

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

Wednesday, August 5, 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 – Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Chair

Chair, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

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

Absent Excused: Deborah Kraft and Vincent Zarella

Reha Agar arrived during Public Comment. Miranda Mears 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 Larry “Smitty” Smith to join virtually due to “Just Cause”.

Recommended Action: Allow Larry “Smitty” Smith to participate remotely for today’s Lived Experience Advisory Committee meeting.

Paul Kiaser motioned to approve the Recommended Action to allow Larry “Smitty” Smith to participate remotely. Elizabeth Flores seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse 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 July 1, 2026

Paul Kaiser motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Jason Mercado seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions, the motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **CoC Board Evaluation Framework** – Tim Shaw, CoC Board Member

Tim Shaw reviewed the importance of the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the need for a structured evaluation process to identify gaps and strengthen system effectiveness. Key areas included clarifying roles and responsibilities, building trust, importing planning, and establishing a formal feedback loop. Tim Shaw also provided background on the development of the CoC Board evaluation process, including the guiding principles, evaluation criteria, scope, structure, and roles and responsibilities. The framework is intended to support a clear, consistent and effective evaluation process that identifies opportunities for improvement and strengthens overall CoC governance and performance.

Committee Discussion:

- Jason Mercado asked how the thirty-four cities operating independently would be impacted by the CoC serving as the central convener and whether this evaluation would create meaningful differences.
- Elizabeth Flores expressed support for the evaluation and asked whether it would focus only on the CoC Board or also include CoC committees, working groups and ad hocs.
- Nichole Gideon noted that the process could support growth and asked about the cadence for future CoC Board evaluations. Nichole Gideon also asked for clarification on the difference between the Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse recommended a potential five-year independent review to assess and build upon two-cycles of self-evaluations. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse also recommended including the Youth Action Board (YAB) in the process.
- Paul Kaiser recommended expanding beyond structured stakeholder interviews and ensuring LEAC has a more active role in the evaluation. Paul Kaiser emphasized the value of in-person interviews and discussions with committees.
- Melissa Welsh thanked the group and asked whether individuals supporting the evaluation would be selected randomly or from the broader CoC general membership.

2. CoC and General Updates – Timothy Kirkconnell, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Timothy Kirkconnell provided update and feedback from the Joint Commission to Address Homelessness and CoC Board Meeting, the CoC Board Special Meeting and the regular CoC Board Meeting. Additionally, updates on the National Low Income Housing Coalition cohort application process and the upcoming CoC committee meetings.

Committee Discussion:

- Paul Kaiser asked whether the Advance Recovery and Prohibit Illicit Drug Use Policy is already in place through the Public Housing Authority (PHA), as well as for clarification on the changes to the CoC Governance Charter revisions. Paul Kaiser also raised concerns about the effectiveness of the 2-for-1 Match Policy and asked how communication and outreach efforts could be improved to make the process more efficient.

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

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse encouraged all LEAC members to sign up for notifications for CoC Board and Committee meetings to stay informed about discussions, decision and opportunities for action, including engagement with local city officials.

Melissa Welsh expressed interest in becoming more engaged and appreciated interest in becoming more engaged and appreciated the information shared to support continued learning.

Elizabeth Flores shared a photo from the American Family Housing 40th Anniversary celebration and thanked those who attended for their support.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Orange County United Way, located at 18012 Mitchell S., Irvine, CA 92614