

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

**County Administration South (CAS) Building
County Conference Center
425 West Santa Ana Blvd. Room 104/106
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599
[Click Here](#) for parking information.**

Virtual Meeting Option*:

**Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)
Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171
Webinar ID: 948 5702 2698**

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

MINUTES

Board Members

LaVal Brewer, South County Outreach
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
Andrew Crowe, Scholarship Prep
Nichole Gideon, Individual [Secretary]
Shakoya Green Long, Thomas House Family Shelter
Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, OC United Way
Marisol Johnson, Dayle McIntosh Center
Sandra Lozeau, City of Anaheim
Sammie MarTínez, Individual
Melanie McQueen, PATH

Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Orangewood Foundation
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward [Vice Chair]
Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual
Talesha Payne, Individual
Jason Phillips, Individual
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options
George Searcy, Individual
Tim Shaw, Individual
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Individual [Chair]

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.

Supporting documentation is available for review by the public at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings and at least 24 hours prior to special meetings of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board. Those wishing to review supporting documentation can visit the CoC Webpage [here](#) or the lobby of the County Administration North (CAN) Building, located 400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599, and request a copy of the

meeting materials from the Office of Care Coordination during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Call to Order – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Chair

Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Nichole Gideon, Secretary

Present: Judson Brown, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Shakoya Green Long, Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Marisol Johnson, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy, Tim Shaw and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells.

Absent Excused: LaVal Brewer, Sandra Lozeau, Sammie MarTínez and Dr. Tiffany Mitchell.

Absent: Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson and Talesha Payne.

Jason Phillips arrived during the Consent Calendar. George Searcy arrived during the Business Calendar Item 1. Shakoya Green Long left during Business Calendar Item 3 and did not vote on Business Calendar Item 4. Nichole Gideon left during Business Calendar Item 4 and did not vote on Business Calendar Item 4.

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the CoC Board 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 CoC Board. Members of the public may address the CoC Board with public comments on agenda items in the business calendar after the agenda item presentation. 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 CoC Board, members of the public who are attending in person are to complete a Request to Address the CoC Board form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to CoC Board staff. Staff will call your name in the order received.

Members of the public, including those listening in via the virtual meeting option, 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 CoC Board meeting will be distributed to the CoC Board members for their consideration and all comments submitted prior to the meeting will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “CoC Board Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

Board Member Comments: Members of the CoC Board may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2025.
2. Approve the CoC Board and Commission to Address Homelessness Joint Special Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2025.
3. Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from September 25, 2025.

Nishtha Mohendra motioned to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 3. Dawn Price seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called for a voice vote. No nays and no abstentions. The motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. HomeAid Family Care Center Update – Gina Cunningham, Executive Director, HomeAid Orange County and Los Angeles

Gina Cunningham shared background on HomeAid with its primary purpose as a housing developer before opening and operating a family shelter, the Family Care Center (FCC). Gina Cunningham explained that FCC has been sold to Homeless Intervention Services of Orange County (HIS-OC) and thanked Christine Stellino, Executive Director for HIS-OC, for supporting the transition into the system of care, emphasizing its role in providing emergency and transitional housing. HIS OC works with partners to support families, Transitional Age Youth (TAY), and seniors, offering innovative housing solutions tailored to each population. Christine Stellino shared success stories, as well as the structure for new food operations to provide three meals and two snacks daily. HIS-OC collaborates with the City of Orange Police Department to enhance safety and community relationships. Christine Stellino highlighted that the FCC has extended housing stability and partnered with California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) to strengthen support systems. Gina Cunningham urged continued awareness of family homelessness in the County and expressed gratitude to HomeAid and HIS-OC for their commitment and impact to the system.

Board Member Discussion:

- On behalf of Sammie MarTínez, Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells asked how an individual accesses HIS-OC services and what is the age eligibility for services.
- Vice Chair Nishtha Mohendra thanked Gina Cunningham and Christine Stellino for continued support and collaboration to ensure families stay housed and continue to be served.

2. Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Recommendations – Nishtha Mohendra, PPS Committee Chair, Andrew Crowe, Coordinated Entry System (CES) Steering Committee Chair and Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Felicia Boehringer provided background and timelines outlining the ongoing work to review the CES Policies and Procedures. Felicia Boehringer emphasized the importance of discussions within both the Lived Experience Advisory Committee and the PPS Committee, noting that the review aims to align with the CES vision statement, ensuring equitable access to long-term housing stability for all; with the overall goal to promote a low-barrier and inclusive approach. Douglas Becht added context, explaining that the proposed removal of the shelter policy is part of broader feedback and Office of Care Coordination review. Douglas Becht explained this change aligns with CoC principles, which do not mandate a specific path out of homelessness reminding members that many individuals enter, or do not enter, shelter for various reasons, and requiring shelter entry as a condition can be exclusionary. Douglas Becht elevated the 2023 Homeless Survey concerns about safety and privacy in shelters, and data suggests that extended shelter stays are more reflective of limited housing options rather than CES policy shortcomings. Andrew Crowe expressed appreciation for the input from CoC Board members and Office of Care Coordination. Andrew Crowe noted that PPS feedback emphasized that shelter status should not be a barrier or prerequisite for accessing services.

Felicia Boehringer also presented updates to the CoC Governance Charter, incorporating feedback from the PPS Committee. Felicia Boehringer shared key revisions included clarifying the process for filling board vacancies, reaffirming the three-year board term with flexibility for periodic review, and initiating a survey to gauge current board members' interest in continuing their service. Felicia Boehringer also reviewed the overall timeline for these changes, noting that while Riverside CoC is not making immediate updates, they are following a similar schedule and working with consultants to ensure compliance with CoC grant requirements.

Felicia Boehringer explained the rationale behind each proposed change, including the use of an updated prioritization tool for board composition and nominations. Felicia Boehringer emphasized the importance of using HUD-approved data sources and other relevant metrics to guide decisions. Additional updates aim to improve consistency in general membership and support a full charter review when feasible. Felicia Boehringer shared that the CoC Nominating Ad Hoc confirmed plans to continue using the prioritization tool, with the Office of Care Coordination reporting back to the CoC Board for accountability. If approved, these changes will launch the nomination and election process for the current year

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, as recommended by the PPS Committee, Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) and CES Steering Committee.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approved Recommended Action a. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called for a roll call vote. Andrew Crowe, Shakoya Green Long, Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Marisol Johnson, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy, Tim Shaw and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells voted yes. Judson Brown voted no. Nichole Gideon abstained. The motion passed.

Recommended Action b: Approve the recommended changes to the Orange County CoC Governance Charter, as recommended by the PPS Committee, 2025 CoC Nominating Ad Hoc and Collaborative Applicant.

Andrew Crowe motioned to approve Recommended Action b. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. During discussion, a substitute motion was introduced by Tim Shaw but was withdrawn. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called for a roll call vote. Judson Brown, Andrew Crowe, Nichole Gideon, Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Melanie McQueen, Nishtha Mohendra, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Jason Phillips, Dawn Price, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells voted yes. Shakoya Green Long and Tim Shaw voted no. Marisol Johnson abstained. The motion passed.

Substitute Motion: Approve Recommended Action b, excluding Section V.B.2 CoC Board Composition, to take as a separate Recommended Action Item.

Tim Shaw motioned to approve Substitute Motion. George Searcy seconded the motion. During discussion, Tim Shaw withdrew the Substitute Motion.

Public Comment:

- Aubrey Sitler expressed appreciation for the group and acknowledged the work to embed diversity into the process. Aubrey Sitler emphasized the importance of continuing the conversation in the months ahead and maintaining a commitment to equity, not just in written language but through meaningful action. Aubrey Sitler encouraged CoC Board members to support new members during transitions and to critically engage with upcoming changes, including executive orders and new funding competitions. Aubrey Sitler cautioned that certain types of language may no longer be permissible in future contexts, underscoring the need to preserve the ethos already reflected in the current work. Aubrey Sitler framed this as a strategic move to stay ahead of potential challenges and reminded the group that the CoC Governance Charter is updated annually, allowing for continued refinement.

Board Member Discussion:

- Tim Shaw expressed interest in the specific conversation and dialogue from the LEAC regarding the proposed CES Policies and Procedures and emphasized the importance of clarity that the CES Policies and Procedures were reviewed by the LEAC. For the governance charter revisions, Tim Shaw

emphasized the importance of recognizing the significant time, money, and effort invested in developing policies and procedures that promote racial accessibility and inclusion. Tim Shaw reflected on the thoughtful and difficult conversations that led to meaningful changes in the nomination process and cautioned against removing language that reflects that progress. Tim Shaw expressed concern that eliminating the language would undermine the intentional work done to diversify the board; and stated he could not support the motion as written, as it would erase the values and commitments that were carefully built into the process. Tim Shaw agreed with George Searcy concerns, noting that even small changes in elected leadership could shift the direction of policies and stressed that is should be considered. Tim Shaw acknowledged the difficulty of the conversation and emphasized the importance of having it publicly. Tim Shaw expressed concern about the CoC Board not crossing a line where demands become unsustainable and thanked everyone for their thoughtful contributions.

- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse clarified that LEAC was consulted on the CES Policies and Procedures and voted to approve what is stated in the recommended action. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse stated that the current CoC Nominating Ad Hoc has made it clear they are willing to drop the language but will continue to be able hold the values by using the prioritization tool.
- Judson Brown thanked Douglas Becht for the additional context but stated he would be the sole “no” vote. Judson Brown acknowledged bias and explained the strong stance stems from concerns about the City of Santa Ana housing unsheltered individuals from outside the City of Santa Ana, particularly from areas less committed to housing solutions. Judson Brown framed the issues as a policy question with two parts, first should outreach and engagement staff prioritize referring people to shelter or housing and second should shelters be the preferred option for those experiencing homelessness. Judson Brown believed shelter should remain a priority and should not have been removed from the preference for those experiencing chronic homelessness in 2022. Judson Brown respects the importance of choice and safety but is deeply concerned about the increasing length of shelter stays and argues that the data suggest the CoC is warehousing individuals in emergency shelters. Judson Brown emphasized that the City of Santa Ana does not support this approach.
- Marisol Johnson shared feelings of conflict, noting that removing shelter preference could benefit those with disabilities since many individuals prefer to decide what is best for themselves. Marisol Johnson highlighted that people with disabilities and “trans” individuals often feel unsafe or find shelters inaccessible. Marisol Johnson stated that comfort and safety should be prioritized and could open doors for those who typically fall through the system. Marisol Johnson praised the inclusive work of the CoC Nominating Ad Hoc in the CoC Governance Charter revisions and emphasized the importance of recording progress. Marisol Johnson expressed joy at finally being included and advocated for keeping inclusive language in place to ensure lasting change.
- Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells added that trans individuals, people with disabilities, and people of color are less likely to engage with shelter services. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrell reflected on the significance of being able to move forward alongside colleagues who sit at the CoC Board. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrell described that the CoC Board faced many challenges over the past year, emphasizing the gap between intent and impact. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrell highlighted the power of language and how it shapes reality, especially when addressing housing equity. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrell noted that while inclusive language was adopted six months ago to support equity in housing, the current conversation risks undoing that progress. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrell stressed that actions speak louder than words and agreed with Dawn Price’s call to preserve the prioritization tools and language that promote equity. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrell advocated for reinserting inclusive language into the CoC Governance Charter by 2029, underscoring the importance of aligning principles with lasting impact.
- Dawn Price offered a different perspective as a shelter provider, explaining that outreach efforts typically aim for shelter placement, but it is up to the individual to decide. Dawn Price mentioned that while paperwork can be completed on the street, safety remains the highest concern and cautioned against misinterpreting shelter stay data. Dawn Price supported the conversation of the CoC

Governance Charter revisions and highlighted the loss of 1,300 housing opportunities if the language not being removed is used against the CoC. Dawn Price warned that policy changes could quickly impact housing access and urged the group to stay ahead of potential risks. Dawn Price advocated for continued use of the prioritization tool when moving elected candidates forward to be approved by the CoC Board.

- Melanie McQueen thanked everyone for the robust discussion and acknowledged both sides of the issue and noted that during the PPS Committee discussion many of these conversations were discussed. Melanie McQueen agreed that shelter stay duration is a concern and emphasized that longer stays are likely directly linked to limited housing opportunities.
- Vice Chair Nishtha Mohendra thanked the staff, PPS Committee, and CoC Nominating Ad Hoc, and recalled the CoC Board leadership's request to review all existing external documents for potential diversity, equity, and inclusive language. Vice Chair Nishtha Mohendra echoed many sentiments shared and spoke as an immigrant and trained social worker. Vice Chair Nishtha Mohendra emphasized the importance of written commitments and warned against removing identity-based language, which could impact future leaders.
- George Searcy shared his perspective, acknowledging the passion others have expressed and affirming that it resonates with his own approach to the work. George Searcy stated that he would not support the motion if it undermined the committee structure and policies that have been carefully developed and are set to sunset in December. While George Searcy views the proposed changes as a potential slippery slope, he expressed trust in the group's ability to uphold its values and continue implementing inclusive administrative policies. George Searcy emphasized that even if certain public-facing language is removed, the individuals involved will carry forward the spirit and integrity of the work.
- Andrew Crowe recalled similar conversations at the PPS Committee regarding the CoC Governance Charter revisions and acknowledged the tension between principles and funding. Andrew Crowe noted as a representative of local Indigenous communities, the values discussed are importance but prioritizing and securing resources to house people is the main goal.
- Maricela Rios-Faust shared that the CoC Governance Charter revisions has been emotionally difficult and emphasized the importance of embedding equity and representation into actual practices, not just discussions. Maricela Rios-Faust shared that a key concern was ensuring that the data being collected is truly comprehensive and reflective of the communities served. Maricela Rios-Faust stressed that if the right data is not captured, representation will continue to fall short and advocated for explicitly integrating inclusive values into procedures, so they are not lost over time, and highlighted the need to safeguard the progress made under the current board leadership. Maricela Rios-Faust commended the Office of Care Coordination and ACStrategies for their work on the prioritization tool and urged continued focus on the data sources that best support equitable decision-making.

Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells declared a short recess at 3:34 p.m. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m.

3. CoC Program – Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, and Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, Office of Care Coordination

Zulima Lundy presented an update on the CoC Program highlighting that most of the CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) funding is directed toward Permanent Housing placements. Zulima Lundy emphasized that current data reflects only a baseline, with CoC-funded programs often exceeding expectations to serve those at risk of homelessness. Zulima Lundy shared that the Office of Care Coordination convened CoC Executive Directors to discuss strategic system improvements, with a shared focus on sustaining housing placements and preventing returns to homelessness. The discussion included exploring alternative program models, funding sustainability, particularly through California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) and CalOptima Health, and the need for long-term solutions. Zulima Lundy noted that many organizations are

actively engaging in follow-up conversations and are open to new approaches. The Commission to Address Homelessness highlighted for its role in keeping households permanently housed, and a motion was approved at the Commission meeting to address funding gaps through a coordinated, system-wide strategy. Zulima Lundy noted that the Office of Care Coordination was directed to draft a memo recommending the identification of additional funding sources such as Proposition 1, CalWORKs, and CalAIM.

Douglas Becht added that significant policy changes are anticipated, and the CoC must be prepared to adapt. Douglas Becht reaffirmed the importance of aligning priorities and ensuring the collaborative application reflects these shifts, committing the Office of Care Coordination's support during this critical time.

Public Comment:

- Julia Bidwell explained that Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) across the country are in varying positions, and not all have the capacity to absorb additional vouchers, this is referred to as a shortfall. Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2025, to discuss changes that would allow OCHA to offer rental assistance, with U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recommending grant-funded programs to help address limitations in federal voucher availability. Julia Bidwell noted that Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) are available, but Mainstream Vouchers (MSV) are fully allocated, and while Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers exist, the CoC grant criteria limit flexibility. Julia Bidwell emphasized that there's currently no capacity to absorb more families into Housing Choice Vouchers and urged the group to assess what can realistically be done. Julia Bidwell stressed the importance of reviewing HUD data and understanding the constraints, while continuing to explore solutions. Julia Bidwell explained background context as to why OCHA was the only housing authority eligible to apply for rental assistance, pointing out that others are navigating different challenges and should be considered in future planning.

Board Member Discussion:

- Becks Heyhoe-Khalil thanked the team for the update and shared recent advocacy developments. Becks Heyhoe-Khalil shared that Vice Chair Nishtha Mohendra, along with the Orange County United Way team met with five legislative members from the Orange County Delegation to discuss key priorities. Following up on previous CoC Board efforts, materials were submitted to the delegation and shared with the team with 837 letters being sent in support of the initiative. Becks Heyhoe-Khalil also noted ongoing engagement with local governmental entities and the philanthropic community, emphasizing the importance of partnership and collective advocacy during this critical time.
- Dawn Price asked a clarifying question about the timing of the memo to the Board of Supervisors, emphasizing the importance of presenting it at the right moment to support advocacy efforts. Dawn Price explained that the intent behind the memo was to leverage the influence of the Supervisors to accelerate progress on key issues.
- Judson Brown shared insights from conversations with PHA colleagues, emphasizing the urgency of addressing the \$18.3 million in funding as substantial risk. Judson Brown noted that while cities often request support for emergency shelters, they are not consistently stepping up to contribute alongside the County and OCHA. Judson Brown urged cities and housing authorities to actively engage and do more to prevent homelessness, especially for the 1,300 families currently at risk. Judson Brown highlighted the importance of adopting a grant-funded "at risk of homelessness" preference, pointing to strong leadership already recommending this approach. Judson Brown stressed that this \$18.3 million is an annual opportunity, and cities like Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Garden Grove must be part of the solution by aligning with this strategy and helping secure long-term housing stability for vulnerable families.
- Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells emphasized the importance of keeping everyone informed, noting that sharing updates is both valuable and necessary for collective understanding and progress.

- Maricela Rios-Faust emphasized that providers presenting from a prevention perspective highlighted a critical issue, that funding has run out. Maricela Rios-Faust stressed the need for clear prioritization and urged that prevention efforts are not overlooked. Maricela Rios-Faust called for providers to have a seat at the table where funding decisions are made, ensuring their voices help guide where prioritization can and should occur.

4. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program – Douglas Becht, Director and Zulima Lundy, Director of Operation, Office of Care Coordination

Zulima Lundy provided several updates, noting that fourteen (14) agencies have applied for the recently released Request for Proposals (RFP). Zulima Lundy submitted a budget modification on behalf of the CoC to support previously recommended action items. Zulima Lundy also shared context around the proposed Rapid Rehousing (RRH) RFP, emphasizing that while RRH is designed to meet participant needs, the 24-month timeframe for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) should not be weighed equally with family proposals. Zulima Lundy referenced feedback from the TAY Collaborative Meeting and advocated for a more robust approach to transitional housing. Zulima Lundy discussed implementing a per diem rate within existing funding structures to ensure consistency across program types and emergency shelter models. Zulima Lundy outlined a three-tier shelter framework, explain this structure helps clarify program operations and application intent. Zulima Lundy also presented recommendations for obtaining subsidies and emphasized the CoC's deep investment in shelter funding. Zulima Lundy urged the group to preserve these investments, warning that changes could jeopardize compliance with HHAP guidelines and have long-term impacts.

As a HHAP Program ad hoc member, Jason Phillips acknowledged the difficulty of the decision and expressed a desire to focus on what is most helpful. Jason Phillips emphasized the importance of listening and balancing obligations without losing sight of the core mission.

Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells highlighted that for youth, the need for RRH is even greater. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells stressed the importance of maintaining programs like Covenant House and HomeAid, which provide critical shelter beds for youth and families. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells urged the group not to lose these resources and requested a recap to ensure that the minimum level of support is sustained for those most vulnerable.

Recommended Actions:

- c. Approve the following recommendations for the programming of HHAP Round 5 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC, as recommended by the HHAP Round 5 Ad Hoc, by the County of Orange's Office of Care Coordination:
 - (1) Approve the issuance of a Request for Proposals to solicit for Rapid Rehousing Programs that utilize a short-term (up to 3 months) or medium-term (4 to 24 months) models to award the remaining \$773,200.01 under the Rapid Rehousing eligible use category and \$434,991.06 under the Rapid Rehousing Youth Set-Aside eligible use category, to prioritize serving youth (ages 18 to 24) and older adults (ages 62 and older). The Request for Proposals will prioritize current CoC-funded agencies whose funding is at jeopardy.
 - (2) Approve the issuance of a Request for Proposals to solicit Emergency Shelter Operations and Services Programs to award \$1,224,432.36 in Operating Subsidies Interim Housing eligible use category utilizing the proposed rate schedule as detailed in the staff report to standardize the per diem contribution amounts for emergency shelter programs receiving HHAP Round 5 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC.
 - (3) Approve the award and contracting of \$2,448,862.73 of HHAP Round 5 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC under the Operating Subsidies Interim Housing and Operating

Subsidies Interim Housing Youth Set-Aside eligible use categories to sustain current CoC-funded emergency shelter projects and other key projects serving people experiencing as detailed below:

- a. \$500,000 for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Transitional Aged Youth with Covenant House California to be expended by June 30, 2026.
 - b. \$500,000 for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families with HomeAid Orange County for \$500,000, to be expended by June 30, 2026.
 - c. \$869,318 for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Individuals in the North Service Planning Area with Mercy House to be expended by June 30, 2026.
 - d. \$579,544.73 for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Individuals in the North Service Planning Area with The Salvation Army to be expended by June 30, 2026.
- (4) Approve the award and contracting of up to \$500,000 of HHAP Round 5 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC under the Permanent Housing Delivery eligible use category to help bridge and transition the CoC funded Permanent Supportive Housing program operated by American Family Housing through June 30, 2026.
- (5) Authorize the Office of Care Coordination as the Administrative Entity of the Orange County CoC to submit a budget modification request to support the above recommended actions.

Becks Heyhoe-Khalil motioned to approve Recommended Actions c.(1) and c.(2). Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells issued a voice vote. No nays and no abstentions. The motion passed.

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to approve Recommended Actions c.(3), c.(4) and c.(5). George Searcy seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions. The motion passed.

Public Comments:

- Shalei L’Heureux thanked the CoC Board for funding contributions and helping put into words what many already know that shelters for TAY are critical. Shalei L’Heureux stated more than 50% of youth experiencing homelessness do so before the age of 25. Covenant House provides safety, stability, and care creating lasting change. Shalei L’Heureux shared that Covenant House has opened their doors to hundreds, with over 300 youth still on the waitlist. Shalei L’Heureux expressed that additional support will help them continue navigating the challenges, advocating for those often unseen, and shining a spotlight on youth homelessness. Shalei L’Heureux shared that through Youth HOPE Month, Covenant House aims to make the invisible, visible and offer tangible support to those who need it most.
- Lailanie and Tanesha shared continued gratitude for ongoing investment with Covenant House. Lailanie stated that the HHAP funding advocacy has helped youth transition out of shelter and begin taking meaningful steps toward stability. The impact is visible young people are working, engaging, and making progress in their lives. Tanesha shared a powerful moment, emphasizing that the work is rooted in love and focused on helping everyone reach the next level. Tanesha shared the help participants received are being used in the right way and is making a real difference.
- Milo Peinemann from American Family Housing expressed gratitude for the recommended HHAP funding and acknowledged the consolidation of the CoC funded grant, which is set to begin January 1, 2026. Milo Peinemann noted that while the timeline is ambitious, many member agencies lack the luxury of time or resources to fully prepare. Milo Peinemann emphasized the ongoing work of mapping, engaging property owners, and winding down current efforts, while remaining hopeful that something new and impactful will emerge. Milo Peinemann encouraged the Board to keep these realities in mind as they move forward with today’s decisions.

Board Member Discussion:

- Judson Brown raised concerns about the upcoming expenditure deadline for HHAP Round 3 and the obligation deadline for Round 5. Judson Brown asked the HHAP Program Ad Hoc to clarify the rationale behind their funding decisions.
- Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells explained that allocations were based on the number of participants served.
- Dawn Price inquired whether an RFP had been used to identify the groups receiving funding. Dawn Price addressed concerns about smaller bed sizes and reductions, emphasizing that youth shelters often serve specialized populations and offer a wide range of services, which can result in higher cost and lower bed counts than expected.
- Melanie McQueen asked for clarification on the per diem contribution amount, noting that while a dollar figure was listed, it appeared to be based on a percentage.

5. Orange County CoC Fiscal and Resource Mapping Kick-Off – Mark Mora, Senior Policy Analyst, Homebase; Riley Meve, Policy Analyst, Homebase; and Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Due to time restrictions, Business Calendar Item 5 was not presented.

6. Orange County United Way Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Request – Erin DeRycke, Director, Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC), and Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Executive Director, United to End Homelessness, Orange County United Way

Due to time restrictions, Business Calendar Item 6 was moved to Item 5 on the agenda.

Becks Heyhoe-Khalil highlighted the importance of raising awareness around Hunger and Homelessness awareness week. Becks Heyhoe-Khalil emphasized the need for specific data on subpopulations, including the number of individuals who have fallen into homelessness and those currently housed. Becks Heyhoe-Khalil explained that the data request for talking points, would be aggregate data by age and subpopulation, as well as statistics on exits into permanent housing. Becks Heyhoe-Khalil noted a concerning trend and that more people are entering the homelessness system than exiting it, underscoring the urgency of addressing these gaps.

Recommended Action b: Approve Orange County United Way's HMIS data request for the period of November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025, for a one-time export of aggregate data to be used during its annual campaign for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Tim Shaw motion to approve Recommended Action b. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells asked for a voice vote. No nays and no abstentions. The motion passed.

7. Orange County Homelessness Updates – Douglas Becht, Director, and Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Due to time restrictions, Business Calendar Item 7 was not presented.

Nishtha Mohendra motioned to adjourn. Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.