

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:**

**Orange County United Way  
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

**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](mailto: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 10:02 a.m.

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

Melissa Welsh arrived during Virtual Participation.

**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.

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

Marina Garcia offered a moment of silence and remembrance for CoC Board Member Sammie MarTinez.

**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](mailto: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 March 4, 2026.

Elizabeth Flores motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Melissa Welsh seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions, the motion passed.

**Committee Discussion:**

- Reha Agar provided clarification and corrections to committee member comments that were recorded under Item 5. in the March 4, 2026, minutes.

## **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

### **1. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Quality Policy Update** – Erin DeRycke, Director, Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC), Orange County United Way

Erin DeRycke discussed the previous data quality discussion brought to the committee previously regarding the 25-year length of homelessness metric in HMIS. Erin DeRycke provided background on how the approximate start date of homelessness was determined and shared feedback from the various CoC Committees and CoC Board that provided input before a decision was made. Erin DeRycke outlined the implementation process for the data policy that was approved and the initial discussion on the topic.

#### **Committee Discussion:**

- Elizabeth Flores asked what happened to the other seventy (70) individuals whose data was not updated.
- Nichole Gideon asked how this data policy impacted the System Performance Measures (SPM) submission and whether the outcome was positive. Nichole Gideon also asked whether the focus is only on 25-year length of homelessness or if the goal would be to eventually review 15-year length of homelessness as well.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked whether the individuals listed as having lengths of homelessness of 25 years have verified documentation or if it is based solely on client self-reported data. Paul Kaiser noted that the HMIS policies and procedures allow only 90 days of homelessness prior to the application date and asked why self-reported long-term homelessness is accepted, since this differs from housing enrollment requirements.
- Melissa Welsh shared that when first completing the HMIS enrollment packet, the questions were confusing and difficult to understand; and suggested that improved training or clearer scripting could help with data accuracy.

### **2. CoC and General Updates** –Jasmin Miranda, Interim CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination and LEAC Members

Jasmin Miranda provided updates related to the CoC Board Meeting held on March 25, 2026, and shared additional information on the current funding happening through the system. Jasmin Miranda also mentioned the Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Report and provided an update on the OC Same-Day Solutions Fair and upcoming CoC meetings.

Felicia Boehringer provided an update on the CoC Program funding litigation between the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as resources for members to stay informed.

Nichole Gideon discussed the approval of Abt Global HMIS Data Request and noted that there had been extensive discussion and data-related questions prior to approval at the CoC Board Meeting.

Vice Chair Paul Kaiser provided an update from the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Steering Committee.

#### **Committee Discussion:**

- Nichole Gideon asked how funding will be awarded, noting that based on the congressional timeline and litigation, both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 funds should theoretically still be awarded.

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse raised concerns about releasing data to the federal government.
- Deborah Kraft asked for clarification on the lawsuit and for it to be explained in basic terms. Deborah Kraft noted that while links are provided in the slides, there is a deeper explanation to better understand the differences between the various housing programs and vouchers. Deborah Kraft asked for a clearer breakdown of the different programs, which ones are at risk, and how they differ from one another.
- Melissa Welsh referenced information from the NAEH public virtual meeting on March 20, 2026, which stated that tenants would not receive eviction notices. Melissa Welsh noted that this conflicts with information on the Homeless Healthcare website and asked how the transition will work, especially since there is no 30-day eviction process mentioned.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser stated that all Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), regardless of federal guidance, must follow State 30-day housing laws, including those related to criminal convictions. Paul Kaiser asked whether HUD’s proposed change to Tier 1 funding would result in people losing their housing voucher and being required to move out within 30 days, Paul Kaiser noted that, to his knowledge, every program would be negatively affected, and the concerns extends beyond vouchers alone.
- Reha Agar mentioned reading that Los Angeles County may begin enforcing a 60-day eviction notice.

Public Comment:

- Becks Heyhoe-Kahlil shared that there are many educational videos available around HUD funding, and Marina Garcia will help gather additional information and links to share as education resources. Becks Heyhoe-Khalil will also work with the Office of Care Coordination (OCC) to identify other helpful materials.

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

Committee Discussion:

- Elizabeth Flores helped work on a letter that has been shared by the National Coalition for the Homeless and that it has now been implemented in 39 states.
- Miranda Mears announced that the Friendship Shelter administrative offices are welcome to be used for hosting the LEAC Meeting.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser asked who to speak to regarding the HMIS Policies and Procedures. Paul Kaiser expressed concerns about how the current process is functioning and stated that this may lead to further HMIS discussions.
- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked how many members of the LEAC are participating in the CES Evaluation being conducted by Element Consulting Group.

Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Orange County United Way, located at 18012 Mitchell S., Irvine, CA 92614