

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Webinar:**  
<https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/j.php?MTID=m4af7c960ec147e392b75045ffc4c6a9e>

**Dial by Phone:**  
**+1 (213) 306-3065**

**Access Code:**  
**2462 138 2101**

## MINUTES

### Board Members

Matt Bates, City Net [Secretary]  
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana  
Nikki Buckstead, Family Solutions Collaborative  
Donald Dermit, The Rock Church  
Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Vice-Chair]  
Tim Houchen, Hope4Restoration  
Patti Long, Mercy House  
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter  
Albert Ramirez, City of Anaheim

Eric Richardson, Volunteers of America  
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options [Chair]  
Soledad Rivera, Families Together of OC  
Elida Sanchez, Santa Ana Unified School District  
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Orangewood Foundation  
George Searcy, Jamboree Housing  
Tim Shaw, Individual  
Christina Weckerly-Ramirez, Health Care Agency

### Call to Order – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Chair Maricela Rios-Faust called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

### Board Member Roll Call – Felicia Boehringer, Continuum of Care Administrator

Present: Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Nikki Buckstead, Tim Houchen, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Eric Richardson, Maricela Rios-Faust, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez

Absent Excused: Becks Heyhoe

Absent: Donald Dermit, Patti Long, and Elida Sanchez

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board 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 CoC Board. Members of the public may address the CoC Board with public comments on agenda items in the

business calendar after the CoC Board member discussion. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes.

To address the CoC Board, members of the public are to enter their name and agenda item number in the WebEx chat box to be placed in a queue. CoC Board staff will call your name in the order listed in the chat box.

- R. Joshua Collins stated that he is trying to assist an individual who is living in their vehicle and inquired about the process of connecting to services. R. Joshua Collins emphasized the importance of walk-in shelters and affordable housing in addressing homelessness.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*All matters are approved by one motion unless pulled by a Board Member for discussion or separate action. The CoC Board requests that only pertinent information be discussed during this time.*

#### **1. Approve Continuum of Care Board Special Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2022.**

Dawn Price motioned to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. Nikki Buckstead seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

#### **1. Orange County Homelessness Updates – Natalie Dempster, Data Integration Manager and Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

##### **a. Natalie Dempster provided the following System of Care Updates:**

- **Orange County Cold Weather Armory Emergency Shelter Program** – The Orange County Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Program provides shelter beds for individuals experiencing homelessness at the National Guard Armory in Santa Ana. The Armory is located at 612 East Warner Ave. in Santa Ana. The Orange County Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Program will stop operating on Thursday, March 31, 2022.
- **Project Roomkey** – The County of Orange continues to operate temporary isolation shelters with a total capacity of 150 beds for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 sick or symptomatic. Referrals into the program are made by the Public Health Services, hospitals, shelters, street outreach teams, and law enforcement. At this time, Project Roomkey is set to operate through June 30, 2022; however, the County will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and ensures that appropriate services are provided.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts** – The Office of Care Coordination is working with Public Health Services and two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) on vaccination efforts for those experiencing homelessness. The FQHCs are Families Together of Orange County in Tustin and Share Our Selves in Costa Mesa.
- **Encampment Resolution Funding Grant Award** – The County of Orange has been awarded an Encampment Resolution Funding grant in the amount of \$3,627,030. This funding will be used to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness at Talbert Park in Costa Mesa.
- **State of California’s Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program** – The State of California’s ERA Program is referred to as CA COVID-19 Rent Relief or Housing is Key. Orange County tenants with rental arrears and/or past due utility bills are encouraged to apply for assistance. The program will continue to accept applications through March 31, 2022.

##### **b. Zulima Lundy provided the following CoC Updates:**

- **HOME-ARP Updates** – HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) funding provides HOME grantees, in collaboration with other community stakeholders, a chance to make targeted, strategic investments in housing and other assistance for people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. HOME grantees are required to engage in the consultation with the CoC and public participation processes and develop a HOME-ARP allocation plan. The Office of Care Coordination will be sending information on how to participate in the upcoming HOME-ARP consultation on Thursday, March 31, 2022, via email.
- **Homelessness Action Plan** – The Office of Care Coordination has contracted with Homebase Consulting Group to develop a local Homelessness Action Plan for Orange County. The Homelessness Action Plan is a requirement of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3 (HHAP-3) grant application. The Office of Care Coordination will be facilitating two Homelessness Action Plan listening sessions on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, and Thursday, April 7, 2022, to gather feedback from key stakeholders in Orange County. The Office of Care Coordination will present the final Homelessness Action Plan for approval at the April meeting of the Orange County CoC Board.
- **Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Update** – The CoC has partnered with local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to distribute EHVs to assist 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. Zulima Lundy reviewed the progress on the issuance and leasing of EHVs by the PHAs and the collaborative effort between the Office of Care Coordination and EHV service providers to improve lease up outcomes. Zulima Lundy also noted the technical assistance being provided by Abt Associates in support of these efforts.
- **Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) Client Record Request** – Upon request, clients in OC HMIS can receive the Client Record Request Dashboard, which includes the data on the client's Profile, the client's Release of Information, the client's enrollment history in any projects that participate. More information about the HMIS Client Record Requests can be found [here](#).
- **HUD Community Workshop** – The Office of Care Coordination has enrolled in the Coordinated Entry: Referral Best Practices 12-week workshops to receive technical assistance through group learning, peer-to-peer exchange, and individualized support from experts provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **Racial Equity Roadmap Update** – The Office of Care Coordination is collaborating with C4 Innovations on the development of a Racial Equity Roadmap for the Orange County CoC. Throughout the month of March, C4 Innovations continued qualitative data collection in Phase 1 by facilitating a listening session with service providers as well as three structured individual interviews with local partners. C4 Innovations has also met with the Office of Care Coordination and 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) to review quantitative data and discuss racial disparities in system level data collected within HMIS. Next steps in the process include a Lived Expertise Listening Session, development of the Results Academy Team, and a presentation of findings in Phase 1.
- **Engaging Partners with Lived Expertise** – In an effort to incorporate the expertise of partners with lived experience of homelessness, the Office of Care Coordination on behalf of the Orange County CoC is committed to creating sustainable processes for receiving and implementing feedback from consumers of the homeless service system. The Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) has met on a monthly basis since September 2021 and has offered feedback on CoC policies.

- **Orange County CoC Program Award for FY2021** – On March 14, 2022, HUD announced an award of \$30,789,905 to Orange County’s CoC Program for FY2021 to fund 23 renewal projects, two expansion projects and one new project.

Board Member Comments:

- Maricela Rios-Faust inquired about the timeframe of the compensation for LEAC. Zulima Lundy clarified the planned phases and roll out of the compensation plan for the LEAC.
- Nikki Buckstead inquired about opportunities for engaging in the HUD Community Workshop. Zulima Lundy clarified that this opportunity only allows for three members to participate at this time and noted that any lessons learned will be shared with the Orange County CoC.

Public Comments:

- John Underwood expressed that a key emphasis of the CoC Program award should be directed toward empowering and financially supporting individuals with lived experience and advocates that assist with connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to benefits and resources.
- Kymberly McClain stated that the LEAC has worked collaboratively with the CoC to determine a compensation plan.

**2. Brown Act Update and Determination in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

Zulima Lundy provided a background on the Brown Act legislation as it relates to holding virtual meetings. The Orange County CoC has been conducting the Board and Committee meetings in accordance with the waivers as authorized in Executive Order N-908-21. With the waivers coming to an end and in accordance with subsection (e) to Government Code Section 54953, the Orange County CoC will be considering the circumstances of the recommended action to return to in-person meetings in April 2022.

Recommended Action:

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, no longer continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person. The CoC Board will return to in-person meetings on April 27, 2022, and continue teleconferenced meetings until the next meeting of the CoC Board.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Dawn Price commented that implementing a hybrid model has been helpful in ensuring meeting accessibility and broader representation and participation in CoC Committee meetings.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve the recommended action. George Searcy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. CoC Board Appointments – Zulima Lindy, CoC Manager**

The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board and its Committees are chaired by designated representatives to ensure the sustained vision and support of CoC Board initiatives. Zulima Lundy reviewed the open representative seats, including the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee Chair and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee Chair.

Maricela Rios-Faust reviewed the process for nominating and voting for the open representative seats.

Recommended Action A: Appoint a CoC Board Member to Chair the CES Committee.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to nominate Christina Weckerly-Ramirez to Chair the CES Committee. Nikki Buckstead seconded the motion. Christina Weckerly-Ramirez accepted the nomination. Matt Bates, Judson

Brown, Nikki Buckstead, Tim Houchen, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Eric Richardson, Maricela Rios-Faust, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, and Tim Shaw voted yes. Christina Weckerly-Ramirez abstained. Motion passed.

Recommended Action B: Appoint a CoC Board Member to Chair the TAY Collaborative Committee.

Dawn Price motioned to nominate Dr. Shauntina Sorrells to Chair the TAY Collaborative Committee. Tim Shaw seconded the motion. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells accepted the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. System of Care Data Integration System (SOCDIS) and Care Plus Program (CPP) Update – Natalie Dempster, Data Integration Manager**

Zulima Lundy noted that this agenda item has been carried over from the January 19, 2022, meeting agenda of the CoC Board and provided information the SOCDIS and CPP.

Natalie Dempster provided an overview of the CPP, including the purpose and approach of the program, individuals who may benefit from the program, developments, and next steps.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Judson Brown expressed excitement of the progress of the CPP to date and inquired about the long-term vision of the program in regard to integration with the CES, outreach, etc. Judson Brown commented that there may be an opportunity to work with local Housing Authorities to integrate systems and enhance data.
- Matt Bates commented that it is encouraging to see the project moving forward and encouraged that the CoC be mindful of stereotypes associated with individuals experiencing homelessness who may be represented across multiple databases.
- Tim Houchen expressed the importance of housing solutions and behavioral services as a priority for individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals exiting the corrections system.
- Dawn Price commented on the importance of a trauma-informed approach of clients being able to opt in or out of the data integration. This allows for clients to avoid the re-traumatization of enrolling across multiple systems.

Public Comments:

- John Underwood encouraged the CoC Board to carefully consider the phrase “fully informed consent procedure” and the impacts it has on individuals experiencing homelessness.

**5. Policy, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Recommendations – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager; Erin DeRycke, 211OC; and Matt Bates, CoC Board Secretary**

Zulima Lundy provided an update on the HMIS Agency Access Appeals Policy and Process. The process proposes that an initial Agency Access Process Review will be completed by 211OC if an appeal is filed by an organization. If upon initial review it appears the HMIS Access Working Group did not follow the proper steps to review criteria for access to HIMS, a secondary review will be performed by a subset of the PPS Committee to arrive at a final determination on the decision. This decision cannot be appealed, but agencies denied access to HMIS may re-apply in the future should their data needs and/or circumstances change.

Zulima Lundy provided background and overview of the proposed changes to the CES Policies and Procedures, including the evaluation of the CES completed by Homebase, public engagement efforts, local jurisdiction engagement efforts, and proposed next steps.

Zulima Lundy provided about a summary of updates made to the CES Policy and Procedures. The changes include Incorporating an Emergency Transfer Request for participants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer to another available, safe housing opportunity through CES as well as discontinuing the use of the VI-SPDAT assessment and utilizing data collected in the program entry screen to assist with prioritization. Zulima Lundy noted that the PPS Committee also recommended establishing a working group to continue the discussion on how to best improve the Prioritization Policy.

Matt Bates, on behalf of the PPS Committee, clarified that the HMIS Agency Access Appeals Policy and Process would focus solely on determining whether the proper process was followed, not the content of the agency's application requesting access. The review process will take place in the event that the process was not followed correctly, or certain data was not considered.

Matt Bates, on behalf of the PPS Committee, clarified that the CES Policies and Procedures working group will consider all options to reach a compromise on the updates needed for the Prioritization policy and will come back to the PPS Committee and the CoC Board with a recommendation.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Dr. Shauntina Sorrells highlighted that the TAY population is not recognized as a component in the CES Policies and Procedures. Zulima Lundy noted that the Orange County CES has three components – individuals, families and veterans – and on a regular basis all TAY identified through those components are case conferenced on
- Nikki Buckstead inquired about the process to participate in the CES Prioritization Policy working group. Zulima Lundy noted that persons who are interested in participating can email [carecoordination@ochca.com](mailto:carecoordination@ochca.com).
- Judson Brown commented that the City of Santa Ana would like to participate in the working group.

Recommended Action A: Approve the inclusion of the HMIS Agency Access Appeals Policy and Process to the HMIS Policies and Procedures

Matt Bates motioned to approve Recommended Action A. Dawn Price seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommended Action B: Approve the recommendation for the CES Policies and Procedures

- i. Incorporating an Emergency Transfer Request for participants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer to another available, safe housing opportunity through CES.
- ii. Discontinuing the use of the VI-SPDAT assessment and utilizing data collected in the program entry screen, primarily focusing on length of homelessness and disabling condition.
- iii. Create a working group to have further discussions with a wide group of stakeholders about updating the prioritization policy to discontinuing the shelter preference.

Nikki Buckstead motioned to approve Recommended Action B. Matt Bates seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Future Request for Proposals – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

Zulima Lundy provided background on Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program funding as it relates to emergency shelter operations and Rapid Rehousing funding that will end on or before June 30, 2022. The Office of Care Coordination is seeking support to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Emergency

Shelter Operations and a RFP for Rapid Rehousing Services to be funded with HHAP Round 1 and/or Round 3. The total funding amount is to be determined at a future meeting of the CoC Board. Zulima Lundy noted that through the Homelessness Action Plan the funding amounts by eligible activity will be finalized and discussed with the CoC At-Large to receive feedback on priorities and needs.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Judson Brown recommended splitting this item into two recommended actions.
- Nikki Buckstead requested clarification about the categorization of people served through the Interval House's Rental Assistance, Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services.
- Dawn Price expressed concerns about approving the issuance of a broad RFP without parameters on the populations being served and requested that the CoC Board discuss priorities for the funding.
- Maricela Rios-Faust inquired if the CoC Board can be involved in the funding discussion at a later date.
- Albert Ramirez commented that HHAP funds are flexible and can be used for affordable housing development.

Public Comments:

- Elizabeth Andrade urged the CoC Board to consider investing in family shelters in order to preserve the quality of care being provided by the Family Solutions Collaborative.
- Yvette Ahlstrom noted that First 5 is discontinuing the funding of family shelters and seeking additional support and funding for systemic improvements.
- David Gillanders expressed the importance of sustaining and expanding the services to family shelters, as family homelessness continues to be an issue in Orange County.

Recommended Action A: Recommend the issuance of a RFP for Emergency Shelter Operations to be funded with Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 1 and/or Round 3.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve Recommended Action A. Eric Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommended Action B: Recommend the issuance of a RFP for Rapid Rehousing Services to be funded with Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 1 and/or Round 3.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Judson Brown expressed that HHAP funds should be used for the development of permanent supportive housing and expressed concern that the recommended action is vague and does not take into consideration the other flexible opportunities for the use of the funds.
- Nikki Buckstead inquired about the Rapid Rehousing component and if any data outside of the 2022 Point in Time Count would be used in the consideration of funding disbursement.
- Christina Weckerly-Ramirez expressed that creating a more diverse portfolio of resources would benefit individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Tim Shaw commented that there are contracts coming to an end that need to be continued on and highlighted that voting on this item does not mean the CoC Board cannot provide input on the funding disbursement at a later date. Tim Shaw noted that there are limited alternate funding sources that can be used to fund Rapid Rehousing programs.
- Dawn Price emphasized that Rapid Rehousing is a permanent housing solution to ends homelessness for many individuals and families in Orange County.

Nikki Buckstead motioned to approve Recommended Action B. Dawn Price seconded the motion. Matt Bates, Soledad Rivera, and George Searcy were no longer present at the meeting. Nikki Buckstead, Tim Houchen,

Dawn Price, Eric Richardson, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, and Tim Shaw voted yes. Judson Brown and Albert Ramirez voted no. Christina Weckerly-Ramirez abstained. Motion passed.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.