

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, February 28, 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

Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
LaVal Brewer, South County Outreach
Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
Andrew Crowe, Scholarship Prep
Nichole Gideon, Individual [Secretary]
Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way
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
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options
Ami Rowland, Covenant House California
George Searcy, City of Irvine
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Individual [Vice Chair]
Tim Shaw, Individual [Chair]
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. 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 Continuum of Care (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 – Tim Shaw, Chair

Chair Tim Shaw called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Nichole Gideon, Secretary

Present: LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez.

Absent Excused: Judson Brown, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, and Sandra Lozeau.

Christina Weckerly Ramirez arrived during Board Member Roll Call. Kelly Bruno-Nelson and George Searcy arrived during Public Comments. Maricela Rios-Faust arrived during Business Calendar Item 2. Becks Heyhoe left during Business Calendar Item 3. Kelly Bruno-Nelson left during Business Calendar Item 5. Melanie McQueen and George Searcy left during Business Calendar Item 4.

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the 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. 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.

- Sarah Pierce provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Sarah Pierce provided public comment regarding a lady who is being stalked by an OC Housing Commissioner. Sarah Pierce encouraged the CoC Board and staff to read an [article](#) from Reason magazine to gain more information on the dynamics are of people who engage in this type of stalking behavior.
- Jenny provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Jenny would like to support a friend and commented that it appears some people on the CoC Board may be engaging in criminal activity.
- Esaul Gutierrez provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Esaul Gutierrez stated there has been stalking by a hate crime perpetrator.
- A member of the public provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Member of the public stated that at the April 2023 meeting of OC Housing and Community Development (H&CD) Commission, Commissioners did not renew one of the Commissioner’s terms and instead appointed two other at-large Commissioners, which shows that the H&CD Commissioners did not want to renew the individual. At this time, the individual remains on the H&CD Commission, even as recently as last week. The individual has admitted under oath to an OC Superior Court Judge that they bragged of a gruesome hate crime. In revenge for exposing the hate crime, the member of the public states that this individual has stalked, cyberstalked, and doxxed them. Member of the public states that the Board of Supervisors ought to remove the individual now as there are multiple reasons. Member of the public encouraged attendees of the CoC Board meeting to write to response@ocgov.com with their official titles on their agency letterhead and explain why it’s a disgrace for this person to remain in office.
- Rwath emphasized a review of the policies and procedures implemented on shelters because the current policies are stringent and the process of trying to go into shelter feels like getting a job due to a background check and other processes. Rwath stated that homelessness is not a crime, and the

bottom line is that the policies should be reviewed in order to ensure people are being treated like human beings. Rwath encouraged the CoC Board to talk to the homeless service providers that are operating shelter programs.

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.

- Becks Heyhoe provided an update on Orange County United Way’s (OCUW) Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) application submitted following the CoC Board approval on the January 17, 2024, for OCUW to apply for the YHSI Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with the County of Orange (County) as a subrecipient. During the YHSI application process, OCUW hosted listening sessions with young people, conducted surveys with young people, led meetings with various agencies, and had obtained letters of support from various organizations and notable people. Becks Heyhoe thanked Covenant House California, Orangewood Foundation, and the Office of Care Coordination. Becks Heyhoe shared that United to End Homelessness is hosting Community Chat session with guest speaker Brooke Weitzman to discuss the Johnson vs Grants Pass case on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 12 p.m. To attend the Community Chat, people can register on Eventbrite or contact OCUW. The Community Chat will also be posted on the [UnitedToEndHomelessness YouTube page](#).
- Dawn Price wanted to call everyone’s attention to Los Angeles Times (LA Times) segment where recording devices were provided to individuals on the streets, motels, in their cars, to get their perspective. Dawn Price stated that it was an astonishing piece that gave great insight.

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 January 17, 2024

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to approve item 1 on the Consent Calendar. Dawn Price seconded the motion. LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez voted yes. The motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Recommendations – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

During CoC Board member comments at the January 17, 2024, meeting, former CoC Board Chair Dawn Price noted that the CoC Board has created an unmanageable role for the CoC Board Vice Chair with a required delegation to Chair the PPS Committee. It was also noted that the designation of the CoC Board Vice Chair to also serve as Chair of the PPS Committee did not support efforts to increase diversity and ensure sharing of power within the CoC Board and CoC Committee membership. A request was made to revise the PPS Committee Charter to remove the requirement of the CoC Board Vice Chair to serve as PPS Committee Chair and to also expand the membership of the PPS Committee so that it is not exclusive to CoC Committee chairs, allowing for opportunities for other CoC Board and/or CoC General Members to participate.

At the February 13, 2024, meeting, the PPS Committee reviewed and recommended the proposed PPS Committee Charter changes for approval by the CoC Board, with minor revisions. The PPS Committee provided feedback to revise additional language in Section 6 of the PPS Committee Charter to ensure alignment with the recommendation to remove the designation of the CoC Board Vice Chair as Chair of the PPS Committee.

Recommended Action a: Approve recommended changes to the PPS Committee Charter, especially Section 5 detailing Chair and Vice Chair and Section 6 detailing Membership, as recommended by the PPS Committee.

George Searcy motioned to approve Recommended Action a. Becks Heyhoe seconded the motion. LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez voted yes. The motion passed.

Recommended Action b: Appoint a CoC Board member to Chair the PPS Committee.

Dr. Shauntina Sorrells motioned to nominate Nishtha Mohendra to Chair the PPS Committee via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. George Searcy seconded the motion. Nishtha Mohendra accepted the nomination. LaVal Brewer, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe, Frank Luna, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Ami Rowland, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly Ramirez voted yes. The motion passed.

Public Comment:

- Rvath encouraged the CoC Board to appoint members to the PPS Committee that are sensitive to the needs of people experiencing homelessness and to check the members credentials to ensure that they are people who are merciful and who are not present for their own financial benefit.

2. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, and Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, 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. Zulima Lundy provided an overview on HHAP Program Rounds 1 – 4 funding allocations to the Orange County CoC.

The HHAP Round 5 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was made available in September 2023. The application is due on March 27, 2024. The Office of Care Coordination, as the Administrative Entity for the Orange County CoC, will complete the HHAP Round 5 grant application on behalf of the CoC and County and will work alongside the cities of Anaheim, Irvine, and Santa Ana as regions must apply together and submit a single Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Additionally, the HHAP Round 5 application requires regions to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to participation and to comply with the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Zulima Lundy provided an overview of the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan, a summary of the eligible uses of HHAP Round 5 funds, and the HHAP Round 5 proposed budget for the Orange County CoC allocation. Zulima Lundy provided information as to how to provide feedback towards the HHAP Round 5 application, through the CareCoordination@ocgov.com, email address, no later than March 8, 2024.

Public Comments:

- Chris Simonsen, Chief Executive Officer of Orangewood Foundation, stated that Orangewood Foundation has a suite of services from housing to a drop-in center and thanked the CoC Board for prioritizing above the minimum allocation for youth. Chris Simonsen shared that Orangewood Foundation has struggled to keep up the need of services for youth as there has been an approximate

57% increase and the Point in Time Count is severely undercounting the youth population experiencing homelessness.

- Lailanie Jones, Senior Vice President of Programs at Covenant House California, shared that Covenant House California has been operating a shelter in Anaheim and recently celebrated its two-year anniversary of serving youth. Lailanie Jones noted there are currently over two hundred youth on the waitlist for a bed at the shelter with a possibly wait of between five to eight months. Lailanie Jones emphasized that the current level of funding is not sustainable and there is a need to bridge a \$1.6 million gap in shelter operations. Lailanie Jones emphasized to look further on the HHAP set aside.
- Riwath emphasized the need for accountability and inquired what is done with the HHAP funding, how is the program orientated, and what is the money doing. Riwath shared experiences at the Yale Navigation Center operated by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) and shared that the shelter feels more like a jail than the Santa Ana City Jail. Riwath stated that if the millions of dollars of funding were being effectively spent, that people would not be on the streets or parks.
- Francesca, a social worker from the Public Law Center in the homelessness and prevention unit, emphasize the importance of homelessness prevention. Francesca has seen that being able to provide cash assistance or other preventative services, that would be monumental to many people. Francesca stated that legal aid organizations should be part of the conversation to prevent families from becoming homeless and that there should be a better response for those who are experiencing housing insecurity.
- Mia Ferreira with Friendship Shelter noted that HHAP funding supports the Regional Care Coordination Services Program and there is a need to continue the program as it is vital to the community. Mia Ferreira stated that it is important to think of the full costs in contracts, as well as think about the staff being able to live in the areas where they provide services in. Mia Ferreira expressed that South Orange County has continued to lack shelter and there has not been a new shelter in many years as Friendship Shelter operates the only two shelters in South Orange County for individuals (adult only households). Mia Ferreira provided the reminder that individuals are the largest group of people experiencing homelessness in the community and according to data this the group is getting older and has more disabling conditions, as such there is a need to think about how this population is being served. Mia Ferreira emphasized the need for collaboration and intention when developing Request for Proposals (RFPs) as there have seen many organizations operating in siloes with similar RFPs being released. Mia Ferreira noted that collaboration should be taking place to ensure that systems are not being duplicated or that bureaucracies are not being created.

CoC Board Member Discussion:

- Christina Weckerly Ramirez inquired to as why the remaining HHAP 1 balance has not been allocated and asked what the timeline would look like for 100% expenditure of HHAP 1 balance. Christina Weckerly Ramirez inquired if there was a second deadline for contract obligations for program allocation of HHAP 1 balance.
- Becks Heyhoe thanked County staff for sharing the consideration of a budget modification for HHAP Round 1 funding. Becks inquired on the amounts of the youth set asides funding and asked what they were being utilized for and why the dollars have not been allocated yet. Becks Heyhoe inquired on the proposed HHAP Round 5. Becks Heyhoe stated feeling wary of the proposed HHAP Round 5 budget, specifically the proposed youth set aside allocations and eligible activities. Becks Heyhoe asked for clarification on the feedback process and whether the percentage allocation for youth is a recommended action that would need to be taken by the CoC Board during the meeting.
- Nishtha Mohendra inquired if there were opportunities for reallocation or budget modifications for HHAP Round 1 funding and asked about the drop between HHAP Round 1 and HHAP Round 2 funding for the youth set aside. Nishtha Mohendra inquired if the CoC Board can see what funding needs to be

allocated in all four rounds of HHAP funding combined in one spreadsheet. For the HHAP Round 5 application, Nishtha Mohendra inquired on funding breakdowns for subpopulations and asked if the CoC Board can get receive a final budget along with a budget narrative.

- Andrew Crowe asked if an RFP is issued for the remaining HHAP funds, would it be possible for a project to be offered multiple rounds of HHAP.
- Ami Rowland inquired on the HHAP Round 2 spend down.
- Chair Tim Shaw provided clarification that the HHAP Program provides flexible funds and explained how the HHAP allocations go through the County, Cities of Santa Ana, Anaheim, Irvine. Chair Tim Shaw shared that the HHAP Program is not initially what the CoC Board was originally designed to review. Chair Tim Shaw asked a clarifying question on the HHAP Round 5 proposed budget.
- Talesha Payne asked how often the percentages for youth set aside is being assessed. Talesha Payne asked if the CoC Board will see the HHAP Round 5 application before it is submitted.
- Dawn Price would like to connect the HHAP Program presentation to the Rehousing and Coordinated Investment Planning Tool - Capital (RCIPT-C) and shared that the HHAP is crucial for the homeless response system but emphasized that this is not the full picture of everything in the system. For the HHAP Round 5 proposed budget, Dawn Price asked if the CoC can continue funding initial projects assuming they are performing.
- Kelly Bruno-Nelson asked for clarification on the percentage of youth set aside needed for the HHAP Round 5 application.
- Maricela Rios-Faust shared that the domestic violence service providers will experience an approximate 30% reduction for funding and urged the CoC to prioritize survivors for HHAP Round 5 funding.

3. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 System Performance Measures (SPM) Report – Elizabeth Andrade, Executive Director and Erin DeRycke, Director, Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County, Orange County United Way

Elizabeth Andrade introduced the FY 2023 SPM. Erin DeRycke provided an overview of the SPM Report, including data on the percentage of exits from permanent housing to homelessness, increased income at program exit, and number of people experiencing first-time homelessness. The SPM Report allows CoCs to regularly measure their progress in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness in their community and to report this progress to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The SPM is pulled from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and submitted to HUD annually by CoCs around the country. The reporting period for all SPM report aligns with the federal fiscal year from October 1st to September 30th.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Melanie McQueen asked for clarification on the types of income included in Measure 4: Measure Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects.
- Regarding Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless, Andrew Crowe asked if there was a difference between the two project types of emergency shelter and transitional housing. Andrew Crowe noted that in Metric c 7.a1: Successful Exits from Street Outreach, the Orange County CoC was below the national and California average and asked for additional context as to why the Orange County CoC is a low performer for that measure.

4. Orange County Homelessness Updates – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations and Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Business Calendar Item 5 was presented before Business Calendar Item 4.

- a. System of Care Updates – Zulima Lundy provided the following System of Care Update:

- On December 13, 2023, the Commission to End Homelessness directed the Office of Care Coordination to negotiate with the City of Anaheim for a Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Program. On January 23, 2024, a MOU was established between the City of Anaheim (City) and the County for the City to provide up to 50 emergency shelter beds during cold and inclement weather for individuals experiencing homelessness in the City from February 1, 2024, through April 15, 2024.
 - The County Procurement Office is hosting an annual Supplier Outreach Day and is encouraging all interested vendors and service providers to attend. Attendees will gain knowledge on County procurement and contracting processes and will learn how to better partner with the County to serve the community. The event will be held on May 16, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Mile Square Park, Freedom Hall. Reservation for the event is required and can be completed on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-supplier-outreach-event-registration-758041531627>
- b. CoC Updates – Felicia Boehringer provided the following CoC Updates:
- For the 2024 Point In Time Count, 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. The Office of Care Coordination expects the 2024 Point In Time Count results in early May.
 - On, January 29, 2024, HUD announced \$3.2 billion in FY 2023 CoC Competition Awards to approximately 7,000 local homeless housing and service programs across the United States and its territories. The Orange County CoC has been awarded \$34,301,133 for FY 2023. For the FY 2023 CoC Program NOFO, the Orange County CoC had a total application score of 158 compared to the national median score for all CoCs being 151.5. The highest score of any CoC was 188.5 and the lowest score for any CoC was 54.4.
 - The Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) released a report on February 7, 2024, that includes key legislative considerations concerning housing affordability and homelessness. Pages 30 – 32 of the report address Housing and Homelessness. The report can be referenced [here](#).
 - The Office of Care Coordination will provide regular updates on the calendar of activities for the Orange County CoC.
 - Erin DeRycke provided updates on the CoC Monthly Progress:
 - Emergency Shelter Placements this month: 494 households, 548 clients.
 - Permanent Housing Placements this month: 103 households, 162 clients.
 - Active clients this month: 11,947 households, 13,411 clients.

Public Comments:

- David Duran provided the reminder that everyone is gathered in the meetings to ensure that homelessness is ended and shared that approximately 500 people died while living in the streets. David Duran explained that unless the public becomes better educated on CoC concerns and without access to participate virtually, it seems like specific siloes do not want to hear what the public has to say. David Duran asked to look into allowing virtual access for participation to the CoC Board and Commission to End Homelessness meetings with.
- Riwath spoke on the system of care and emphasized that there needs to be prevention services to ensure that people are not kicked out of shelter and do not back to homelessness on the streets.

5. UCI School of Social Ecology Presentation: “The School of Social What?” – Jon Gould, Dean of the School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

Business Calendar Item 5 was presented before Business Calendar Item 4.

Jon Gould, Dean of the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), provided an overview on the UCI School of Social Ecology and shared how UCI's School of Social Ecology is helping Orange County institutions make a difference. UCI's School of Social Ecology will be offering training, coaching, and technical assistance in evidenced-based evaluation with a workshop being held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 1-4 p.m. at UCI. The opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations based in Southern California working in the fields of housing and sustainability.

CoC Board Member Discussion:

- Kelly Bruno-Nelson values and appreciates evidence-based practices and shared that what also must go with evidence-based practices, is cultural learning and until it is done as a CoC and a County, people may be afraid. Kelly Bruno-Nelson stated that data helps everyone learn and emphasized that there must be a culture created that mistakes are not made, but that there are learning opportunities.
- Talesha Payne asked for the deadline for nonprofits to apply for the opportunity.
- Robert "Santa Bob" Morse thanked the research that was conducted by Livable Cities Lab and stated that Robert "Santa Bob" Morse has loved everything that has been done since.
- Dawn Price asked if the CoC Board was provided information as to how to apply for the opportunity.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nishtha Mohendra seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.