ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Wednesday, September 2, 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 10:02 a.m.

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

Absent Excused: Deborah Kraft

Miranda Mears arrived during the Consent Calendar. Larry "Smitty" Smith arrived during Business Item 1. Vincent Zarella arrived during Business Item 1. Elizabeth Flores left during Business Item 2.

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 August 5, 2026

Elizabeth Flores motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Nichole Gideon seconded the motion. Chair Rober "Santa Bob" Morse issued a voice vote. No nays, no abstentions, the motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **Office of Care Coordination: OC Outreach & Engagement Presentation** – Tammy Waitman, Laura Dinsbach, and Michael Marks, Service Chiefs II, OC Outreach & Engagement, Office of Care Coordination

Tammy Waitman and Michael Marks provided an overview of the Office of Care Coordination's OC Outreach and Engagement (O&E) Program, including background on the program's transition, street outreach model, and core principles. The O&E team works to connect individuals with a range of services and support them in transitioning towards stable housing opportunities. Tammy Waitman and Michael Marks also shared success stories, discussed expectations for field outreach staff, and provided an overview of the organizational structure, workflows, and processes that guide the team's work.

Committee Discussion:

- Paul Kiaser noted that O&E staff are mandated reporters. Further, asked when O&E staff provide direct access to Coordinated Entry System (CES) versus sending individuals to access points. Paul

Kaiser inquired when O&E coordinates with law enforcement and whether law enforcement involvement is required for certain outreach approaches. Paul Kaiser asked which partners O&E works with to support individuals experiencing substance use, mental health and behavioral health concerns. Paul Kaiser asked how O&E coordinated with law enforcement during encampment sweeps in incorporated jurisdictions and whether enforcement actions involve all individuals or are limited to individuals with warrants or illegal substances.

- Melissa Welsh provided positive feedback regarding O&E and cross-system collaboration.
- Nichole Gideon thanked O&E for the presentation and personal stories shared during the presentation. Furthermore, asked whether the O&E contact number provided can be provided as a direct resource to better support individuals on the street. Nichole Gideon asked how O&E plans to develop and strengthen coordination with law enforcement during encampment sweeps.
- Jason Mercado asked about methods for supporting and conducting outreach, including approaches for individuals who contact the program directly.

2. **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Policies and Procedures Review Update** – Erin DeRycke, Director, Data Analytics, 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC), Orange County United Way

Erin DeRycke provided updates on the annual review of the HMIS Policies and Procedures, including recommendations developed through the HMIS Policies and Procedures Working Group. Presented were proposed changes to the Help Desk, HMIS User Requirements, Agency Administrator Requirements, Privacy, Client Records Request, Data Release, and Data Breach sections. Erin DeRycke noted that the public feedback period is open and will close on September 18, 2026.

Committee Discussion:

- Paul Kaiser asked whether clients can access their complete HMIS records by contacting the HMIS Lead directly and, if so, what email or phone number would be provided. Paul Kaiser asked if records provided to clients will include the full report or If clients will have an opportunity to specify which information they would like to receive.
- Nichole Gideon asked whether the revised HMIS Policies and Procedures will include a summary identifying new, revised, and updated sections when presented to the LEAC for approval to provide clarity on changes resulting from committee and public feedback. Nichole Gideon inquired about a cost-recovery process that could be considered for Data Release Requests and whether an analysis could be completed to demonstrate the potential impact of findings from the requested data on the Orange County CoC.
- Robert "Santa Bob" Morse asked whether the HMIS Lead has evaluated the costs associated with fulfilling Data Release Request and what a reasonable fee for such request would be, if the CoC determined to create a cost for HMIS data requests.

3. **CoC Strategic Plan Update**– Timothy Kirkconnell, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Timothy Kirkconnell provided a progress update on the Year 1 Strategies outlined in the CoC Strategic Plan and discussed potential priorities that may be brought before LEAC during the remaining months of the year to support completion of the Year 1 Strategies.

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

Timothy Kirkconnell provided updates on the CoC Board Special Meeting held on August 7, 2026, submission of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), the current status of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and upcoming CoC Committee meetings.

Committee Discussion:

- Nichole Gideon provided an update that all LEAC members were invited to attend the CES Evaluation discussion with Element Consulting Group.
- Paul Kaiser asked what sort of funding situations would the Orange County CoC be in if the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) court appeals are denied.
- Robert "Santa Bob" Morse noted that some services and programs that were funded through CoC Program dollars transitioned to other funding sources.

5. **LEAC Member Comments** – Robert "Santa Bob" Morse, Chair

Robert "Santa Bob" Morse asked the committee if the meeting should be extended half an hour to ensure all business is conducted.

Chair Robert "Santa Bob" Morse adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Orange County United Way, located at 18012 Mitchell S., Irvine, CA 92614