

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:

**Orange County United Way
Varanasi Equity Workspace (VEW)
18012 Mitchell S., Irvine, CA 92614
[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: 928 9235 0614

****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

AGENDA

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

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 December 3, 2025.
2. Approve the 2026 LEAC Meeting Calendar.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **CoC Strategic Plan: Staff Training Survey Development Discussion** – Andrew Crowe, CoC Strategic Owner and Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Chair
 - a. Provide feedback towards the development and distribution of a survey focused on staff training, in support of the CoC Strategic Plan implementation.
2. **CoC Committee Representative Appointment Process** – Cameron Pastrano, CoC Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. Approve the recommendation for the LEAC members to nominate and appoint one (1), but not more than two (2) representatives to participate in CoC Committees that currently have no standing membership for a one (1) calendar-year term.
3. **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Quality Policy Discussion** – Erin DeRycke, Director, Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC), Orange County United Way
 - a. Discuss development of a potential policy to support with improved data quality for the Orange County CoC, specifically as it relates to recorded data of approximate start date of homelessness.
4. **LEAC Meeting Logistics: Location** – Cameron Pastrano, CoC Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. Discuss hosting all 2026 LEAC Meetings at Orange County United Way offices.
5. **CoC and General Updates** – Nichole Gideon, CoC Board Secretary; Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination and Cameron Pastrano, CoC Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. December 5, 2025, December 17, 2025, and January 21, 2026, CoC Board Meeting Recap
 - b. CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Updates

6. 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.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

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

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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

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

Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Present: Reha Ahar, Elizabeth Flores, Nichole Gideon, Paul Kaiser, Deborah Kraft, Miranda Mears, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Larry “Smitty” Smith, and Melissa Welsh.

Absent: Jason Mercado

Absent Excused: Vinny Zarrella

Larry “Smitty” Smith arrived during Business Item 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 Lived Experience Advisory Committee meeting.

Nichole Gideon motioned to approve the Recommended Action to allow Deborah Kraft to participate remotely. Melissa Welsh seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions. The motion passed.

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CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the LEAC Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2025.

Vice Chair Paul Kaiser motioned to approve Consent Calendar Item 1. Elizabeth Flores seconded the motion. Chair Robert Santa Bob Morse issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions. The motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. CoC Committee Representative Appointments – Cameron Pastrano, Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination

Cameron Pastrano provided background on the LEAC Compensation Framework and former discussions surrounding LEAC representation within CoC Committees. Cameron Pastrano discussed potential appointment structures and processes for LEAC representatives to CoC Committees that do not have formal memberships.

Committee Discussion:

- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser advocated for yearly committee appointments for LEAC members and asked how many committees the appointment structure would apply to.
- Elizabeth Flores shared the desire for private nominations via an online survey form, to allow people to speak without pressure, and asked about meeting dates/times for the applicable committees.
- Nichole Gideon supported nominating two people per committee to ensure there is always a LEAC representative present.
- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse discussed a 3-year term option and supported a minimum of a 1-year term to ensure representatives have time to learn the new committee.
- Deborah Kraft asked for additional background and context on the appointment process being discussed.

2. CoC and General Updates – Nichole Gideon, CoC Board Secretary; Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination and Cameron Pastrano, CoC Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination

Nichole Gideon provided updates from the October 22, 2025, meeting, including the removal of shelter status prioritization, the HomeAid Family Care Center being operated by Homeless Intervention Services of Orange County (HIS OC), approved recommendations for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program funding, and data requests. Nichole Gideon provided updates from the November 19, 2025, meeting, including the appointment of a fiscal and resource mapping ad hoc, HHAP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for round 6 application, 2026 Point In Time (PIT) Count updates, and FY 2025 CoC Program Funding updates, including approved changes to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) policies and procedures in response to the CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) 2-for-1 Match Policy time-limited pilot approval, and the status of the CoC Board election.

Jasmin Miranda provided additional information on the CoC Program NOFO, including background from previous years, and discussed topics such as funding available nationwide, specific funding available to the Orange County CoC, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-required deadlines, and the upcoming submission deadline of January 14, 2026. Jasmin Miranda highlighted HUD’s goals and objectives as outlined by the FY2025 NOFO, such as promoting self-sufficiency, prioritizing treatment and recovery, and advancing public safety; as well as significant changes to the priority listing tiering, including tier 1 which was previously 90% of the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) decreasing to 30% of the ARD, and the 30% cap for permanent housing funding.

Committee Discussion:

- Larry “Smitty” Smith emphasized the need to look for ways to adapt to the new system being put in place, including ways to supplement the potential loss of funding, creative solutions to substantive federal changes, and the importance of clear communications.
- Elizabeth Flores asked for clarification on the order of applications and which funding is considered safe or at risk.
- Deborah Kraft asked how much advanced notice households would receive that the program they are enrolled in is considered at-risk.

3. 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.

Committee Discussion:

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse thanked the 2025 CoC Nominating Ad Hoc for their work and shared that the Board of Supervisors approved the Commission appointments.
- Larry “Smitty” Smith shared an opportunity with Homebase for their National Lived Experience Leadership and Advocacy Board.
- Elizabeth Flores thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their work throughout the year.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser shared wanting to see the state tax increased to supplement the potential loss of federal funding.
- Melissa Welsh shared concerns surrounding the loss of funding and the potential displacement of individuals with city ties.
- Reha Ahar shared concerns regarding the transition of households with Emergency Housing Vouchers through Anaheim Housing Authority and the impact of city tie requirements potentially excluding households or requiring them to be displaced from their current cities.

Next Meeting: Next meeting to be determined, pending approval of the 2026 meeting calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) 2026

Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

January						
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County Holiday



Regular Meeting

Visit the CoC Webpage for meeting materials. Go to <https://ceo.oc.gov/care-coordination/homeless-services/2026-continuum-care> and click on "Homeless Services" to navigate to the CoC webpage.

Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: Continuum of Care (CoC) Committee Representative Appointment Process

Recommended Action:

- a. Approve the recommendation for the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) members to nominate and appoint one (1), but not more than two (2) representatives to participate in CoC Committees that currently have no standing membership for a one (1) calendar-year term.

Background and Analysis

At the August 27, 2025, CoC Board Meeting, the Lived Experience Compensation Framework was approved, establishing standardized compensation rates for People with Lived Experience who actively participate in CoC Committees, Working Groups, Ad Hoc groups, and other CoC-led initiatives. Some CoC Committees do not have formal membership structures, prompting discussion about how LEAC members could be appointed as representatives to ensure meaningful connection and active engagement in committees. Examples of such committees include but may not be limited to the:

- Coordinated Entry System (CES) Steering Committee
- Housing Opportunities Committee
- Transitional-Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee
- Service Provider Forum

During the September 3, 2025, LEAC meeting, the Office of Care Coordination (OCC) facilitated a discussion about supporting the LEAC to develop a formal process for appointing and compensating People with Lived Experience representing the LEAC on these committees with guiding principles of equity and inclusion (i.e. recognize lived experience as expertise), flexibility (i.e. accommodate different committee types and structures), transparency (i.e. be clear on expectations and terms), consistency (i.e. align with existing compensation framework), and accountability (i.e. monitor and evaluate the impact and engagement). Various structures were explored for appointment processes. The item returned for further discussion during the December 3, 2025, LEAC meeting, where members refined the proposed structures. The LEAC drew consensus for one calendar-year appointment term (i.e. January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026, or March 4, 2026 – December 31, 2026, etc.) and affirmed that more than one representative may serve on CoC Committees without standing membership. The OCC also clarified that appointed individuals serve as representatives to the LEAC, not as formal members of the committees to which they are assigned, given the nature of the committee membership structure. LEAC members will nominate representatives to be appointed through committee approval.

The OCC has drafted a recommendation that reflects the LEAC’s discussions, as requested, and will communicate with all committee chairs overseeing non-standing membership committees when a LEAC representative is appointed, for their awareness. This approach will ensure that all CoC Committees include

participation from individuals with lived expertise and will help maintain a client-centered focus across all CoC discussions.