



**Orange County Continuum of Care  
Veterans Committee  
March 21, 2024**

# **Welcome and Introductions**

Beck Heyhoe, Chair

# Meeting Agenda

1. Veterans Committee Reorientation and Vision Setting – Becks Heyhoe, Chair, and Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination
  - i. Overview of Veterans Committee Charter and CoC Board Leadership
  - ii. Discussion related to goals and vision for the Veterans Committee
  - iii. Current committee member vacancies
2. Targeted Outreach for Veterans Update – Michael Ruiz, Program Manager, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) OC, Volunteers of America
3. Continuum of Care (CoC) Update – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager
  - a. Veteran Registry Data
  - b. 2024 Point In Time
4. Provide Announcements and Feedback – Beck Heyhoe, Chair
  - a. Providers and members of the public are invited to share announcements and feedback related to Veteran homelessness.

# Public Comments

# Business Calendar

**Veterans Committee Reorientation  
and Vision Setting**

Becks Heyhoe, Chair and  
Sarah Jones, CoC Manager,  
Office of Care Coordination

# Business Calendar – Item #1

## Veterans Committee Reorientation

- The CoC Board approved the Veterans Committee Governance Charter at the January 2023 meeting of the CoC Board, which detailed representatives to be included in the committee membership.
- The first meeting of the Veterans Committee occurred **March 16, 2023**.
- Veterans Committee Purpose:
  - ❖ To serve as a space to share updates on efforts of the Orange County CoC to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for veterans.
  - ❖ To provide leadership on the issue of veteran homelessness and coordinate efforts to better serve veterans and their families.

# Business Calendar – Item #1

## CoC Board Leadership Vision and Objectives

### Strategic Aim 1: Permanently House those Experiencing Homelessness

- **Long-Term Goal 1:** The CoC has led the collaborative effort to build and sustain a fluid system to prevent homelessness and quickly intervene with solutions to end homelessness among **veterans**, transitional aged youth (TAY), and families, while making significant, measurable progress for all populations experiencing homelessness.
- **Objectives:**
  - 1.1** – The CoC Board has adopted evidence-based approaches to effectively assist those at-risk of losing housing through activities and funding requirements associated with **prevention and diversion efforts** within the System of Care in Orange County and annual evaluation and review of relevant data reports.
  - 1.2** – The CoC Board has a **consistent data collection methodology**, using an equity lens, providing annual data updates so that all providers, members, and the public have access to clear, consistent, and regular analyses of the demand for resources in every intervention and/or project type within the System of Care.
  - 1.3** – The CoC Board has implemented a **System of Care dashboard**, in collaboration with the Commission to End Homelessness and other key stakeholders, generating real time updates on system/CoC capacity to provide resources and information, **consistent with the needs of providers, members, and the public**, to address homelessness.
  - 1.4** – The CoC Board is engaging in ongoing, rigorous review and evaluation of Orange County’s homeless service system to **understand service needs and gaps and assign funding priorities**, ensuring appropriate funding allocations, and shifting or resources as needed.

# Business Calendar – Item #1

## Veterans Committee Vision Setting

- The Veterans Committee Governance Charter includes language that aligns with the CoC Board Leadership Vision and commitment to racial equity efforts as part of the Racial Equity Roadmap action planning implementation.
- **Committee Discussion**
  - ❖ What continued vision do the Committee Members have for the Veterans Committee?
  - ❖ How do the Committee Members see the purpose of the Veterans Committee supporting the CoC Board Vision?
  - ❖ What are some suggested topics and/or initiatives to include in upcoming meetings?

# Business Calendar – Item #1

## Veterans Committee Membership

<b>Seat Representatives</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chair, CoC Board Member	Becks Heyhoe
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	Melanie Martins
Orange County Veterans & Military Families Collaborative (OCVMFC)	Jeffery Pagano
Veteran with current or past lived experience of homelessness	Audel Gonzalez
Orange County Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) service provider agencies	Eric Richardson
United Way Welcome Home OC Program	<i>Vacant</i>
Orange County housing providers and/or Public Housing Authorities	<i>Vacant</i>
Health care provider that serves veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness	<i>Vacant</i>
Employment-focused agency that serves veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness	Jade Smith

# Business Calendar – Item #1

## Veterans Committee Membership

- The Office of Care Coordination will be working with Chair Becks Heyhoe to fill the current committee member vacancies.
- **Committee Discussion**
  - ❖ Are there any recommendations for the current committee seat vacancies?
- **Next Steps**
  - ❖ Additional recommendations from committee members can be shared with Chair Becks Heyhoe or with the Office of Care Coordination at [CareCoordination@ocgov.com](mailto:CareCoordination@ocgov.com)

**Targeted Outreach for Veterans Update**

Michael Ruiz, Program Manager,  
SSVF OC, Volunteers of America

# Business Calendar – Item #2

## National Recognition



Source: [Tackling unsheltered homelessness: Meet Veterans where they are](#)

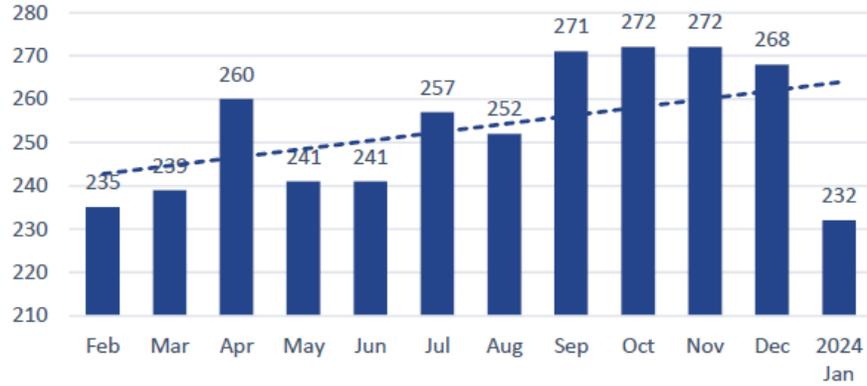
- The outreach and coordination efforts with veterans experiencing homelessness in Orange County received national recognition earlier this week in an article published in Veterans Affairs (VA) News: [Tackling unsheltered homelessness: Meet Veterans where they are](#)
- Congratulations and great work to the VA and all the Veteran Registry partners on the hard work and efforts to end homelessness for veterans in Orange County.

## **Continuum of Care (CoC) Update**

**Sarah Jones, CoC Manager,  
Office of Care Coordination**

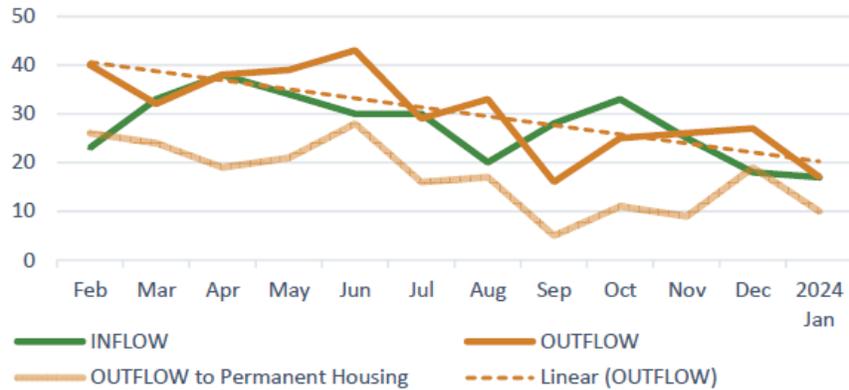
# Veteran Registry Dashboard

## Homeless Veterans on Veteran Registry



Currently, there are 232 veterans on the Veteran Registry. In the previous 12 months, 205 veterans have been housed in permanent, stable housing. Over 30 agencies, including the VA Community Resource and Referral Center, outreach providers, and shelter providers, continue to meet weekly to coordinate housing and services for veterans experiencing homelessness in Orange County. In the past 12 months, there has been a 1% decrease in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in Orange County.

## Inflow vs. Outflow by Month



Homeless Veterans

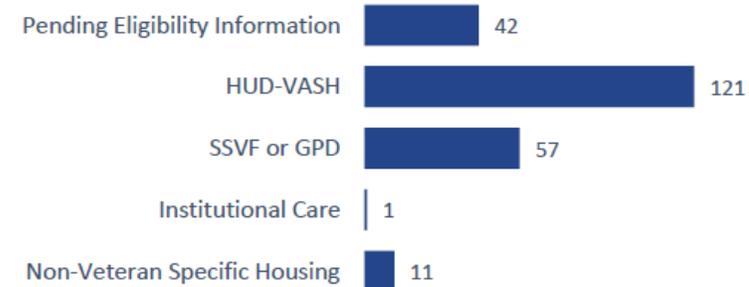
**232**

Veterans Housed

**205**

2/1/23-1/31/24

## Permanent Housing Plan



	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2024 Jan	Total	
<b>INFLOW</b>	23	33	38	34	30	30	20	28	33	25	18	17	329	
<b>OUTFLOW</b>	40	32	38	39	43	29	33	16	25	26	27	17	365	
<b>OUTFLOW to Permanent Housing</b>	26	24	19	21	28	16	17	5	11	9	19	10	205	
<b>OUTFLOW exceeded INFLOW</b>	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
<b>Homeless Veterans on Veteran Registry</b>	235	239	260	241	241	257	252	271	272	272	268	232		

## Upcoming CoC Meetings

- **CoC Board Meeting**
  - ❖ Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
- **Housing Opportunities Committee Meeting**
  - ❖ Friday, April 5, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# Business Calendar – Item #3

## 2024 Point In Time Count

- Thank you to all volunteers!
- A special thank you to CalOptima Health and Orange County United Way for their donations!
- Over **1,100 volunteers** collectively contributed more than **4,000 hours of service**, with 392 volunteers in the North Service Planning Area (SPA), 435 volunteers in the Central SPA, and 273 volunteers in the South SPA.
- Volunteers assembled over 6,000 hygiene kits and snack packs.
- Thank you, as well, to City Net, who led coordination for the 2024 Point In Time Count in partnership with the County of Orange.
- The Office of Care Coordination expects the 2024 Point In Time Count results in early May.



# Business Calendar – Item #3

## 2024 Point In Time Count

- During the Point in Time Count, when an unsheltered veteran was encountered, additional identifying information was collected to follow up with the veteran.
- The Point in Time Count information is used to update the Veteran Registry and as a follow up tool for street outreach teams to provide supportive services.
- For further coordination of targeting and outreaching to unsheltered veterans, Volunteers of America was provided survey data collected during the Point in Time Count of all those surveyed who stated they were a veteran.

Everyone Counts OC, 2024 Point In Time  
Unsheltered Count

### VETERAN REGISTRY

The following questions will ask additional Veteran related questions to update the Orange County Veteran Registry which will help us identify all veterans experiencing homelessness within Orange County, understand their housing needs, and follow up to connect Veterans to available resources.

34a. First Name

If they did not answer or declined to answer, please type "Did not answer."

34b. Middle Initial

If they did not answer or declined to answer, please type "Did not answer."

34c. Last Name

If they did not answer or declined to answer, please type "Did not answer."

# **Provider Announcements and Feedback**

Becks Heyhoe, Chair

## **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, May 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Orange County United Way

18012 Mitchell South, Irvine, CA 92614

