

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Location:
The Village at 17th Street
Large Community Room
1505 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Virtual Meeting Option*:
Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)
Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171
Webinar ID: 918 5645 3249

Listen-in option only

Committee Chair: Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options

Committee Members:

Jude Abusham, Student in Orange County
Brateil Aghasi, WISEPlace
Patience Biosah, Individual
Barbara Burke, Individual
Deborah Kraft, Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Orange County Family Violence Council's (OCFVC) Homelessness Domestic Violence (DV)-Sexual Assault (SA) Task Force, Housing is a Human Right OC (HHROC), Stronger Women United, DV Policy Advocate
Mark Lee, Radiant Futures
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward
Lydia Nationalesta, City of Lake Forest
Wendy Seiden, OCFVC Homelessness-DV-SA Task Force
Tianna Terry, Friendship Shelter, Individual Coordinated Entry System (CES)
Cynthia Thouvenel, Ohlone Tribe Non-Profit
Katherine Tan, Individual
Sharon Wie, Interval House

MINUTES

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.

Welcome and Introductions – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Chair Maricela Rios-Faust called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Present: Brateil Aghasi, Patience Biosah, Mark Lee, Nishtha Mohendra, Lydia Natoinalesta, Maricela Rios-Faust, Wendy Seiden, Tianna Terry

Absent Excused: Deborah Kraft, Katherine Tan, and Sharon Wie

Absent: Jude Abusham, Barbara Burke, and Cynthia Thouvenel

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the DV 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 DV Committee. Public comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes. Members of the public utilizing interpreter services will be given double the amount of time to provide public comment.

To address the DV Committee, members of the public are to complete a Request to Address the Committee form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to Continuum of Care (CoC) 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 meeting will be distributed to the DV Committee members, and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “Domestic Violence Committee Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

Public Comment:

- Alan Achterberg expressed frustration over the lack of response from domestic violence resources despite multiple attempts to seek help. Instead of filing grievance forms, Alan Achterberg chose to publicly document these concerns, criticizing the system for prioritizing structure over its mission. Alan Achterberg emphasized the need for innovation in support systems using modern technology and referenced upcoming HIPAA regulations aimed at improving privacy and efficiency. Alan Achterberg also shared a historical note about Metaverse Mod Squad.
- Shakoya Green Long expressed gratitude for the opportunity to join in the meeting and shared information about Thomas House Family Shelter, where Shakoya Green Long serves as CEO.

DV Committee Member Comments – Members of the DV Committee may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the DV Committee. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five members wishing to speak, this time will be reduced to two minutes.

- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust introduced Shakoya Green Long and Sammie Martinez, who are both recently appointed CoC Board Members interested in joining the DV Committee.
- Tianna Terry introduced a colleague from Friendship Shelter, who serves as a part of the team administering the Survivor Coordinated Entry System.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2024.
2. Approve the 2025 DV Committee Meeting Calendar.

Nishtha Mohendra motioned to approve Consent Calendar Items 1-2. Wendy Seiden seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. CoC Updates – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Felicia Boehringer provided updates regarding federal funding, sharing that the Office of Care Coordination is continuing to stay up-to-date on the actions of the current administration and is sharing relevant information with CoC-funded agencies. An item related to the recent executive orders and their potential impacts to the funding of the Orange County CoC will be added to the agenda of the February 26, 2025, CoC Board meeting. Felicia Boehringer added that the Office of Care Coordination encourages CoC General Members and organizations to stay updated by subscribing to distribution lists. Additionally, Felicia Boehringer recognized that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and shared details about Human Options' #HEALTHYLOVE campaign. Finally, Felicia Boehringer shared information regarding the upcoming CoC meetings.

Committee Discussion:

- Mark Lee shared information regarding a four-week-long workshop being hosted by Radiant Futures to teach teens about healthy relationships.

2. CoC Strategic Plan – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

- a. Focused discussion related to CoC Strategic Plan.

Sarah Jones shared information regarding the DV Committee vision-setting discussion and how it tied into the CoC Strategic Plan. Sarah Jones covered key feedback from the vision-setting discussion at the DV Committee meeting on December 17, 2024, and provided details regarding the CoC Leadership Vision Ad Hoc as well as a timeline of the CoC Strategic Plan activities. Sarah Jones noted that while the Strategic Aims and Objectives are fixed as part of the framework for the Strategic Plan, the Strategies and Actions can be adjusted to reflect the feedback provided during the implementation planning process. Sarah Jones shared that the Office of Care Coordination analyzed the DV Committee's vision-setting discussion and two key overarching topics emerged from feedback provided: 1) increased survivor focus/influence within the CoC Strategic Plan and 2) enhanced cross-committee collaboration within the CoC. Sarah Jones went over several of the Strategic Aims and Objectives that connected to the DV Committee's vision-setting ideas and feedback. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust then led a discussion on what Strategic Aims or Objectives feel relevant to the work of the DV Committee and if any changes or additions to the drafted Strategies and Actions are desired. As next steps, the Office of Care Coordination will compile feedback and notes to bring back to the next DV Committee meeting and prepare insights and feedback to be shared at a future CoC Board Meeting.

Public Comment:

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- Alan Achterberg shared experience discussing technology solutions with different entities. Moving forward, Alan Achterberg suggests sharing ideas to accelerate progress and appreciates efforts around data collection and reporting.
- Alan Achterberg shared public comment via email in advance of the DV Committee meeting, stating that it would be helpful to let people know that efforts are underway on Objective 1A to share information for self-advocacy. Alan Achterberg expressed frustration with the system's inability to advocate for those in need, emphasizing the importance of providing the right information and support. Alan Achterberg shared a personal experience where attempts to reach out to domestic violence resources in the Continuum of Care went unanswered, and feedback was dismissed. Alan Achterberg called for a way to break through the barriers created by agencies and nonprofits, feeling that the system is too difficult to navigate. Finally, Alan Achterberg shared information about finding one's own legal support.
- Shakoya Green Long explained that the Vision Ad Hoc developed the Strategic Vision with the intention that each committee would determine how to break down and implement the details necessary to achieve the Objectives. Shakoya Green Long also shared insights from the National Women's Shelter Network Conference in Washington, D.C., where over 400 shelters were represented. Topics included capital campaigning, program services, trauma-informed care, and federal funding. Shakoya Green Long led a panel on aftercare services and worked to educate legislators on the Women's and Family Protection Act, advocating for \$5 million in funding to support shelters.

Committee Discussion:

- Nishtha Mohendra requested clarification on the distinction between Objectives and Strategies and whether additional Actions were expected to be created by the DV Committee. Nishtha Mohendra emphasized the complexity of defining Objectives, particularly around long-term housing vouchers and domestic violence case reporting, and suggested a special meeting for deeper discussion. Nishtha Mohendra appreciated the commitment to the CES process and stressed the importance of addressing systemic inequities in strategies for supporting survivors, while considering affordability and the evolving language of federal policies. Additionally, Nishtha Mohendra questioned where legal updates should be integrated and raised concerns about data collection, funding alignment, and survivor support. Nishtha Mohendra also sought insights from Shakoya Green Long and Brateil Aghasi on key takeaways from a recent conference.
- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust emphasized integrating key objectives into the overall plan, refining strategies, and aligning discussions across committees. The focus areas identified by the DV Committee included developing standardized trainings, making systems-level policy changes, and prioritizing resource development.. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust framed the discussion questions and encouraged feedback on the CoC Strategic Plan, particularly regarding chronic homelessness and domestic violence survivors' access to housing resources. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust highlighted the need to engage agencies who provide specialized care and advocate for additional domestic violence-specific housing vouchers. Additionally, Chair Maricela Rios-Faust stressed the importance of tracking non-HMIS-reported DV cases, ensuring trauma-informed practices, and keeping strategies adaptable over the next three to five years. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust provided

additional feedback and proposed edits to various Objectives. A special meeting of the DV Committee was suggested to refine the feedback proposed to the CoC Strategic Plan.

- Tianna Terry acknowledged the large amount of information provided in the presentation and expressed the need for more time to process it. Tianna Terry asked if the goal of the CoC Strategic Plan is to have everything integrated and fully operational within a year or if pieces will be reviewed and recommendations made gradually. Tianna Terry highlighted concerns about data tracking and data quality, suggested revisiting prioritization for survivors, and emphasized the need for further discussion and reflection on how to improve the SCES matching processes, policies, and procedures.
- Wendy Seiden asked if there are any differences between this CoC Strategic Plan and what was presented in the previous survey and webinar provided. Wendy Seiden emphasized the need to explicitly include “safety” in Strategic Aim 1, highlighting concerns about people being housed in unsafe situations. Wendy Seiden stressed the importance of language used and that prioritizing efficiency over safety has been a past issue. Wendy Seiden also highlighted how environmental racism connects to lack of safety. Additionally, Wendy Seiden shared that the Orange County Family Violence Council Task Force will host a training about self-care on March 21, 2025, and a discussion about human trafficking on April 18, 2025, both via Zoom, and invited committee meeting attendees to email if interested in participating.
- Mark Lee observed a lack of equitable strategies reflected in the CoC Strategic Plan, and invited additional insight from members of the Vision Ad Hoc. Mark Lee noted that further discussion is needed on vision-setting ideas. Mark Lee emphasized the importance of continuing the conversation on the CoC Strategic Plan, so that it can feel more natural. Mark Lee pointed out that the vision-setting idea to “provide Financial Literacy Training for Survivors” may not fit neatly within the context of Strategic Aim 1.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Adjournment to: Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at The Village at 17th Street Large Community Room (1505 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92705).