



A G E N D A

REGULAR MEETING COMMISSION TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

County Conference Center

Room 104/106

425 West Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Meetings are broadcast live at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCefbduRATilUBsne8nn8tJA>

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Vicente Sarmiento, Chair

Supervisor, Second District

Janet Nguyen

Supervisor, First District

Monique Davis

Business Representative

Todd Spitzer

Orange County District Attorney

Richard Afable

Behavioral Health Representative

Lisa Kim

Central Service Planning Area Representative

Susan Parks

Philanthropic Leader Representative

Benjamin Hurst

Faith-Based Community Representative

Kelly Bruno-Nelson

Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Representative

Robert Morse

Continuum of Care Board Representative

Gina Cunningham, Vice Chair

Affordable Housing Development Representative

Adam Hawley

Chief of Police Representative

Cecilia Bustamante-Pixa

Hospital Representative

James Vanderpool

North Service Planning Area Representative

Debra Rose

South Service Planning Area Representative

Jason Ivins

Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Representative

Milo Peinemann

At-Large Representative

Maricela Rios-Faust

Continuum of Care Board Representative

Vacant

Lived Experience Representative

Commission Director

Doug Becht, Director of Care Coordination

Clerk of the Commission

Valerie Sanchez, Chief Deputy Clerk

This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Commission encourages public participation. If you wish to speak on any item or during public comment, please complete a Speaker Request Form and provide to the Clerk at the dais. Speaker Forms are located next to the entrance doors. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name (or pseudonym) for the record prior to providing your comments.

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****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 Clerk of the Board's Office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-2206. Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided****

*All supporting documentation is available for public review online at:
<https://ceo.ocgov.com/care-coordination/commission-end-homelessness>
and with Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located in the County Administration North Building,
400 West Civic Center Drive, 6th Floor, Santa Ana, California 92701
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday*

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time members of the public may address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Commission to Address Homelessness Update
 - a. Grand Jury Report
2. Office of Care Coordination Update
 - a. OC Outreach & Engagement
 - b. OC Same-Day Solutions Fair
3. Commissioner Spotlight – Susan Parks, Philanthropic Leader Representative

PRESENTATIONS

4. Federal Legislative Update presented by Cori Takkinen, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.
5. Falling through the Safety Net: Understanding Individuals Journey and Contributing Factors to Homelessness presented by Doug Becht, Director of Care Coordination

A G E N D A

ACTION ITEMS

6. Membership Recommendation
 - a. Membership Update
 - b. Approve the recommendation for appointment of the following candidates to serve on the Commission to Address Homelessness as detailed below to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
 - i. Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
 - ii. Benjamin Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
 - iii. Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative
 - iv. Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
 - v. Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader
7. Approve Commission to Address Homelessness minutes from the June 18, 2025, regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULAR MEETING October 15, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

Agenda Item 6



Commission to Address Homelessness

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Action Item #6 Staff Report

Subject: Membership Recommendation

Recommended Actions:

- b. Approve recommendations for appointment of the following candidates to serve on the Commission to Address Homeless seats as detailed below to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
 - i. Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
 - ii. Benjamin Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
 - iii. Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative
 - iv. Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
 - v. Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader

Background Information:

Vacant and Expiring Recruitment Process

The Commission to Address Homelessness (Commission) Bylaws detail the membership composition and appointment process in Article II. As such the Commission shall establish a Membership Ad Hoc Committee to recruit, evaluate, and make recommendations for appointments to the Commission to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for final approval. When evaluating Commission candidates for the Board's consideration and approval, the Membership Ad Hoc Committee considers and evaluates executive level individuals that are highly regarded in his or her respective field and community due to his or her knowledge, expertise, achievements, leadership, and commitment to address homelessness in Orange County.

On December 11, 2024, the Commission approved the launch of recruitment process and establishment of a new Membership Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate and make recommendations for appointment for expired Commission seats to be submitted to the Board for final approval.

The Membership Ad Hoc Committee met multiple times to review the existing recruitment process, the number of seats to recruit for and discuss the expansion of candidate application process given

the recent revisions to the Commission Bylaws which further defined the purpose and functions of the Commission, as well as expanded upon the duties of members. The Membership Ad Hoc Committee including the following two application questions to assist them in the evaluation of candidates:

- i. What unique skills, experience, or perspectives do you bring that make you especially well-suited to work on solutions to homelessness in our community?
- ii. As a regional leader, how would you use your role to bring together diverse partnerships to support countywide initiatives to address homelessness?

Additionally, the Membership Ad Hoc Committee recommended the recruitment of membership in two phases. Phase I included the recruitment of the following seats:

- i. Business Representative
- ii. Central Service Planning Area Representative
- iii. South Service Planning Area Representative
- iv. Representative of the faith-based community
- v. Philanthropic leader funding solutions to address homelessness in Orange County
- vi. Individual who has current or past lived experience of homelessness

Per the Commission Bylaws, the Central Service Planning Area Representative is an individual who currently serves as an elected municipal official or a City Manager in the Central Service Planning Area. The Central Service Planning Area includes the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Tustin, and Westminster.

Per the Commission Bylaws, the South Service Planning Area Representative is an individual who currently serves as an elected municipal official or a City Manager in the South Service Planning Area. The South Service Planning Area includes the cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

The Office of Care Coordination launched the Membership Recruitment process on June 26, 2025, and established a deadline of July 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. for interested candidates to submit their applications and resume for consideration by the Membership Ad Hoc Committee. On July 28, 2025, the Office of Care Coordination provided public notice that the Membership Recruitment deadline had been extended to July 31, 2025, at 5 pm. The received applications and resumes were shared with the Membership Ad Hoc Committee for review and consideration.

The Membership Ad Hoc Committee met to discuss the candidates and unanimously recommended the following candidates to be presented to the Commission for appointment:

- i. Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
- ii. Benjamin Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
- iii. Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative

- iv. Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
- v. Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader

Recommended Candidate Background

Susan Parks is the CEO of Orange County United Way and leads The United to End Homelessness initiative; engaging government, health care, non-profit, and philanthropic leaders to drive change. She has led a team to educate 6,000 residents through, Homeless 101, trained 1,000 homeless champions, and helped secure permanent housing for nearly 4,000 people. Ms. Parks' strategic leadership and coalition building has mobilized funding, resources, and public will to address homelessness in Orange County. Ms. Parks has served on the Commission to Address Homelessness from 2018-2020 and consecutively since 2022.

Benjamin Vasquez is a life-long Santa Ana Resident, educator, and public servant with over 21 years of experience teaching local youth. As Ward 2 City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Vasquez has championed affordable housing, rent control, and immigration rights while securing funding for parks and youth programs.

Debra Rose has over 30 years of municipal government experience, advancing compassionate balanced solutions to ending homelessness. Ms. Rose has led efforts to fund local non-profits, partner with affordable housing developers, and hire dedicated outreach staff to connect unhoused residents to resources. Ms. Rose is looking to activate her extensive regional network to enable collaboration across government, business, faith, and non-profits. Ms. Rose has been a member of the Commission to Address Homelessness since 2022.

Ivan Pitts has lived experience of homelessness, pastoral leadership, and military experience. As the Pastor of Second Baptist Church, he has partnered with multiple organization to host resource fairs and community services for underserved populations. Under his leadership, the Second Baptist Church hosted the first OC Same-Day Solutions Fair. His collaborations with civic, faith, and educational institutions demonstrates his ability to unite stakeholders to address homelessness.

Benjamin Hurst has a Doctor of Social Work from University of Southern California specializing in Ending Chronic Homelessness. He brings executive level leadership in homeless services. Dr. Hurst co-founded the 325-bed Anaheim Emergency Shelter, completed new construction for 70 units of permanent supportive housing in Anaheim, and is now launching a \$20 million research and program design center. With his extensive career at The Salvation Army, Dr. Hurst is a respected leader in the faith-based community and is hoping to use his relationships to address homelessness. Dr. Hurst has been an active member of the Commission to Address Homelessness since 2023.

The Membership Ad Hoc Committee is continuing to evaluate candidates for the seat an individual who has current or past lived experience of homelessness and anticipates recommending a candidate to the Commission during the October 2025 meeting.

By approving Recommended Action, the Commission will be able to recommend the appointments of the candidates to the Commission and be submitted to the Board for final approval. Upon

approval from the Commission, the Office of Care Coordination will work to agendize this item for the Board approval with a timeline of seating the recommended candidates on the Commission in advance of the October 2025 meeting.

Agenda Item 7



SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING COMMISSION TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

County Conference Center
Room 104/106
425 West Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Vicente Sarmiento, Chair
Supervisor, Second District

Janet Nguyen
Supervisor, First District

Monique Davis
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Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Representative

Milo Peinemann
At-Large Representative

Maricela Rios-Faust
Continuum of Care Board Representative

Vacant
Lived Experience Representative

Clerk of the Commission
Valerie Sanchez, Chief Deputy Clerk

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Bruno-Nelson, Bustamante-Pixa, Cunningham, Davis, Hurst, Ivins, Morse, Nguyen, Parks, Peinemann, Rose, Sarmiento, and Spitzer

ABSENT: Commissioners: Afable, Hawley, Kim, Rios-Faust, Vanderpool

PRESENT: COMMISSION DIRECTOR Doug Becht, Director of Care Coordination
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION Valerie Sanchez, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

Call to Order

CHAIR SARMIENTO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:03 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call

CLERK CALLED THE ROLL AND CONFIRMED QUORUM PRESENT

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMISSION MEMBERS COMMENTS

Chair Sarmiento – Discussed how the Second District community which he represents as Supervisor is feeling very unsettled by the presence of U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement and the National Guard and the chilling effect it has on the community which will certainly result in not just human impacts but fiscal and economic impacts as well.

Commissioner Cunningham – Discussed challenges finding funding to keep HomeAid Family CareCenter open and operating.

Commissioner Morse – Participates in the Life on the Streets Ministry and reported that due to immigration enforcement activities, they saw a significant shortage in the number of people who usually turn out for food, showers and other essentials because they were too afraid to come out.

Commissioner Ivins – Announced the 2025 Crisis Intervention Teams International Conference will be held in Anaheim on August 11th – 13th; sessions on many topics related to mental health and homelessness; OC Sheriff's Department will be leading a session on Psychiatric Advance Directives.

Commissioner Parks – Discussed perceptions about what homelessness looks like after the story of local artist, Chapman Hamborg, went viral after taking his cranky newborn for a walk and a neighbor phoned police to report a homeless man walking around with a stolen baby; Mr. Hamborg is turning this incident into a positive discussion about shifting perceptions on homelessness through Art and Advocacy hosted by Orange County United Way as an online event on Saturday, June 21st at 9:00 AM; additional information can accessed on Orange County United Way's website.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Commission to Address Homelessness Update

a. Membership Ad Hoc

The Membership Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc) updated the application materials for commission membership to include two additional questions to assist the Ad Hoc in evaluating the candidate's experience and involvement in initiatives to address homelessness and making their nominations for appointment; the recruitment for 11 seats will be conducted in two phases, with Phase 1 starting in June and Phase 2 in August.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

2. Office of Care Coordination Update

a. OC Outreach & Engagement

Announced that the OC Outreach & Engagement Team (formerly 'Blue Shirts') from OC Health Care Agency will be transitioned to the Office of Care Coordination effective July 1st.

b. OC Same Day Solutions Fair

After the success of the first OC Same Day Solutions Fair a second event for the South Service Planning Area is planned for mid-late summer to be hosted in the City of Lake Forest and future events in the cities of Orange and Costa Mesa.

c. 2025 Homeless Survey

Results of the 2025 Homeless Survey will be presented to the Commission at the August meeting. A second joint meeting of the Commission and Continuum of Care Board is contemplated in early September to review results and collaborate on next steps.

d. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 6

Final applications for HHAP Round 6 funding are due in August and the Office of Care Coordination is facilitating community engagement sessions required for the Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plan, which are scheduled for July 7th, 8th and 10th.

3. Commissioner Spotlight – Commissioner Benjamin Hurst, The Salvation Army

Commissioner Hurst presented efforts by The Salvation Army to address homelessness, including the Anaheim Emergency Shelter, the Center of Hope, the Center for Applied Research and Innovation and the Life Transformation Center.

PRESENTATIONS

4. Weather Activated RoomMs (WARM) for Families Program presented by Madelynn Hirneise, Chief Executive Officer, Families Forward

Presentation included WARM program overview, outcomes and lessons learned for motel placements for unsheltered families with elementary school-aged children during inclement weather events between January and April 2025.

5. Homeless Death Review Committee: Report on 2023 Homeless Deaths presented by Kelly Estrada, Assistant Chief Deputy Coroner, Orange County Sheriff's Department

Presentation included data on the manner and causes of Persons Experiencing Homelessness deaths between 2013 to 2023.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

6. State Legislative Update presented by Peter DeMarco, Director of Legislative Affairs, County Executive Office and Nicole Wordelman, Legislative Advocate with Precision Advocacy

Presentation included updates on the State Budget after the May Revise related to homelessness funding, housing funding, and related legislative efforts to provide exemption from California Environmental Quality Act requirements for certain housing projects.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Approve Commission to End Homelessness minutes from the April 16, 2025, regular meeting
On the motion of Vice Chair Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Parks, the Commission approved the minutes as recommended.

ADJOURNED: 2:57 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: August 20, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

*Valerie Sanchez, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board
Clerk of the Commission*

*Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento
Chair*