

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Wednesday, September 3, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:

**County Administration South (CAS)
County Conference Center 104
425 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701
[Click here](#) for parking instructions.**

Virtual Meeting Option:

Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)

Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171

Webinar ID: 923 4439 7221

****Listen-in option only****

Committee Chair: Robert “Santa Bob” Morse

Committee Vice Chair: Paul Kaiser, Individual

Committee Members:

Reha Agar, Individual

Elizabeth Flores, Individual

Nichole Gideon, Individual

Deborah Kraft, Individual

Miranda Mears, Individual

Jason Mercado, Individual

Larry “Smitty” Smith, Individual

Melissa Welsh, Individual

Vinny Zarrella, Individual

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@ceo.oc.gov Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided.

Welcome and Meeting Overview – Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Chair

Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present: Larry “Smitty” Smith, Nichole Gideon, Reha Agar, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Vinny Zarrella, Melissa Welsh, Elizabeth Flores, Miranda Mears

Absent Excused: Deborah Kraft, Jason Mercado

Elizabeth Flores and Miranda Mears arrived during Business Calendar Item 1.

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) 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 LEAC. 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 LEAC during the Public Comment period, 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@ceo.oc.gov. All comments submitted via email at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the LEAC members, and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “LEAC Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the LEAC Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2025.

Nichole Gideon motioned to approve Consent Calendar Item 1. Melissa Welsh seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. Vice Chair Paul Kaiser abstained from voting. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **Coordinated Entry System (CES) Updates** – Daniel Garcia, CES Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Daniel Garcia provided context to the role of CES and provided background to recent updates including proposed revisions to CES Policies and Procedures, specifically changes made to shelter preference for households not experiencing chronic homelessness. Daniel Garcia explained the proposed CES 2-for-1 Match Policy, required criteria for properties to be eligible, and the planned workflow. Daniel Garcia provided updates on new CES trainings and CES Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, which was drafted with feedback from the LEAC.

Committee Discussion:

- Nichole Gideon asked if the proposed changes have been presented at the CES Steering Committee, how these changes differed from prior changes made to prioritization for those experiencing Chronic Homelessness, and the approval process. Nichole Gideon asked about the

possibility of prioritizing more households not experiencing Chronic Homelessness, expressed thanks for the thorough approach to the CES 2-for-1 Match Policy, and asked how many properties have been requesting 2-for-1 matches. Nichole Gideon stated that having the CES FAQs publicly available online will be beneficial for those experiencing homelessness to gain a better understanding of the CES System.

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked for the addition of a formal six-month review after the implementation of the CES 2-for-1 Match Process.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked if secondary matches will be informed and suggested shifting away from current housing choice practices utilized by CES. Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked how this application process differs from the standard application process with the Public Housing Authorities and inquired on the steps that will be taken in the event both matches are approved.
- Melissa Welsh asked who is responsible for monitoring the timeframes mentioned in the 2-for-1 Match Policy, and whether the policy accounts for potential delays due to communication. Melissa Welsh stated that information being made available on the CES Instagram account is beneficial to service providers training new staff.

2. CoC Committee Representative Appointment – Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Felicia Boehringer discussed the desired process for LEAC members to identify representatives to attend CoC Committee meetings that do not have formal memberships. Felicia Boehringer emphasized equity and inclusion, provided various appointment structure options, and discussed the appointment process options, before opening the discussion for member input.

Committee Discussion:

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked if the appointment process would apply to existing requests from the Office of Care Coordination for LEAC member participation.
- Vinny Zarrella expressed interest in participating in other committees on behalf of the LEAC and preferred a flexible month-to-month online sign-up form option over a more formal appointment process.
- Nichole Gideon expressed preference for month-to-month flexibility, with emphasis on allowing all interested members to go, and discussed the possibility of continuous self sign-ups. Nichole Gideon highlighted the importance of maintaining flexibility and how allowing multiple members to participate at different levels of commitment may benefit the LEAC.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser supported a formal nomination and voting process since the individual appointed would formally represent the LEAC and believes the duration should mirror LEAC term of that individual. Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked about the process of differentiating the appointed representative versus individuals who want to attend on their own as individuals, and how the compensation process would apply to each.
- Larry “Smitty” Smith asked if LEAC members can still attend meetings outside of the appointment process, and how LEAC members can bring feedback they have from other meetings to the LEAC.
- Elizabeth Flores expressed preference for one person being appointed for the calendar year, with a formal voting process, and a second person being appointed monthly, without a formal voting process.

3. CoC and General Updates – Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination and Nichole Gideon, CoC Board Secretary

Nichole Gideon provided updates from the CoC Board including the approval of the Lived Experience Compensation Framework, the appointment of additional members to the HMIS Working Group, and the establishment of three-year CoC Board terms and two term limits. Nichole Gideon also highlighted the appointment of the 2025 CoC Nominating Ad Hoc and the approval of the strategic goals to guide the implementation of the CoC Strategic Plan. Felicia Boehringer provided updates on the ramp up process with Orange County United Way for the Lived Experience Compensation Framework and the transition process. Jasmin Miranda highlighted National Alliance to End Homelessness' blog posts on the July 24, 2025, Executive Order and the value of focusing on reliable sources of information, anticipated changes to the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity timeframes, and the upcoming 2026 Point in Time Count. Jasmin Miranda recapped the Same Day Solutions Fair from July, invited members to attend the upcoming Same Day Solutions Fairs in September and November, and reviewed upcoming meetings and an employment opportunity.

4. LEAC Member Comments – Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Chair

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse highlighted a recent groundbreaking ceremony for a new project with American Family Housing.
- Elizabeth Flores discussed updates from American Family Housing on new motel conversions and the recent groundbreaking ceremony.

Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the County Administration North (CAN) Multipurpose Room, 400 W. Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701