

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
Wednesday February 24, 2021  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Webinar:**  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/694403981>

**Dial by Phone:**  
**+1 (312) 757-3121**

**Access Code:**  
**694-403-981**

## MINUTES

### Board Members

Jeanne Awrey, OC Dept. of Education

Matt Bates, City Net

Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana

Natalie Bui, Veteran Affairs CRRC

Donald Dermit, The Rock Church

Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Secretary]

Tim Houchen, Hope4Restoration

Patti Long, Mercy House

Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter

Albert Ramirez, City of Anaheim

Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options [Vice Chair]

Soledad Rivera, Families Together of OC

George Searcy, Jamboree Housing

Tim Shaw, Individual [Chair]

Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Health Care Agency

### Call to Order – Tim Shaw, Chair

Chair Tim Shaw called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### Board Member Roll Call – Becks Heyhoe, Secretary

Present: Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Patti Long, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez.

Absent Excused: Jeanne Awrey and Soledad Rivera

**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.

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

Callie Rutter commented on the need for more housing in Orange County and recommended the CoC Board request additional funding to the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.

### **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 Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021.**

George Searcy motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Matt Bates seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

#### **1. Orange County System of Care Update – Jason Austin, Office of Care Coordination Director**

- a. Yale Navigation Center: The Yale Navigation Center is now open and began transitioning participants on Friday, January 29, 2021. The Yale Navigation Center provides shelter and supportive services for up to 425 individuals and couples experiencing homelessness in the Central Service Planning Area. The current capacity is 250 to accommodate for COVID-19 safety protocols. The operator for the Yale Navigation Center is People Assisting the Homeless known as PATH. The Office of Care Coordination (OCC) is developing a virtual tour video of the facility and will share it with the CoC Board and stakeholders upon completion.
- b. Project Roomkey: The County of Orange continues to operate Project Roomkey which provides temporary isolation shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 sick or symptomatic and a congregate shelter site for individuals experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 positive. Project Roomkey has a total capacity to serve up to 275 individuals. Referrals into the program are made by Public Health Services, hospitals, shelters, street outreach teams and law enforcement.
- c. Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program: The ERA Program assists households who have experienced financial hardships as a result of COVID-19 and have rental arrears and past due utility bills. The ERA Program funds were provided directly to states and local governments with populations more than 200,000 residents from the US Territories. The County of Orange received an allocation of \$65,576,556 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. To be eligible, a renter household in which at least one or more individual/s meets the following criteria:
  - The rental household must have qualified for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income;
  - the rental household must have incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
  - the rental household must demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; the rental household must have a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI); and
  - rental household's assistance is not duplicative of any other federally funded assistance.

#### **2. Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Update – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

- a. CoC Program Update: On Friday, January 29, 2021, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the FY 2020 awards for the 2021-2022 operating year. The Orange County CoC has been awarded a total of \$28,994,983 in renewal funding for all grants scheduled to

expire in 2021. This reflects an increase of \$2,851,779 in funding. On January 12, 2021, HUD announced the opening of the CoC Program Registration Forms for FY 2021. The OCC has completed the CoC Program Registration for FY 2021 as the administration entity. The OCC anticipates the Grant Inventory Worksheet to be released by HUD soon.

- b. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates: 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) will be sending reminder invoices to HMIS participating agencies who have not submitted payment for their HMIS user license fees. Invoices are due March 19, 2021. The OCC and 211OC thank all agencies who have submitted payment to date. The Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) data was submitted to HUD by the deadline. The System Performance Metrics (SPM) report for 10/1/2019 to 9/20/2020 is complete and will soon be submitted to HUD.
- c. Inter-Agency Data Sharing Agreement: 2-1-1 Orange County, as the HMIS Lead updated the Inter-Agency Data Sharing agreement at the recommendation of County of Orange County Counsel. The updated document may be found on the OCHMIS website: <http://ochmis.org/for-agencies-projects-not-currently-set-up-in-hmis/>.
- d. Coordination Entry System (CES) for Individuals Request for Proposals (RFP): The RFP closed, review and negotiations have been completed. The goal of this RFP is to provide enhanced infrastructure for CES for Individuals and facilitate the streamlining access to services and to improve care coordination. The contract with Friendship Shelter was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2021, to provide these services countywide in partnership with Mercy House.
- e. COVID-19 Homelessness Response Funding: Letter of Agreements (LOA) for the provision of Alternative Shelter Placement will continue to be an available resource to the Continuum of Care Providers. Approximately 16,989 alternative shelter placement nights have been provided since the program was implemented. Approximately \$1 million of \$1.2 million of the State COVID-19 Homelessness Response funding has been committed to date. Therefore, the Alternative Shelter Placement will be working to transition the participants to other programs and the OCC does not anticipate taking in any more participants.
- f. Public Comments:
  - Maura Mikule noted that she is a social worker in South Service Planning Area (SPA) and is concerned over the limited resources for South SPA residents. She asked the CoC Board to work on solutions for the issue and asked for CARES Act funding to be distributed to agencies to provide services to people experiencing homelessness.

### 3. CoC Data Dashboard – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Erin DeRycke, HMIS Lead

- a. Zulima Lundy noted that the CoC Data Dashboard is a continued item from the January 19, 2021, CoC Board meeting. The CoC Data Dashboard was created by 211OC and incorporates data from HMIS, 211OC's Contact Call Center Data and the CES Virtual Front Door Data. The Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee has reviewed the CoC Data Dashboard and were provided the opportunity to provide feedback. Erin DeRycke presented in detail an overview of the CoC Data Dashboard. If approved, the CoC Dashboard will be found on the OCHMIS.org website and the 211OC website.

The link to view the CoC Data Dashboard is:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiazM1NWVIMzAtY2Q3OS00Njc4LTkxNGQtNTc4ODM2NTg5Y2FmIiwidCI6ImQ1MmZhM2ViLTkwYjMtNDkyMS04YzAzLTc4NjBjZjMyOGEzYSIsImMiOiJ9&pageName=ReportSectionb7acc195e66627896582>

- b. Motion: Approve the CoC Data Dashboard developed by 2-1-1 Orange County utilizing HMIS data, Contact Call Center data and Coordinated Entry System Virtual Front Door data as reviewed by the Policies, Procedures and Standards Committee.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve the recommendation. Vice Chair Maricela Rios-Faust seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

- c. Board Member Comments:

- Dawn Price suggested 211OC consider updating age information on the dashboard with HMIS data.
- Albert Ramirez, Dawn Price and Becks Heyhoe praised the CoC Data Dashboard developed by 211OC with support from the OCC.

**4. Approve State Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus Round 1 and 2 Funding Recommendations – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**

- a. Zulima Lundy provided an update on the outcome of the COVID-19 Homeless and Prevention Response RFP, Project A – Homeless Prevention. The selected vendors for Project A are currently implementing the County of Orange’s ERA Program that provides needed financial resources to prevent homelessness. Pathways of Hope is providing services in North SPA, Volunteers of America is providing services to Central SPA and Family Assistance Ministries is providing services in South SPA.

Zulima Lundy provided the background that detailed how the OCC and COVID-19 Homeless and Prevention Response RFP Panel came to the recommendations for Project B and the sole source with Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC).

Motion 4a: Approve the Project B – Rapid Rehousing Services Vendor Recommendations, as recommended by the COVID-19 Homeless and Prevention Response RFP Panel.

- Mercy House Living Centers for COVID-19 Response Rapid Rehousing Services, for the term of March 23, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$9,110,656.
- Interval House for COVID-19 Response Rapid Rehousing Services, for the term of March 23, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) for COVID-19 Response Rapid Rehousing Services, for the term of March 23, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$1,714,219

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommendation. Natalie Bui seconded the motion. Becks Heyhoe, Patti Long and Dawn Price abstained from voting. The motion passed.

- b. Motion 4b: Approve Families Forward acting as the Fiscal Backbone for the Family Solutions Collaborative for COVID-19 Response Rapid Rehousing Services for Families for the term of March 23, 2021, through June 30, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$3,971,625.

Chair Tim Shaw recused himself from Motion 4b and Vice Chair Maricela Rios-Faust led the motion. Donald Dermit motioned to approve the recommendation. Natalie Bui seconded the recommendation. Chair Tim Shaw and Patti Long abstained from voting. The motion passed.

**5. Care Plus Program Update – Natalie Dempster, Data Integration Manager**

- a. Natalie Dempster provided an update on the Care Plus Program (CPP) formerly known as the System of Care Data Integration System (SOCDIS). The CPP is a collaborative care coordination program for those most vulnerable across the County. The CPP aims to expedite the identification of needs and

complete successful linkages to services and resources by utilizing a Multi-Disciplinary Team approach. The County of Orange is currently in a pilot phase and the pilot phase will focus on providing care coordination for those experiencing homelessness. The development of the system will be completed by June 2021.

- 6. Orange County United Way Data Release Request – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way**
- a. Zulima Lundy noted that the OC United Way is requesting aggregate data from HMIS on households that entered and exited homelessness, provided the background for the request and noted why it is being presented to the CoC Board for approval. Becks Heyhoe from OC United Way presented on the purpose of the data request, and previous uses of similar data.
  - b. Motion: Approve OC United Way’s data release request utilizing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data. OC United Way requests aggregate data from HMIS on households that entered and exited homeless service system for calendar year 2020.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve the motion. Natalie Bui seconded the motion. Chair Tim Shaw and Becks Heyhoe abstained from voting. The motion passed.

- 7. Open Letter to President Joe Biden and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager**
- a. Zulima Lundy stated that on February 18, 2021, a representative from the Los Angeles County CoC, in partnership with the National Alliance to End Homelessness and more than 20 CoCs across the nation, reached out to the OCC and surrounding CoCs seeking broad support for an open letter to the new federal administration. The open letter (Attachment A) aims to bring awareness to the challenges CoCs face and how the COVID-19 pandemic response has created resources and opportunities to better help those experiencing homelessness. The goal of the open letter is to open the door for future dialogue with the administration on specific policy proposals that can help CoCs move the needle on driving down homelessness in our communities.
  - b. Motion: Approve the Orange County CoC to sign a joint letter to the new federal administration to bring awareness to three main points:
    - CoCs suffer from mandate confusion and scarcity
    - COVID-19 presented a different way forward: resources and alignments
    - Federal support and direction can allow us to use housing as the vaccine for homelessness.

Vice Chair Maricela Rios-Faust recommended to approve the motion. Dawn Price seconded the recommendation. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

- c. Public Comments:
  - Pat Davis praised the Open Letter to President Joe Biden and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge and noted that the CoC Board should develop policies for implementation with funding moving forward.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:18 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.