

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

Wednesday, July 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. 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 – Paul Kaiser, Chair

Vice Chair, Paul Kaiser called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: Deborah Kraft, Elizabeth Flores, Larry “Smitty” Smith, Miranda Mears, Nichole Gideon, Paul Kaiser, Reha Agar, and Melissa Welsh.

Absent Excused: Robert “Santa Bob” Morse

Absent: Vincent Zarrella and Jason Mercado

Larry “Smitty” Smith arrived during Business Calendar 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, Vice Chair Paul Kaiser 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. Elizabeth Flores seconded the motion. Vice Chair Paul Kaiser issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions, the motion passed

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 June 3, 2026

Elizabeth Flores motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Melissa Welsh seconded the motion. Vice Chair Paul Kasier issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions, the motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. 2026 Orange County Point In Time Count – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, Office of Care Coordination

Zulima Lundy presented an overview of the 2026 Point In Time Count results, including countywide and Service Planning Area (SPA) trends, subpopulation data, household demographics, and local question findings. Zulima Lundy highlighted the increase in sheltered population, community partnerships, and the Point In Time Count's role in informing local planning despite known limitations.

Committee Discussion:

- Paul Kaiser requested clarification on whether the disability category includes all physical disabilities or is limited to individuals who are blind or deaf. Paul Kaiser suggested that the Office of Care Coordination partner with Social Services Agency during the Point In Time (PIT) Count.
- Nichole Gideon asked for clarification regarding the prioritization within the current system, and an explanation of the distinction within the individuals vs household members when reporting. Nichole Gideon suggested collaboration with school districts and education partners during future PIT Counts. Nichole Gideon thanked the Office of Care Coordination for efforts made to improve PIT Counts. Nichole Gideon emphasized the importance of balancing prevention efforts with those who are chronically homeless and most vulnerable to allow for more ways newly unhoused people can get services without waiting on the street while higher prioritized individuals are serviced.
- Elizabeth Flores shared that sixty unsheltered children within family households remain a significant concern.
- Melissa Welsh asked what key lessons were learned from the 2026 PIT Count and what improvements are planned for future implementation.
- Deborah Kraft asked whether the PIT Count data accounts for individual who have passed and how mortality affects year-over-year comparisons.

2. Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, Office of Care Coordination

Zulima Lundy provided an overview of the FY2026 CoC Program NOFO, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) selection criteria, local funding priorities, and anticipation ranking considerations. Zulima Lundy highlighted the emphasis of balancing community needs, evaluating renewal projects, and aligning application with evolving federal priorities, including moving away from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects to Supportive Services Only (SSO) and Transitional Housing (TH) projects.

Committee Discussion:

- Paul Kaiser asked whether all PSH programs are expected to have Supportive Services attached to their programs. Paul Kaiser expressed major concerns that mandating services may present implementation challenges. Paul Kaiser requested clarification on the proposed definition of chronic homelessness and how changes to the NOFO scoring criteria, including the role of disability, may affect project prioritization and funding decisions. Paul Kaiser asked whether project-based voucher programs, such as PSH hotel conversion projects could transition to TH through changes to their contractual or rental agreements.
- Nichole Gideon inquired about the anticipated timeline for funding awards expected in December and asked when provider should begin discussion regarding potential policy changes, including

possible shifts from PSH to TH. Nichole Gideon emphasized the importance of ongoing communication as changes are considered.

- Larry “Smitty” Smith commented that transiting from PSH to other temporary housing solutions models would require significant systemwide changes, inducing program redesign, policy updates, and operational adjustments by service providers. Larry “Smitty” Smith asked about the implementation timeline and requested clarification on who will establish the standards and policies for SSO Programs.
- Melissa Welsh asked how the proposed changes may affect emergency shelter programs and whether shelters will continue to play the same role within the homeless response system.

3. **CoC and General Updates** – Cameron Pastrano, CoC Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. June 24, 2026, CoC Board Meeting Recap

Cameron Pastrano shared information regarding the upcoming Joint Special Meeting that all LEAC Members were invited to attend.

4. **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

Due to time restrictions, Business Calendar Item 4 was not presented.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Orange County United Way, located at 18012 Mitchell S., Irvine, CA 92614