

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE  
VETERANS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, November 16, 2023  
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Location:**  
**Tierney Center for Veteran Services**  
**1231 Warner Ave,**  
**Tustin, CA 92780**

**Committee Chair:** Eric Richardson, Volunteers of America

**Committee Members:**

Audel Gonzalez, Individual  
Becks Heyhoe, Orange County United Way  
Melanie Martins, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Sarah Nance, CalOptima Health  
Jeffery Pagano, Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative  
Michael Ruiz, Volunteers of America  
Jade Smith, Tierney Center for Veteran Services

**MINUTES**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Eric Richardson, Chair

**Public Comments** – Members of the public may address the Veterans Committee 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 Veterans Committee. Members of the public may address the Veterans Committee with public comments on agenda items after the agenda item presentation. 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 Veterans Committee, members of the public are to complete a Speaker Request Form prior to the beginning of each agenda item. Staff will call your name in the order received.

**BUSINESS CALENDAR**

**1. Targeted Outreach for Veterans** – Eric Richardson, Chair

**a. Update of targeted street outreach efforts towards veteran populations**

The current total for the three veteran subpopulations are:

- 61 total Older Adult veterans (ages 62 and older).
- 15 total veterans whose length of homelessness has been longer than ten (10) years.

- 19 total veteran Families with minor children (households with at least one minor child and one adult).
- There are 59 veterans experiencing chronic homelessness that are not over the age of 62, in veteran family households, or have 10+ year of homelessness. Outreach teams will target the veterans experiencing chronic homelessness and will prioritize the veterans with the longest length of homelessness first.

**b. Update on progress thus far coordinating the Veterans Affairs (VA), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Care Coordination teams.**

Amanda Brear, Regional Program Manager of Volunteers of America, provided an update on the targeted outreach for veterans and inquired on shelter bed availability and resources. Chair Eric Richardson shared that the Regional Care Coordination Services teams have an element for motel funding for emergencies; however, that funding is limited. Chair Eric Richardson shared the plans to refer eligible veterans to Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP).

**2. Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count Update – Sarah Jones, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager and Molly Schaner, Census Supervisor, City Net**

Molly Schaner presented information on 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. Molly Schaner shared that the Veterans Committee can support the 2024 Point In Time Count by identifying veteran “homeless hotspots” in preparation for the 2024 Point In Time Count.

Committee Discussion:

- Melanie Martins suggested to have the VA Community Resource & Referral Center (CRRC) as a site for surveying. Melanie Martins asked if print outs of the survey would be available.
- Chair Eric Richardson asked about coordination on obtaining the veterans specific survey data collected during the 2024 Point In Time Count, in order survey to conduct outreach to the veterans immediately after.

Public Comments:

- Jaime Caraballo asked if the volunteer shifts will have the location identified when selecting shifts.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked about the term hot spot and what makes a hot spot.
- A member of the public asked if the Point In Time Count was a national initiative.
- Adam Tallabas inquired if it would be possible to get the data to the Office of Supervisor Foley.

**3. VA National Housing Conference – Eric Richardson, Chair and Amanda Brear, Regional Program Manager, Volunteers of America**

Chair Eric Richardson shared background on the VA National Housing Conference, One Team Approach: Collaborating to End Homelessness Among Veterans. The VA has the following goals to address veteran homelessness: place 35,000 veterans into permanent housing; ensure 90% of those who are housed in calendar year (CY) 2023 maintain their permanent housing; of those who return to homelessness, 95% are rehoused or on a pathway to permanent housing; and engage 28,000 unsheltered veterans.

**4. United to End Homelessness State of Veterans Homelessness Event Update** – Becks Heyhoe, Executive Director, United to End Homelessness, Orange County United Way

Orange County United Way hosted its first United to End Homelessness State of Veterans Homelessness event on Friday, November 3, 2023. During the event, metrics regarding veteran homelessness, such as the number of veterans experiencing homelessness and the location of veterans by Service Planning Area (SPA), was shared.

**5. Orange County Veterans Service Office** – Eric Ensley, Orange County Veterans Service Officer and Veterans Employment Program Manager

Eric Ensley provided information on the Orange County Veteran Services Office and shared that the office works collaboratively with nationally chartered veterans' organizations, the VA and others to assure that veterans and their dependents receive state and/or federal benefits.

Committee Discussion:

- Michael Ruiz inquired on the appointment process for the Orange County Veteran Services Office.

**6. VA Community Plan for Engaging Unhoused Veterans** – Melanie Martins, LCSW, Coordinated Entry System and Homeless Outreach, Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center

Melanie Martins shared that the VA chose some CoCs to focus on the efforts of engaging unhoused veterans, in relation to the VA's goal of engaging 28,000 unsheltered veterans. The Orange County CoC was selected as one of the CoCs to engage more unsheltered veterans for the next 90 days from November 20, 2023, to January 12, 2024.

**7. Provider Feedback** – Eric Richardson, Chair

- Adam Tallabas stated that if there is an event in the Fifth District, the Office of Supervisor Foley can help share information through the newsletter that is sent every Friday.

**Next Meeting:** To be determined (*pending 2024 CoC Board and Committee Meeting calendar approval*)