

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

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:

**County Administration North (CAN)
Multipurpose Room 101
400 W. Civic Center Dr., 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 10:00 a.m.

Present: Deborah Kraft, Elizabeth Flores, Larry “Smitty” Smith, Nichole Gideon, Paul Kaiser, Reha Agar, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Vinny Zarrella, Jason Mercado, Melissa Welsh.

Absent Excused: Miranda Mears

Elizabeth Flores arrived during Consent Calendar Item 1. Reha Agar arrived during Business Calendar Item 1. Vinny Zarrella arrived during Business Calendar Item 2.

1. Request for Virtual Participation

The Brown Act allows exceptions for members of legislative bodies to participate remotely under two specified circumstances: (1) “Just Cause” or (2) “Emergency Circumstances”. At least a quorum of the committee must be participating in-person for the exception(s) to be voted on and enacted. Following the Call to Order, Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse referenced a request for committee member Deborah Kraft to join virtually due to “Just Cause”.

Recommended Action: Allow Deborah Kraft to participate remotely for today’s LEAC meeting.

Vice Chair Paul Kaiser motioned to approve the Recommended Action to allow Deborah Kraft to participate remotely. Jason Mercado seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

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.

Public Comment:

- Carrie Buck highlighted an event hosted by Orange County United Way for their Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Campaign on November 15, 2025, and discussed ongoing advocacy efforts to address recent federal funding changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the LEAC Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2025.

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Orange County United Way (OCUW) Compensation for Lived Experience Program Update – Marina Garcia, Lived Experience Partnership Manager, and Carrie Buck, Senior Director, United to End Homelessness, OCUW

Carrie Buck provided background on Orange County United Way, gave updates on the Compensation for Lived Experience Program, and introduced Marina Garcia as the Lived Experience Partnership Manager. Marina Garcia discussed the value of lived experience, the compensation methods available through the Compensation for Lived Experience Program, addressed frequently asked questions, and provided contact information.

Public Comment:

- Sammie MarTinez submitted a public comment via email prior to the meeting. Sammie MarTinez emphasized the need for gift card vendors to be chosen thoughtfully, keeping in mind the general price ranges of vendors and access to necessities such as fresh, healthy food. Sammie MarTinez discussed the importance of CES policies reflecting the realities faced by survivors of domestic violence, the high cost of living leading households to re-enter homelessness, and the trauma that can be caused by events such as large sweeps of local encampments conducted by law enforcement. Sammie MarTinez shared appreciation for the discussion of compensation for lived experienced and emphasized that the considerations be taken seriously.

Committee Discussion:

- Jason Mercado asked how compensation will be handled for other committees.

2. Coordinated Entry System (CES) 2-for-1 Match Policy Recommendation – Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Andrew Crowe, CES Steering Committee Chair

Felicia Boehringer provided background on the CES 2-for-1 Match Policy, including the purpose of developing a policy for 2-for-1 matches and the goal of putting the policy in practice, and reviewed next steps. Andrew Crowe discussed revisions that have been made based on feedback. Felicia Boehringer discussed the flow of the 2-for-1 Match Policy and highlighted safeguards that have been put in place to ensure clarity to households participating in the process.

Recommended Action a: Approve the proposed CES 2-for-1 Match Policy for review and approval by the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee, as recommended by the CES Steering Committee.

Nichole Gideon motioned to approve Business Calendar Item 2. Elizabeth Flores seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Discussion:

- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked why households cannot be a secondary match and remain on the Community Queue.

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked if the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) can be updated to allow households to maintain Community Queue enrollment while being a secondary match.
- Melissa Welsh discussed the capability of HMIS as platform and shared that the policy will improve ease of navigation for service providers.
- Nichole Gideon shared approval for the revisions that have been made, and asked if there will be a one year follow up assessment to gauge effectiveness.
- Larry “Smitty” Smith asked if future changes to this policy will be brought back to LEAC for review.
- Elizabeth Flores expressed appreciation that LEAC feedback was taken into consideration when revisions were made to the policy.

3. 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 CES Policies and Procedures recommended changes and revisions that have been made, including the removal of shelter preference for those not experiencing chronic homelessness and the anticipated impact of the removal of this preference.

Recommended Action a: Approve 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 PPS Committee, as recommended by the CES Steering Committee.

Paul Kaiser motioned to approve Business Calendar Item 3. Nichole Gideon seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Discussion:

- Deborah Kraft asked how chronic homelessness is defined.
- Nichole Gideon asked how households returning to homelessness would be prioritized if they had met the chronic homelessness definition prior to being housed.

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

Nichole Gideon provided a recap of the recent CoC Board Meeting (September 24, 2025), including fiscal and resource mapping beginning, the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) request for proposals, submission of the CoC Builds Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) application, and discussion of the CoC Strategic Plan. Jasmin Miranda discussed the 2025 Homelessness Survey, presented at the Joint CoC Board and Commission to Address Homelessness meeting, and the recently announced 2026 Point in Time (PIT) Count date and Ad Hoc planning process. Jasmin Miranda provided information on the upcoming Small Scale Housing Summit, the Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Housing Voucher Program referral process, and upcoming CoC meetings.

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

- a. Members of the LEAC may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the LEAC.

Member Comments:

- Larry “Smitty” Smith discussed concerns surrounding the language being used by media when discussing individuals experiencing homelessness and suggested stronger performance metric requirements for service providers.
- Nichole Gideon discussed Orange County United Way advocacy efforts, the importance of working alongside service providers to address homelessness, and the households enrolled in programs that are at risk of losing funding due to federal changes. Nichole Gideon highlighted the National Alliance of End Homelessness newsletter, the potential need for a working group to develop contingency plans and asked when current grant terms are set to expire.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked if the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had provided a reason for the decrease in permanent supportive housing funding and suggested that the County of Orange ask the Governor to impose a moratorium on evictions and declare a state of emergency.
- Deborah Kraft asked if there is a timeline for when the next budget or funding changes will occur.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the County Administration South (CAS) County Conference Center 104, 425 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701.

Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.