,500 people and over 360 families have been assisted, but many remain on the waiting list. The FCC has had success in moving families into permanent housing and there is a need to discuss the loss of funding for emergency shelters for families. Yvette Ahlstrom shared that the losing of funding has severely impacted the FCC and noted that the CoC Board is an influential group that can support. Yvette Ahlstrom stated that FCC is experiencing a major funding deficit and HomeAid would like to find operational funding to ensure that FCC does not close its doors to the most vulnerable populations.

- Carrie Buck, Executive Director of the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC), provided an update on access points for families. Carrie Buck shared her great concern for 400 families experiencing homelessness on the community queue and the help needed to address family homelessness and serves families at risk of homelessness. Carrie Buck also noted that families include transitional aged youth (TAY), survivors of domestic violence, and seniors.

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- Nishtha Mohendra shared support for the public comments heard and in response, suggested a working group or ad hoc to review the gap expressed regarding family homelessness.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe stated that on August 17, 2023, United Way’s Orange County and the University of California, Irvine (UCI) hosted an event to discuss the results of respondents’ views about Orange County’s homelessness and housing issues. The full report is available on the United Ways’ Orange County website.
- Jason Philips shared that churches in the North Service Planning Area are brought together to collaborate, are working with Orange County’s United Way, and there looking for faith leaders. Jason Philips also initiated a moment of silence for the 48 unhoused individuals who passed away in Orange County in July 2023.
- Chair Dawn Price thanked everyone who attended the meeting regarding conflict of interest and process of handling abstentions. Chair Dawn Price noted that moving forward, conflicted CoC Board members will be asked to leave the room during discussion and voting. Dawn Price also shared a new way of voting to simplify the process.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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1. Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2023

Becks Heyhoe motioned to approve the item on the Consent Calendar. Robert Morse “Santa Bob” seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Updates and Recommendations – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Becks Heyhoe, CoC Board Vice Chair and PPS Committee Chair

Sarah Jones provided background on the agenda items that went to the PPS Committee meeting on August 15, 2023, including the CoC Nominating and Selection Process Review Ad Hoc, the Orange County HMIS Policies and Procedures, and HMIS Minimum Participation Requirements for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). At previous CoC Board meetings, feedback was provided by a number of law enforcement agencies regarding access to the Individual Shelter Bed Reservation System within HMIS. The Director of Care Coordination, Douglas Becht, provided an explanation regarding the purview of the County and the Continuum of Care.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- George Searcy asked for clarification on the term law enforcement and stated that he wanted to understand what law enforcement was inquiring about as it related to HMIS. George Searcy noted

that the issue was not closed and that there will be additional conversation at the PPS Committee meeting on September 12, 2023.

- Chair Dawn Price provided clarification on law enforcement set aside beds and how the beds work.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe commented on the importance of remembering the difference between County's oversight and CoC's oversight and stated that there should be ongoing conversations to provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities.
- Maricela Rios-Faust stated that it is helpful to have separate categories of the purview for the County and the CoC and the key is coordinating resources to ensure the system works well. Maricela Rios-Faust noted that the CoC should have a solution-focused conversation with law enforcement and people experiencing homelessness who need shelter to ensure access to shelter beds. Maricela Rios-Faust asked the County to consider looking at alternatives for law enforcement because the CoC can only speak to their responsibilities.
- Robert "Santa Bob" asked about the consequences for agencies of improper HMIS use.
- Melanie McQueen noted an appreciation of the nuanced conversation and discussion largely focused on a policy. Melanie McQueen noted that it is important to continue the discussion and find a solution that fundamentally allows timely access to shelter beds.
- Christina Weckerly Ramirez commented that if a need cannot be met through HMIS access, then she would like to understand what are the gaps or barriers that can be addressed by the CoC and provide solutions such as set aside beds. Christina Weckerly Ramirez stated that she follows the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in their work and noted that client's consent can be an issue. Christina Weckerly Ramirez stated that clients should be able to trust the homeless service system and if law enforcement is allowed full access, that presents different issues and would have an impact due to perception and/or fear. Christina Weckerly Ramirez noted that a policy that further disenfranchises communities should not be created.
- Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells stated that many young people and people of color are hesitant to put their information into HMIS and when discussing racial equity, there needs to be mindfulness about the experiences of people of color. Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells noted the role of the CoC is get people housed and ensure that the voices of people with lived experience are amplified.
- Sandra Lozeau agreed with the comments and stated that there cannot be a homeless service system that shuts out law enforcement because law enforcement has supported in getting hundreds of people housed or sheltered. Sandra Lozeau provided an idea as to how law enforcement police can be involved in the homeless service system. Sandra Lozeau asked a clarifying question regarding the PHAs HMIS minimum participation requirements.
- Nishtha Mohendra stated that as a member of the HMIS Working Group, she is excited for the PPS September 12, 2023, meeting for the conversation to continue.
- Kelly Bruno-Nelson stated that criminalization of homelessness is a real thing and the people who are experiencing homelessness and the people of color are impacted. Kelly Bruno-Nelson stated that the CoC must keep in mind these racial inequities that exist when policies are created.
- Eric Richardson noted that at times, some information does not go into HMIS.

Public Comments:

- Terry Rains noted that according to the 2022 Point In Time Count, the Central Service Planning Area (SPA) had the highest number of people experiencing homelessness and that there are only 10 law enforcement set aside beds at the Yale Navigation Center. Terry Rains expressed concern regarding the police department and civilian outreach workers not having access to the Individual Shelter Bed Reservation System.
- David Gillanders stated that there is a lot of work happening in the homeless service system to incorporate people with lived experience into conversations and a need to trust their experience

and feedback. David Gillanders noted that the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) has provided a recommendation and asked that the CoC Board listen to the LEAC and not anyone else.

- Larry Haynes, Chief Executive Officer for Mercy House, stated that Mercy House works well with law enforcement across the state and noted good partnership with law enforcement. Larry Haynes also shared a personal experience.
- Paul Hyek reiterated creating a “walk in, walk out” policy for Bridges at Kraemer Place and Yale Navigation Center. Paul Hyek also noted the importance of ensuring vehicles are up to code.

Recommended Action C: Approve the HMIS minimum participation requirements for PHAs, as recommended by the PPS Committee.

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to approve Recommended Action C. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Recommended Action D: Approve the appointment procedure and desired qualifications for HMIS Access Working Group members, as recommended by the PPS Committee.

George Searcy motioned to approve Recommended Action D. Sandra Lozeau seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

2. FY2023 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones provided an overview of the FY2023 CoC Program NOFO, noting that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making approximately \$3.1 billion in competitive funding available, including at least \$52 million available for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus) projects. The submission deadline for the FY2023 CoC Program NOFO is September 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT). Sarah Jones shared minor updates made to the FY2023 CoC Renewal Project Scoring and Rating Criteria.

3. Commission to End Homelessness Update – Maricela Rios-Faust and Robert Morse, CoC Board Representatives on the Commission to End Homelessness

Maricela Rios-Faust shared key takeaways from the August 16, 2023, meeting of the Commission to End Homelessness, which included a presentation on the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness Presentation by Tiana Moore. Maricela Rios-Faust noted that this an opportunity for the Orange County CoC to look at the California Statewide report and align it with the Orange County CoC Vision, as well as find ways to address the recommendations in the study. Maricela Rios-Faust also commented on family homelessness and the need for emergency shelter beds, the need for services for families, and inquired as to what can be done to maximize efforts and bridge gaps.

Robert Morse “Santa Bob” shared his experience of the Commission to End Homelessness meetings and stated that he would appreciate direction from the CoC Board regarding their role in the Commission to End Homelessness.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Kelly Bruno-Nelson inquired on whether the CoC has a standing agenda item to report out to the Commission to End Homelessness.

- George Searcy shared that as a member at large on the Commission to End Homelessness, there seems to be confusion on the value of the solutions that the Homeless Service System has implemented. George Searcy stated that methods or evidence-based practices are often questioned because the data of the results are not readily available. One example given is the issue of validity of Housing First as an evidence-based practice.

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

Due to limited time these items were not shared verbally but available in the PowerPoint agenda listed on the CoC webpage.

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Lozeau seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. Special Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, October 25, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
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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: Eric Richardson, Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Ami Rowland, and Becks Heyhoe.

Absent Excused: Nichole Gideon, Nishtha Mohendra, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, and Tim Shaw.

George Searcy arrived at the meeting during Board Member Comments. Maricela Rios-Faust and Ami Rowland arrived at the meeting after the Board Member Roll Call was completed and before Public Comments concluded.

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- David Austin provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. David Austin shared his experience regarding Group Homes, Orange County Housing Authority, Orange County Board of Supervisors, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County District Attorney, and the State of California Department of Justice office. David Austin provided feedback on the process of reporting a crime.
- Paul Hyek commented that in specific cities, individuals sleeping on the street get taken to jail instead of shelter. Paul Hyek shared issues regarding individuals who reside by the light rail in Santa Ana.
- Peter Warren provided feedback on housing developments needing to be accessible by public transportation.

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- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe announced Homelessness and Awareness Week is taking place from November 1 to November 18, 2023, and invited everyone to participate. Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe also announced that after Orange County's United Way's acquisition of 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC), Elizabeth Andrade has been hired to be the Executive Director of 211OC. Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe shared that on October 26, 2023, United to End Homelessness will be hosting a Community Chat, where Doug Becht, Director of the Office of Care Coordination will speak on the 2023 Homeless Survey.
- Maricela Rios-Faust shared that during the Commission to End Homelessness meeting, Doug Becht presented the 2023 Homeless Survey which would be great information to present to the CoC Board.
- Robert "Santa Bob" Morse stated that he seconded Maricela Rios-Faust's statement and suggested that the 2023 Homeless Survey be presented to the CoC Board.
- Christina Weckerly Ramirez provided a brief update on the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and shared that on October 5, 2023, the Health Care Agency (HCA) was awarded approximately \$31 million dollars.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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1. **Approve CoC Board Special Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2023**
2. **Agencies and Jurisdictions Approved for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Access**
 - a. Receive and file list of agencies and jurisdictions approved for HMIS access from July 22, 2023, through October 20, 2023.

Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe motioned to approve Consent Calendar Item 1. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse seconded the motion. Eric Richardson, Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Ami Rowland, and Becks Heyhoe voted yes. Dawn Price abstained. The motion passed.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve Consent Calendar Item 2. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chief Executive Officer, Human Options and Domestic Violence Committee Chair; and Julia Moreno, Residential Case Manager Supervisor, Human Options

Maricela-Rios Faust provided an update on the Domestic Violence (DV) Committee which had its first meeting in October 2023 during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Maricela-Rios Faust provided additional details on the demographics and identities of the DV Committee membership. Maricela-Rios Faust also shared concerns raised by the DV Committee regarding the revised Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policy and Procedures and inquired as to how the committee can be engaged with reviewing the policy.

Julia Moreno shared information on the impact of DV and housing instability in survivors. Julia Moreno shared metrics related to the Human Options’ Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program and the CoC project.

2. **Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Becks Heyhoe, Vice Chair and PPS Committee Chair

Sarah Jones shared that at the September 12, 2023, meeting, the PPS Committee approved an amended recommended action to affirm the current Agency Access Policy as detailed in the HMIS Policies and Procedures and directed staff to create a method for direct referrals for the Shelter Bed Reservation System or to create law enforcement access to Shelter Bed Reservation System outside of HMIS.

Sarah Jones provided background on the CES Policies and Procedures review and updating process. From May to August 2023, a national technical assistance provider, Homebase, worked with a DV Survivor Stakeholder Ad Hoc and facilitated listening sessions with survivors to draft CES policies and procedures for survivors. The public feedback period for the revised draft of the CES Policies and Procedures occurred from September 12 through September 27, 2023. During the public feedback period, the Office of Care Coordination hosted two public listening sessions on September 13, 2023, and September 18, 2023. From the feedback received, the recommended changes consist of incorporating CES for Survivors into the CES Policies and Procedures, adopting the use of revised CES assessments that are specific to survivors,

establishing a policy for prioritizing resources in the event of a disaster, and adopting clarifying language related to CES and CES procedures.

Recommended Action: Approve revised CES Policy and Procedures including CES for Domestic Violence Survivors, assessment updates, a disaster prioritization policy and clarifying language, as recommended by the PPS Committee.

Amended Recommended Action: Postpone the voting on the revised CES Policy and Procedures.

Maricela Rios-Faust introduced the amended recommended action and motioned to approve the amended recommended action. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Public Comments:

- Theresa Black, Chief Program Officer, Laura’s House provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Theresa Black shared that they participated in the DV CES workgroup and their concerns regarding the proposed DV CES Policies and Procedures and Prioritization Tool. Theresa Black stated that the proposed CES Policies and Procedures was not what the workgroup had agreed upon and noted that terminology throughout the needed clarification and consistency. Theresa Black also noted that the roles and responsibilities for the non-funded agencies may need to be different than those who are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Theresa Black stated additional time is needed to address the concerns before voting on the proposed CES Policies and Procedures at the CoC Board Meeting
- Sharon Wie from Interval House provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Sharon Wie provided background on Interval House and stated that as an active participant of the DV CES workgroup, the input and concerns that were shared were not reflected into the proposed draft of the CES Policies and Procedures. Sharon Wie urged the delay of the DV CES Policies and Procedures approval to adequately incorporate the input from victim service providers and survivors. Sharon Wie stated that her hope is to ensure immediate safety, respond quickly, provide continuity, and give compassion to survivors who turn to the CoC for assistance.
- Deborah Kraft, LEAC member in the DV seat and DV Committee member and Trisha Perez from Stronger Women United submitted public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Deborah Kraft and Trisha Perez stated that they support the agenda, consent calendar item #2 in concept, however, they support the request made by the DV providers to postpone the approval of the CES Policies and Procedures to have more time to provide input and have the full support of the victim service providers who are experts in the field to fully protect survivors at imminent risk for harm. Deborah Kraft and Trisha Perez urged the CoC Board to postpone the vote to allow for additional input. Deborah Kraft and Trisha Perez stated that they are both survivors with lived experience of domestic violence and being unhoused.
- Eve Garrow provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Eve Garrow stated that she supports the agenda, consent calendar item #2 in concept, however, she supports the request made by the DV providers to postpone the approval of the CES Policies and Procedures to have more time to provide input and have the full support of the victim service providers who are experts in the field to fully protect survivors at imminent risk for harm. Eve Garrow shared that in her role at ACLU of Southern California, she has known many unhoused survivors in Orange County who would have benefited from early detection and referral to services, and the proposed CES Policies and Procedures may have a large impact. Eve Garrow provided data and metrics related to research which affirm the imperativeness of policies that

identify and meet the needs of unhoused survivors. Eve Garrow stated that they urge the CoC Board to postpone the vote to allow DV service providers to provide input.

- Holly Rivera provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Holly Rivera stated that she would express appreciation for the recent efforts to improve CES Policies and Procedures, however, with the implementation of the new requirements, their agency has noticed the removal of clients from the community queue due to requirements of all Agency Third Party Homeless Verification forms to be completed by homeless providers. Holly Rivera requested that the CoC reconsider this new requirement as it can be detrimental to the consumers. Holly Rivera thanked the CoC Board for their efforts to serve those in great need.
- Wendy Seiden, a clinical professor at Chapman University's Fowler School of Law, former director of the Family Protection Clinic in Anaheim, Chair of the Orange County Family Violence Council's Homelessness-Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Task Force, and member of the CoC's newly formed DV Committee submitted public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board Meeting. Wendy Seiden applauded the work that has gone into the CES Policies and Procedures related to DV, however, she shared that she did not believe that the policies are yet sufficiently developed to be approved or effective at this time. Wendy Seiden asked that the CoC Board delay approval of the CES Policies and Procedures until more work can be done to incorporate the input from victim service providers and survivors. As a member of the CoC's DV Committee, Wendy Seiden stated that she would be happy to support the process and urged the CoC Board to delay approval until the CES Policy and Procedures can be further developed to better meet the needs of survivors in Orange County.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Eric Richardson noted the public comments that were received.
- Christina Weckerly Ramirez inquired on the use of the term domestic violence as opposed to intimate partner violence.
- Maricela Rios-Faust provided background on the term domestic violence, and noted the DV Committee can discuss the terminology used as it relates to the DV committee.

3. 2023 CoC Nominating Committee Recommendation and Update – Dawn Price, Chair; Becks Heyhoe, Vice Chair; Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Secretary; Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and CoC Nominating Committee

During the September 11, 2023, special meeting, the CoC Board approved the recommendation to establish the 2023 CoC Nominating Committee to facilitate the annual Orange County CoC Governance Charter (Charter) review and nominating and election process. The CoC Nominating Committee convened four times in October 2023 to review, discuss, and update the relevant sections of the current Charter, with the support of the Office of Care Coordination and a technical assistance provider. The CoC Nominating Committee had robust discussion regarding the need for ensuring that the CoC Board election process is equitable and accessible. Section V.B.2 – Section V.B.4 of the Charter was reviewed in detail, and the CoC Nominating Committee is recommending the proposed the revisions.

Public Comments:

- Madelynn Hirneise, member of the Nominating Committee, emphasized that the minimum number of desired identities was chosen by reviewing data and explained that there was methodology behind the numbers.
- Peter Warren inquired if former applicants who applied would need to reapply to be on the CoC Board.

- Lupe Lopez from Indigenous Women’s Rights invited everyone to Eagleman Housing Project's "Cultural Awareness Sharing" event. Lupe Lopez emphasized that Native people experience domestic violence, homelessness, and experience the epidemic of being missing and murdered. Lupe Lopez stated that Indigenous people need to have their voice in the table and that they will ask their advisory board to apply to be on the CoC Board.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Sandra Lozeau inquired on consideration of having designated seats for specific cities.
- Chair Dawn Price provided clarification that changes to the Charter would remove designated seats.
- Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells provided background on the intentionality of diverse identities in the proposed Charter changes.

Recommended Action: Approve the recommended changes to the CoC Board composition, nominating and selection process detailed in the Orange County CoC Governance Charter, as recommended by the CoC Nominating Committee.

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to approve the recommended action. Becks Heyhoe seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Funding Recommendations – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

On July 12, 2022, the Orange County CoC Board approved the Rapid Rehousing Services recommendations to designate service providers to provide rapid rehousing services utilizing Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) CoC Round 1 and/or Round 3 funding. The primary goal of Rapid Rehousing Service projects is to help individuals (adult only households), Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and families (households with at least one adult and one minor child) experiencing homelessness countywide obtain secure, permanent, affordable housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and achieve long-term housing stability. On August 24, 2022, the Orange County CoC Board approved the Emergency Shelter Operations and Services recommendations to designate service providers to provide Emergency Shelter Operations and Services utilizing HHAP Round 1 and/or Round 3 funding. The primary goal of Emergency Shelter Operations and Services projects is to help persons experiencing homelessness in Orange County, including individuals, families, TAY, and survivors of domestic violence. The Emergency Shelter Operations and Services projects will focus on shelter stabilization and provide robust support services that will assist participants in obtaining permanent housing and increased income.

Recommended Action a: Approve the following funding recommendations for Rapid Rehousing Services:

- i. Covenant House California for Rapid Rehousing Services for Transitional Aged Youth for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$79,207.67 to be funded by State of California Emergency Solutions Grant (State ESG).
- ii. Families Forward for Rapid Rehousing Services for Families for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$320,359.16 to be funded by Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) - CoC Round 1 and 3 and State ESG.
- iii. People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) for Rapid Rehousing Services for Individuals for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$79,207.66 to be funded by State ESG.

Recommended Action b: Approve the following funding recommendations for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services:

- i. Covenant House California for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Transitional Aged Youth for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$261,599.88 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 1 and 3 and State ESG.
- ii. Interval House for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Domestic Violence Survivors for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 3 and State ESG.
- iii. Mercy House Living Centers (Mercy House) for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Individuals in the North Service Planning Area for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 3 and State ESG.
- iv. Friendship Shelter, Inc. for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Individuals in the South Service Planning Area for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$175,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 1 and State ESG.
- v. Pathways of Hope for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families in the North Service Planning Area for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$225,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 3 and State ESG.
- vi. Illumination Foundation for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families in the North and Central Service Planning Areas for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$225,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 1 and 3 and State ESG.
- vii. Mercy House for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families in the Central Service Planning Area for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$250,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 3 and State ESG.
- viii. Family Assistance Ministries for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families in the South Service Planning Area for the term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to be funded by HHAP-CoC Round 1 and State ESG.

George Searcy motioned to approve Recommended Actions a and b. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse seconded the motion. Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, and Becks Heyhoe voted yes. Eric Richardson, Dawn Price, Ami Rowland, and Melanie McQueen recused themselves during discussion and abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Carrie Buck, Executive Director of the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC), shared appreciation for the consideration to fund shelters serving families experiencing homelessness.
- Paul Hyek suggested that the cold weather emergency shelter have a “walk in, walk out” policy. Additionally, Paul Hyek stated that family shelters should hire clients from the emergency shelter and employ preschool or daycare workers, as well as suggested to hire nursing students to provide health services at the shelters.
- David Gillanders, Executive Director of Pathways of Hope, thanked the CoC Board for the opportunity to fund shelter operations, and shared about the ongoing challenge of funding family shelters such as finding new shelter space and the amount to accommodate on the shelter community queue. David Gillanders shared that part of that can impact strategy and agency focus, the amount of bed spaces, which is why the conversation of the need is important.

5. **2024 Orange County Point In Time Count Update** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Molly Schaner, Census Supervisor, City Net

The Office of Care Coordination has contracted with City Net to conduct the 2024 Unsheltered Point In Time Count. Molly Schaner from City Net presented information about the 2024 Point In Time Count, including the benefits of the Point In Time Count, timeline of activities, important dates, and information regarding the 2024 Point In Time Ad Hoc representatives.

Public Comments:

- Paul Hyek suggested that a representative from Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor (LOSSAN) be engaged to assist in identifying hot spots of where people experiencing homelessness are known to congregate.
- Peter Warren suggested recommendations to engage through this process, such as people from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Becks Heyhoe inquired on the volunteer website and whether people can sign up.
- Eric Richardson stated on behalf of the Veterans Committee, that they would like to be involved in the drafting of survey questions for the Point in Time Count.

6. **HMIS Data Request** – Becks Heyhoe, Executive Director of United to End Homelessness, Orange County United Way, Vice Chair and PPS Committee Chair; and Eric Richardson, Associate Director for Housing, Volunteers of America, and Veterans Committee Chair

As part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Orange County’s United Way is hosting the first State of Veterans Homelessness Event on November 3, 2023, and requesting data to be presented publicly at this event. The data will detail the current state of veteran homelessness in Orange County and will be used to highlight areas of community success in addressing veteran homelessness. Additionally, Orange County’s United Way is also requesting a snapshot update of the Individual CES and Family CES data dashboards as of November 1, 2023, for use during the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Public Comment:

- Peter Warren shared that some churches provide free meals and inquired if a registration list can be created of those who attend.

CoC Board Member Comment:

- George Searcy noted that the data request seemed fair and inquired if similar requests need to come to the CoC Board for approval.

Recommended Action a: Approve Orange County’s United Way’s HMIS data request for the period of January 1, 2022, through November 1, 2023, to be used at the State of Veterans Homelessness Event, a public presentation, in November 2023.

Recommended Action b: Approve Orange County’s United Way’s HMIS data request for Coordinated Entry System data on November 1, 2023, to be used for public presentation as part of the Orange County’s United Way’s Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in November 2023.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve Recommended Actions a and b. Sandra Lozeau seconded the motion. Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, and Ami Rowland voted yes. Eric Richardson and Becks Heyhoe abstained. The motion passed.

7. **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:

- Zulima Lundy provided updates for the Commission to End Homelessness meeting on October 18, 2023. The Commission to End Homelessness approved recommendations for candidate appointments, approved to launch a recruitment process for vacant seats and approval of an ad hoc to evaluate alternative housing solutions like Tiny Homes.
- Zulima Lundy shared that in September 2023, the State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BSCH) announced the release of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5 funding and stated that the application due date is in March 2024.

b. **CoC Updates** – Sarah Jones provided the following CoC Updates:

- Sarah Jones shared that on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, the Orange County CoC submitted the final FY 2023 Orange County CoC Consolidated Application and Project Priority Listing for the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to HUD.
- On September 20, 2023, HUD announced the award of \$60 million to 16 communities under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). This funding will help the awarded communities to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness through a wide range of housing programs. Though the Orange County CoC was not awarded YHDP funding, the CoC plans to continue applying for future opportunities to better serve youth experiencing homelessness.
- HUD released the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards, which includes updates to the Coordinated Entry System data collection requirements announced on July 10, 2023. The FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards provide the requirements for the programming and use of all HMIS and comparable database systems and went into effect at the beginning of October 2023. The FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards resources are now available on the HUD Exchange website.
- On May 10, 2023, HUD published updates to the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) that are used to assess whether housing meets minimum quality standards to qualify for assistance with HUD funds. On September 18, 2023, HUD published Federal Register Notice: Economic Growth Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act: Implementation of National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate; Extension of Compliance Date. This notice extends the compliance date for HUD's NSPIRE final rule for Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs, HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Housing Trust Fund (HTF), Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), Emergency Solution Grants (ESG), and CoC programs until October 1, 2024.
- CES partnered with the four (4) public housing authorities (PHA) in Orange County - Anaheim Housing Authority, Garden Grove Housing Authority, Orange County Housing Authority and Santa Ana Housing Authority - to create a PHA Universal Application for applicants matched through CES. Implementation of the PHA Universal Application began on October 1, 2023, and will be used for tenant-based and project-based housing opportunities.

Public Comment:

- Peter Warren inquired on the CoC Board scheduling during the upcoming holidays in November 2023 and December 2023.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Maricela Rios-Faust inquired if there is an opportunity to learn more information on the YHDP application process and opportunities for improvement, such as data capturing.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe highlighted the importance of the PHA Universal Application as it will make a difference for the end user and those submitting the applications.
- Judson Brown thanked Rebecca Ricketts for her leadership in helping the PHAs with the process, as well as appreciation for the partners at the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Sandra Lozeau motioned to adjourn the meeting. Becks Heyhoe seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.