ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

County Administration South (CAS)

Multipurpose Room

601 N. Ross St., Rooms 104/106

Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599

Click Here for parking information.

<u>Virtual Meeting Option*</u>:

Zoom Meeting Link: <u>Click here for meeting link</u> Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 999 5994 4290

Committee Chair: Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward

Committee Members:

Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Andrew Crowe, Scholarship Prep
Melanie McQueen, PATH
Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Orangewood Foundation
Robert "Santa Bob" Morse, Individual
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options

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 Introductions – Nishtha Mohendra, Chair

Chair Nishtha Mohendra called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Present: Judson Brown, Andrew Crowe, Melanie McQueen, Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert "Santa Bob" Morse, Dawn Price, and Maricela Rios-Faust.

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) 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 PPS 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 PPS Committee 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 PPS Committee members and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include "PPS Committee Meeting Comment" in the email subject line.

Public Comments:

 Milo Peinemann discussed the anticipated need for changes in response to federal funding shifts, to support households that are housed in programs such as Permanent Supportive Housing and may be at risk of losing their housing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the PPS Committee Meeting minutes from August 12, 2025.

Robert "Santa Bob" Morse motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Chair Nishtha Mohendra issued a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

 Orange County CoC Governance Charter Revisions – Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Jasmin Miranda provided background on the CoC Board nomination and election process and reviewed feedback received through the Nominating Ad Hoc's Governance Charter review, such as board term lengths, the special election process for vacancies, and changes to language on Board Composition. Each year, the Orange County CoC Board establishes a CoC Nominating Ad Hoc to support the annual review of the Orange County CoC Governance Charter and facilitate the CoC Board selection process for the CoC Board seats expiring in December. Section V.B.2 – Section V.B.4 of the Governance Charter was reviewed in detail, and the 2025 CoC Nominating Ad Hoc and Collaborative Applicant are recommending the proposed revisions to the Governance Charter.

<u>Recommended Action a</u>: Approve the recommended changes to the Orange County CoC Governance Charter for review and approval by the CoC Board, as recommended by the 2025 CoC Nominating Ad Hoc and Collaborative Applicant.

Dawn Price motioned to approve Business Calendar Item 1. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. During discussion, Judson Brown motioned for a substitute motion. However, the substitute motion did not receive a second motion and was not voted on. Shortly after, Melanie McQueen proposed an amended recommended action.

Amended Recommended Action a: Approve the recommended changes to the Orange County CoC Governance Charter for review and approval by the CoC Board, as recommended by the 2025 CoC Nominating Ad Hoc and Collaborative Applicant, and direct the Office of Care Coordination to make minor edits to ensure consistency of revised language and include relevant, corresponding data sources to ensure representation is captured within the makeup of the CoC Board membership.

Dawn Price motioned to approve amended Recommended Action a. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. Chair Nishtha Mohendra issued a roll call vote. Judson Brown, Andrew Crowe, Melanie McQueen, Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert "Santa Bob" Morse, Dawn Price and Maricela Rios-Faust voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Discussion:

- Judson Brown asked if the governance charter is shared with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and discussed concerns about making the proposed changes without seeing how other CoCs will respond. Judson Brown proposed a substitute motion to maintain diversity, equity, and inclusion language while removing outdated language around dates and previous goals but the motion did not receive a second.
- Chair Nishtha Mohendra asked which other CoCs will be removing language surrounding identities
 from their governance charters and how identities will be determined for Board Composition in
 the future. Chair Nishtha Mohendra proposed updating the motion to include edits to page 16 in
 alignment with proposed edits on page 9 and citing data sources to be used in determining Board
 composition.
- Maricela Rios-Faust asked what data would be used to determine Board Composition, if the CoC would be in breach of contract with HUD if the proposed changes are not made, and the required timeline for approval of these changes. Maricela Rios-Faust proposed that data sources to be used in determining Board composition be cited in the Governance Charter.
- Andrew Crowe suggested waiting to adopt the proposed changes to see how other CoCs respond and noted the various areas of the Governance Charter that contain language around identities.
 Andrew Crowe noted a section of the Governance Charter on page 16 where edits had been missed.
- Dawn Price asked for clarification on the substitute motion proposed by Judson Brown, and whether the term "representative characteristic" could be used instead of "identity".
- Melanie McQueen acknowledged the concerns shared about setting a precedent by removing identity-focused language and highlighted that the changes would allow for added flexibility as federal changes occur.
- Dr. Tiffany Mitchell asked how to ensure that future committee and board members will serve and represent the community in the same way as they have previously.
- Robert "Santa Bob" Morse shared support for the item and expressed that the 2025 CoC
 Nominating Ad Hoc will continue to uphold thoughtful processes to represent the community.

2. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures Recommended Changes – Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Andrew Crowe, CES Steering Committee Chair

Felicia Boehringer provided background on and reviewed the revised CES Policies and Procedures, including the removal of shelter status from the prioritization schema, updates to formatting, and other clarifying language. The Office of Care Coordination sent an updated version of the CES Policies and Procedures for public feedback from June 26, 2025, to July 6, 2025, announced via the CoC and Coordinated Entry email distribution lists. The Office of Care Coordination also received feedback from the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) and CES Steering Committee. Recommended revisions reflected in the revised CES Policies and Procedures that are informed by community feedback include explaining CES prioritization in depth, additional clarification on how Access Points can indicate the populations they serve, defining Open and Closed Access Points, clarifying language on grievance procedures and dynamic matches, and more information on emergency transfers due to concerns relating to domestic or other violence.

<u>Recommended Action a</u>: Approve the revised CES Policies and Procedures, including the removal of shelter status from the prioritization schema, updates to formatting, and other clarifying language, for review and approval by the CoC Board, as recommended by the LEAC and CES Steering Committee.

Melanie McQueen motioned to approve Business Calendar Item 2. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Chair Nishtha Mohendra issued a roll call vote. Andrew Crowe, Melanie McQueen, Robert "Santa Bob" Morse, Dawn Price and Maricela Rios-Faust voted yes. Judson Brown and Dr. Tiffany Mitchell voted no. Nishtha Mohendra abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Carina Bravo of Salvation Army discussed shelter performance expectations, in which participant stays should be 90 days or less, and expressed concerns regarding how the removal of shelter preferences may impact those numbers.
- Juan Montiel of the City of Santa Ana shared opposition to the removal of shelter preference, expressing a belief that unsheltered participants are not prepared for housing and emphasizing that housing should be used as a reward for those who are enrolled and compliant in shelter. Juan Montiel also expressed that participants in shelter learn valuable life skills that better prepare them for housing.

Committee Discussion:

- Dawn Price asked if LEAC involvement in CES Policies and Procedures changes is a required or an
 optional process, and shared insight as a shelter provider on the vulnerability of unsheltered
 populations, while expressing the importance of housing as a human right. Dawn Price shared
 that historically, data has shown shelter prioritization in Orange County has not impacted shelter
 flow and/or length of stay.
- Judson Brown shared that the City of Santa Ana and the City of Anaheim are in opposition to the
 removal of shelter preference and asked that the PPS Committee members respect the decision
 of these cities, noting that both cities have the largest number of shelter beds and PSH units when
 compared to other cities in Orange County. Judson Brown expressed concern that the public
 comment period had included a holiday and cited the length of shelter stays increasing over the
 previous five years as the reason for opposition to this change.

- Andrew Crowe shared insights on the process the CES Steering Committee went through to move forward with the proposed changes.
- Melanie McQueen expressed that the changes uphold low-barrier practices, and that shelter placement is not a condition or prerequisite for participants to access housing opportunities.
- Chair Nishtha Mohendra shared that shelter preference is detrimental to families, due to a low number of shelter beds for families and asked how the amendment originated.

3. CoC Updates – Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Jasmin Miranda reviewed upcoming CoC meetings, an upcoming Small-Scale Housing Summit, changes to the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) implementation deadline, and dates for the 2026 Point in Time Count.

Committee Discussion:

 Maricela Rios-Faust shared the importance of committing to being open to changes and revisiting topics as changes occur, specifically in regards to the federal funding landscape.

Chair Nishtha Mohendra adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment to: Regular meeting on November 11, 2025, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the CAS Multipurpose Rooms 103/105, located at 601 N. Ross St., Santa Ana, CA 92701.