

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 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

James Bacon, Lutheran Social Services  
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana  
LaVal Brewer, South County Outreach  
Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health  
Andrew Crowe, Scholarship Prep  
Nichole Gideon, Individual  
Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Vice Chair]  
Sandra Lozeau, City of Anaheim  
Frank Luna, Individual  
Melanie McQueen, PATH  
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual  
Talesha Payne, Jamboree Housing  
Jason Phillips, Individual  
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter [Chair]  
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options  
Ami Rowland, Covenant House California  
George Searcy, City of Irvine  
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Individual [Secretary]  
Tim Shaw, Individual  
Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Health Care Agency

\* 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. \*

Supporting documentation is available for review by the public at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings and at least 24 hours prior to special meetings of the CoC Board. Those wishing to review supporting documentation can visit the CoC Webpage [Here](#) or the lobby of the CAS Building, located 601 N. Ross Street., Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599, and request a copy of the meeting materials from the Office of Care Coordination during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

**Call to Order** – Dawn Price, Chair

Chair Dawn Price called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**Board Member Roll Call** – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Secretary

Present: James Bacon, Judson Brown, LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe, Sandra Lozeau, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez.

Absent Excused: Robert “Santa Bob” Morse and Tim Shaw.

Melanie McQueen and Talesha Payne arrived during Board Member comments. Christina Weckerly Ramirez left during Agenda Item 5 and did not vote.

**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 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.

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 24 hours 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.

- Melinda from Anaheim addressed how the homeless population is being treated in jails. Melinda shared research findings which have shown that the homeless population are abused and there is a discrepancy on how they are treated in hospitals.

**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.

- Chair Dawn Price explained that the CoC Board has looked to add more voices and diversity and has created an unmanageable role for the Vice Chair on the CoC Board with the delegation of Chairing the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee. Chair Dawn Price requested a PPS Committee charter change to remove the Vice Chair as the committee chair, expand the membership of the PPS Committee so that it is not exclusive to committee chairs and to also allow opportunities to other members of the CoC Board to participate. Chair Dawn Price agreed with Jason Phillips’ suggestion to celebrate successes of the CoC and encouraged that the suggestion be considered by the next group of CoC Board leaders.
- Jason Phillips read the names of the who have died without a fixed abode in November 2023 and December 2023. Jason Phillips suggested celebrating little successes and accomplishments, such as movements made on the CoC Board or information related to Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe expressed gratitude regarding the third annual State of Homelessness Address hosted by United to End Homelessness, which included special remarks from Supervisor Don Wagner, Chair of the Commission to End Homelessness; Supervisor Katrina Foley, Chair of the Orange County Housing Finance Trust; Dawn Price, Chair of the CoC Board; Nichole Gideon, Chair of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee; and Doug Becht, Director of the Office of Care Coordination. The State of Homelessness Address was recorded and can be found at the United To End Homelessness YouTube page.

- James Bacon shared that when they applied for the CoC Board, they also applied for a position with the Office of Care Coordination and was hired. As such they explained that they will be stepping down from the CoC Board before the next meeting. James Bacon shared appreciation for putting trust in them to serve on the CoC Board.

### **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 December 20, 2023**
- 2. Agencies and Jurisdictions Approved for HMIS Access**
  - a. Receive and file list of agencies and jurisdictions approved for HMIS access from October 21, 2023, through January 12, 2024.

Becks Heyhoe motioned to approve item 1 on the Consent Calendar. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Judson Brown, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Becks Heyhoe, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez voted yes. James Bacon, Frank Luna, Andrew Crowe, Talesha Payne, Nishtha Mohendra, LaVal Brewer, and Nichole Gideon abstained. Motion passed.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve item 2 on the Consent Calendar. Nishtha Mohendra seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

### **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

#### **1. 2024 CoC Board Appointments – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination**

The Orange County CoC Board and its committees are chaired by members of the CoC Board to ensure the sustained vision and support of CoC Board initiatives. Sarah Jones provided an overview of the available CoC Board Officer positions and representatives, as well as a roles and responsibilities. Chair Dawn Price provided an overview of the election process rules to elect CoC Board Officers and representatives for the upcoming term.

Recommended Action a: Election Elect CoC Board Officers for the upcoming term:

- i. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells motioned to nominate Tim Shaw to the position of CoC Board Chair. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Tim Shaw accepted nominations via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting.
- ii. George Searcy motioned to nominate Nichole Gideon to the position of CoC Board Secretary. Nishtha Mohendra seconded the motion. Nichole Gideon accepted the nomination.
- iii. Becks Heyhoe motioned to appoint Dr. Shauntina Sorrells to the position of CoC Board Vice Chair. Christina Weckerly Ramirez seconded the motion. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells accepted the nomination.

Upon further discussion, Sandra Lozeau motion to rescind the three previous motions that constitute Recommended Action a.i, a.ii, and a.ii, and introduced a new motion. The makers of the previous motions, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, George Searcy, and Becks Heyhoe were in agreement to rescind the three previous motions. Becks Heyhoe seconded the Substitute Motion a.

Substitute Motion a: Appoint the following slate of candidates; Tim Shaw to the position of CoC Board Chair, Nichole Gideon to the position of CoC Board Secretary, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells to the position of CoC Board Vice Chair.

Motion passed unanimously.

Recommended Action b: Appoint CoC Committee Chairs to fill current vacancies:

- i. Reappoint Nishtha Mohendra to Chair the Service Provider Forum.
- ii. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells motioned to appoint Ami Rowland to the position of the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee Chair. Nichole Gideon seconded the motion. Ami Rowland accepted the nomination.
- iii. Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to appoint Becks Heyhoe to the position of the Veterans Committee Chair. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells seconded the motion. Becks Heyhoe accepted the nomination.
- iv. Andrew Crowe self-appointed to the position of the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Steering Committee Chair. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells seconded the motion.

Upon further discussion, Chair Dawn Price motioned to rescind the three previous motions that constitute Recommended Action b.i, b.ii, and b.ii, and introduced a Substitute Motion b. The makers of the previous motions, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Maricela Rios-Faust, and Andrew Crowe were in agreement to rescind the three previous motions. Sandra Lozeau seconded the Substitute Motion b.

Substitute Motion b: Appoint the following slate of candidates; Nishtha Mohendra to the position of Service Provider Forum Chair, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells to the position of the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Chair, Ami Rowland to the position of the TAY Collaborative Committee Chair, Becks Heyhoe to the position of the Veterans Committee Chair, and Andrew Crowe to the position of CES Steering Committee Chair.

Motion passed unanimously.

**2. OC Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Presentation** – Annette Mugrditchian, Director of Operations and Anthony Padilla, Planning and Grants Manager, Behavioral Health Services, OC Health Care Agency

Annette Mugrditchian provided background on BHBH which was signed into law in September 2022. The State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will provide a total of \$1.5 billion in funding to County Behavioral Health (BH) Departments and Tribal Entities to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness with a serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD) as outlined in Welfare & Institutions Code for County BH Departments. Anthony Padilla provided an overview of the eligible uses of BHBH Program funds.

Public Comment:

- Paul Hyek stated that methadone clinics open at 4:30 a.m. but most shelters have policies that impact access. Paul Hyek highlighted the need to ensure that participants have access to methadone clinics. Paul Hyek also shared that the Mental Health Association (MHA) has a club house in Santa Ana and that there will be a public meeting on January 29, 2024, at the Costa Mesa Senior Center.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Sandra Lozeau inquired for a breakdown of the 122 bridge housing beds by provider. Sandra Lozeau asked if the 122 bridge housing beds included medication-assisted treatment (MAT) beds.
- Kelly Bruno-Nelson inquired on the breakdown of categories of the BHBH beds.
- Chair Dawn Price stated that as a BHBH provider, Friendship Shelter is trying to mirror Project Toolbelt and is trying to work with people experiencing homelessness and staying in motel rooms with the goal to transition into permanent housing.
- Andrew Crowe inquired on the amount of funding received and asked if it can be inferred that BHBH Round 1 was spent providing 122 beds.

**3. HMIS Lead Update** – Elizabeth Andrade, Executive Director and Erin DeRycke, Director of Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County, Orange County United Way

Elizabeth Andrade provided an overview on Orange County United Way's (OCUW) acquisition People for Irvine Community Health dba 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) that occurred July 1, 2023, and information on the partnership as the HMIS Administrative Agency and CES Virtual Front Door. Erin DeRycke shared information on the HMIS team achievements.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Nishtha Mohendra inquired on the Data and Performance Committee and asked if updates can be provided to the CoC Board and included on future agendas.
- Sandra Lozeau suggested that in the next meeting, it would be great to hear thinking moments regarding HMIS as to what is or what is not working.
- LaVal Brewer inquired if there were any conversations about plugins and about being able to share information more readily.
- Chair Dawn Price suggested an update from HMIS on the number of people housed since last meeting, as well as shelter placements, because it would be a great metric to bring forward every month.

**4. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Updates and Recommendations – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination**

The HHAP Program is a grant administered by the State's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH). The HHAP Program provides local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination to expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges as well as prevent and end homelessness in communities. The Office of Care Coordination as the Administrative Entity for the Orange County CoC and the County of Orange (County) will complete the HHAP Round 5 grant application will work alongside the cities of Anaheim, Irvine, and Santa Ana.

On October 25, 2023, the Orange County CoC Board approved funding to designated service providers for the ongoing provision of Emergency Shelter Operations and Services. The Office of Care Coordination learned that Shelter Providers of Orange County, Inc., dba HomeAid Orange County who is the owner of the HomeAid Family CareCenter will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify an operator for the HomeAid Family CareCenter. As such, a previously approved recommendation to provide \$250,000 in HHAP-CoC Round 3 and State ESG to Mercy House for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families which would fund the operations of the HomeAid Family CareCenter no longer feels appropriate as it is unknown whether Mercy House will continue to be the operator following the RFP. As such, the Office of Care Coordination presented Recommended Action b to the CoC Board.

To support the ongoing expansion and need for increased capacity to operate CES for Individuals, the Office of Care Coordination is recommending the CoC Board approve utilization of HHAP Round 1, 3 and/or 4 CoC funding needed for CES for FY 2024-25, as detailed in Recommended Action c.

Public Comments:

- Paul Hyek suggested to gather a volunteer team to receive feedback on how people are treated in shelter, as well as advocated a "walk in, walk out" policy in shelters. Paul Hyek also suggested that shelters should be provide transportation to shelter participations. Regarding Family Care Center, Paul Hyek stated that funding should be provided, and opportunities should be provided for shelter participants to work in the shelter and provide daycare services.
- David Vargas with the Ohlone Tribe Of Carmel First Settlers shared their funding availability from tribal set aside and inquired as to how they can help. David Vargas stated that they are available to discuss after the meeting.

Recommended Action b: Approve Shelter Providers of Orange County, Inc. dba HomeAid Orange County for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families 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 of California Emergency Solutions Grant (State ESG).

Recommended Action c: Approve Friendship Shelter, Inc. as the CES for Individuals Administrator to support with ongoing operations for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$63,000 to be funded through HHAP Round 1, 3 and/or 4 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC.

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommended actions b and c. Maricela-Rios Faust seconded the motion. James Bacon, Judson Brown, LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe, Sandra Lozeau, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Maricela Rios-Faust, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez voted yes. Dawn Price recused herself during discussion and abstained from voting. The motion passed.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Judson Brown asked if the HHAP 5 application will come to the CoC Board for approval and inquired as to why HomeAid Orange County will release a request for proposals (RFP) for the HomeAid Family CareCenter. Judson Brown also stated that it is important to have the discussion for increased funding for the HomeAid Family CareCenter as there have been previous public comments about the funding issue. Judson Brown suggested that with the HHAP Round 5 application and funds be used to solve the funding issues for the HomeAid Family CareCenter.
- Sandra Lozeau inquired on the funding breakdown for Recommended Action C g and suggested that for the HomeAid Family CareCenter funding should be maximized.
- Talesha Payne commented on the funding amount and the increase of families experiencing homelessness and inquired on further information on the funding.
- Andrew Crowe inquired on the funding amounts for the previous HHAP rounds and the term limits of the usage of HHAP funds.
- James Bacon inquired as to how many families the HomeAid Family CareCenter would serve and if the referrals would go through the Family CES.
- Nishtha Mohendra asked what the capacity was to reallocation additional funding to the HomeAid Family CareCenter and whether the funding amount can be increased as the program would ramp down in June for construction. Nishtha Mohendra inquired on the game plan of funding allocations for future HHAP rounds.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe stated that when the team is looking at the funding for the HomeAid Family CareCenter emergency shelter, that the same process and potential funding should be considered for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) shelter programs.

**5. Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Update and Recommendation** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Becks Heyhoe, CoC Board Vice Chair and Executive Director of United to End Homelessness, Orange County United Way

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making approximately \$50 million in funding available through the YHSI NOFO. Funding will be utilized to support communities in improving an existing response system for youth homelessness or establishing and implementing a new youth homelessness response system. The YHSI application is for a 30-month grant term and the application is due on February 15, 2024.

Recommended Action: Approve the Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County CoC, to apply for the YHSI NOFO with Orange County's United Way dba Orange County United Way as a subrecipient.

Dr. Shauntina Sorrells motioned to approve the recommended action. Ami Rowlands seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, an amended recommended action was introduced by George Searcy. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells accepted to rescind her initial motion.

Amended Recommended Action: Approve OCUW to apply for the YHSI NOFO with the County (Office of Care Coordination) as a subrecipient.

George Searcy motioned to approve the amended recommended action. Nichole Gideon seconded the motion. James Bacon, Judson Brown, LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Sandra Lozeau, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells voted yes. Becks Heyhoe abstained. The motion passed.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Chair Dawn Price stated that there is some belief that it may be advantageous for OCUW to be the YHSI applicant which would require the CoC Board to make a deviation from the Governance Charter.
- Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells shared difficulties when applying for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) last year and expressed concerns regarding the application. Secretary Dr. Shauntina Sorrells stated that by having OCUW write the YHSI application as the applicant, it allows for an innovative approach.
- George Searcy requested clarification on the recommendation of having OCUW apply for YHSI with the County as the subrecipient and inquired as to whether OCUW and the County had a conversation. George Searcy stated that of all the entities that can be the YHSI applicant, OCUW is a trusted partner in the unique category.
- Nishtha Mohendra inquired as to how the switch in subrecipient would impact other providers to apply for the funds and asked how funding would move through the CoC.
- Maricela Rios-Faust stated that if the amended recommended action is approved with OCUW as the YHSI applicant and the County as the subrecipient for the Orange County CoC, any YHSI application updates should still come back to the CoC Board as it is still the CoC's responsibility.
- Ami Rowland emphasized that other communities are really pushing for innovation, and this is a new opportunity from HUD. Ami Rowland stated that she is grateful for OCUW to be the YHSI applicant for the Orange County CoC.

**6. 2024 Orange County Point In Time Count Update** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

The Point In Time Count is a count and survey of people experiencing homelessness on a given night during the last ten days in January. The Point In Time Count provides vital information that helps the County of Orange (County) and the Orange County CoC better understand homelessness in the community and guides the response to homelessness in Orange County. Opportunities to register to volunteer for the 2024 Point In Time Count within your Service Planning Area (SPA) are now open. As of Tuesday, January 16, 2024, a total of 677 volunteers have registered for the 2024 Point In Time Count.

**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 Update:
  - The Homelessness Prevention and Stabilization Pilot Program was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 9, 2024. The goal of the Homelessness Prevention and Stabilization Pilot Program is to target households at imminent risk of homelessness and provide financial support to keep them stably housed.

- The Office of Care Coordination is currently working with cities on potential emergency shelter models that could serve the people experiencing homelessness in their community during inclement weather. The County has implemented a plan for County-operated shelters during inclement weather.
- b. Continuum of Care Updates – Sarah Jones provided the following Continuum of Care Updates:
- The Office of Care Coordination will provide regular updates on the calendar of activities for the Orange County CoC.
  - The FY 2024 CoC Program Registration process officially opened on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, as announced by HUD, with a submission deadline of 5:00 PM EST on March 7, 2024. The Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County CoC, will complete and submit the registration by the deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

**8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.