

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

Wednesday, May 6, 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 10:00 a.m.

Present: Miranda Mears, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Paul Kaiser, Larry “Smitty” Smith, Jason Mercado, Melissa Welsh, Reha Agar, Elizabeth Flores.

Absent Excused: Nichole Gideon

Absent: Deborah Kraft, Vincent Zarella.

Elizabeth Flores arrived during Business Calendar Item 1 at 10:20 a.m.

**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.

**BUSINESS CALENDAR**

**1. LEAC Vision Setting** – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

Felicia Boehringer reviewed the process for submitting agenda item requests and facilitated a discussion on committee member ideas and proposed agenda items for future meetings.

**Committee Discussion**

- Reha Agar highlighted topics including housing stability and legal resources for households receiving subsidies, emphasizing that evictions result in recycling homelessness, wasted resources, and retraumatizes rehoused individuals.
- Miranda Mears discussed ideas for more thoroughly preparing households for post lease-up.
- Paul Kaiser noted potential topics such as voucher types and associated services, CalAIM programs, Health Care Agency’s behavioral health services, Orange County Outreach & Engagement, and Coordinated Entry System policies.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse shared capacity concerns with eviction support at Public Law Center and inquired about alternative resources.
- Elizabeth Flores asked about the list of priorities that the LEAC had previously worked on, as a starting point for ideas.
- Melissa Welsh discussed a phased approach to housing based on program compliance, in which households staying in shelter are first moved to transitional housing if they adhere to shelter

guidelines, and are then moved into permanent housing based on compliance with transitional housing program guidelines.

- Larry “Smitty” Smith discussed new ideas for how to disseminate information or knowledge to people with lived experience.

## **2. CoC and General Updates – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination and LEAC Members**

Felicia Boehringer provided a recap of the April 22, 2026, CoC Board Meeting and reviewed recent updates from HUD on the CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. Felicia Boehringer shared information about the next Same-Day Solutions Fair event, upcoming changes to the contracted provider for Bridges at Kraemer Place, the Coordinated Entry System Evaluation survey, and upcoming CoC meetings.

Jason Mercado and Melissa Welsh shared updates from the most recent Housing Opportunities Committee including funding changes, upcoming housing, and different voucher types.

### Committee Discussion:

- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse shared that Homelessness Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 7 funding is working through legislature.
- Larry “Smitty” Smith shared concerns that PATH will be operating Bridges at Kraemer Place, specifically noting a concern that changing providers will result in decreased quality of services.
- Melissa Welsh shared concerns about staff being laid off when provider contracts are not renewed.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse suggested sending a survey to current participants at Bridges at Kraemer Place one to two months after the change in providers.
- Paul Kaiser suggested a presentation from PATH on services being provided to individuals staying at Bridges and Kraemer Place.

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

### Committee Discussion:

- Larry “Smitty” Smith discussed the AltaMed street medicine project in Santa Ana.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse noted that street medicine is a good option for those who are on the street to get regular medical care.
- Reha Agar discussed Anaheim’s street medicine team.
- Elizabeth Flores highlighted the American Family Housing ribbon cutting ceremony for Azure, a recent permanent supportive housing project.

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Orange County United Way, located at 18012 Mitchell S., Irvine, CA 92614