



THE QUARTERLY UPDATE

April - June 2022

Welcome to the Office of Care Coordination quarterly update. Included in this edition are updates related to the Office of Care Coordination, the Continuum of Care Board, and housing development.

Office of Care Coordination Moves to the County Executive Office

On April 26, 2022, the Orange County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Health Care Agency reorganization of the Office of Care Coordination (OCC) to the County Executive Office (CEO) effective July 1, 2022.

Under the CEO, the Office of Care Coordination will continue to provide leadership on the County of Orange's response to homelessness. This includes providing oversight and support to the Commission to End Homelessness, the Continuum of Care Board and the County operated shelter programs. OCC is committed to providing efficient delivery of services to those experiencing homelessness and continue to improve and enhance the County's resources to address homelessness within our communities.

2022 Point In Time Count Results

The County of Orange (County) and Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) held the sheltered Point in Time (PIT) count the night of Monday, February 21, 2022, and the unsheltered PIT count the morning of Tuesday, February 22 through Thursday, February 24. The 2022 PIT followed the same methodology used during the 2019 PIT and found the following results: A total of 5,718 persons experiencing homelessness were counted throughout the County. Of those, 2,663 persons were sheltered while 3,057 persons were unsheltered. Overall, the 2022 PIT found that the number of households experiencing unsheltered homelessness has decreased from the previous 2019 PIT by 16.7%. Additional information of the 2022 PIT can be found [here](#).



**EVERYONE
COUNTS**

Coordinated Entry System Policy Changes

The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved a series of changes to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies on March 23, 2022. The first update to the policies was the adoption of an emergency transfer request policy to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence. If a household is currently enrolled in a Housing Urban Development (HUD) and State-funded housing program and requests an emergency transfer, CES will prioritize their referral over others for housing opportunities the household qualifies for. In addition, the CES policies also removed the Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) scoring in the prioritization schema. Lastly, with the exclusion of the VI-SPDAT scoring, a CES Working Group was formed to identify if additional changes to the prioritization policy and methodology will be adopted. Any proposed changes will be presented to the CoC Board for approval at future meetings.

Continuum of Care Education and Engagement

In an effort to provide additional education and ongoing support to service providers in Orange County, the Office of Care Coordination (OCC) is continuing to identify opportunities for training around the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and homeless service system, as well as engage local service providers and community stakeholders working to prevent and end homelessness.

The Orange County Homeless Provider Forum (HPF) serves as a space for education, updates on the Orange County CoC, and networking amongst service providers and community advocates who are supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness. After a pause on in-person meetings due to the pandemic, the OCC was thrilled to reconvene the HPF on Thursday, May 19, 2022, in partnership with the Orange County CoC Board membership. The meeting was hosted in Anaheim and included an in-depth presentation from Orange County Social Services Agency; updates on the Orange County CoC, results of the 2022 Point in Time sheltered and unsheltered counts; and a presentation on the Anaheim Lighthouse program focused on substance use treatment and recovery services. Those in attendance were invited to introduce themselves, share any current program announcements and spend time networking to further engage and learn from other local partners. The HPFF will be held on a quarterly basis to offer space for continued networking and community training. Scheduling information and meeting materials can be found on the CoC webpage.

Additionally, the OCC hosted a virtual webinar on Friday, June 17, 2022, for local providers and community stakeholders to hear from CalOptima about the CalAIM program. This webinar equipped providers with a general overview of services available through CalAIM and described two of the benefits under the program - Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports. The OCC is committed to offering continued opportunities for community training and education.

Altrudy Lane Senior Apartments

The City of Yorba Linda held the grand opening of Altrudy Lane Senior Apartments on June 2, 2022. Altrudy Lane Senior Apartments is a 48-unit complex, of which 10 units were designated to be prioritized by the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for eligible veterans. Veterans experiencing homelessness in OC were provided referrals and placed into this affordable housing project. All participants that are moved in will continue to receive veteran specific services as well as on-going housing services provided by the Orange County Housing Authority.



Emergency Housing Voucher Update

The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) has partnered with the four Public Housing Authorities (PHAs): Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange County, and Santa Ana to distribute the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness, fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or were recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the household's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability.

The Office of Care Coordination provides a monthly update on the Emergency Housing Vouchers metrics at the Orange County CoC Board Meetings with information regarding the number of vouchers issued and number of vouchers leased, as the Public Housing Authorities continue to make progress on the leasing of the remaining allocation of vouchers. There is a collaborative effort to provide the support needed to ensure all the vouchers are leased up and utilized under the EHV program.

For reference, the Emergency Housing Vouchers metrics update from the June 22, 2022, CoC Board Meeting:

	Allocation	Referrals	Vouchers Issued	Leased
Anaheim Housing Authority	278	268	204	99
Garden Grove Housing Authority	117	114	108*	45*
Orange County Housing Authority	557	469	380	199
Santa Ana Housing Authority	89	126	58	22
TOTAL	1041	977	750	365

Data updated 5-25-2022
*Data updated 4-27-22

Transitional Aged Youth Community Meetings and the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program

The County of Orange's Office of Care Coordination, in collaboration with the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee of the Orange County Continuum of Care, hosted a series of working sessions to collaborate on the application in response to the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Orange County CoC applied for this funding opportunity to improve the response to TAY experiencing homelessness and at-risk of homelessness. The primary goal for this application effort supported the convening of all of Orange County's TAY providers and allowed for a space to discuss the needed services that the CoC can support to improve coordination with other components of the System of Care. The Orange County Continuum of Care will continue to support future YHDP funding and engagement opportunities to establish an official Youth Action Board (YAB) and prepare a framework for a community action plan that the TAY community stakeholders agree on. The YAB is a group comprised of young leaders, ages 18-24, with lived experience who join the CoC's efforts to implement a strategy to address TAY homelessness in Orange County.

Project Toolbelt

The Project Toolbelt (PTB) was implemented as one of the County of Orange's COVID-19 homelessness response programs and was operated from June 2020 through June 2022. PTB focused on each participant and their housing plans to ensure strong engagement and ongoing work towards permanent housing. PTB engaged enrolled Project Roomkey (PRK) program participants experiencing homelessness, with the goal of transitioning participants out of PRK by connecting them to appropriate housing opportunities by using the "every tool in the tool belt" approach.

The Office of Care Coordination worked collaboratively with PTB staff, which consisted of Friendship Shelter Inc. (FSI) for the South Service Planning Area (SPA) and City Net for the Central and North SPA to ensure the program met its goals. The program was initially contracted out to serve 500 individuals, but that goal was over supported. In total, the PTB program served 609 participants, and 379 were placed in permanent housing options.

Homekey Program

Building on the success of Project Roomkey and the first round of Homekey, the Homekey Round 1 Program provides up to 132 non-congregate shelter beds to individuals experiencing homelessness in Orange County. Since Homekey Round 1 in November 2020, 227 participants have been served, with 58% exiting into permanent housing. The next phase of Homekey Round 1 will be transitioning its operations from interim housing to permanent supportive housing.

Homekey Round 2 continues a statewide effort to sustain and rapidly expand housing for persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and who are, thereby, inherently impacted by COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Construction at both sites has begun, while the County continues to work on implementing services for new acquired sites for Homekey Round 2.

For more information on the work of the Office of Care Coordination, please contact carecoordination@ochca.com