

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Webinar:
<https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/j.php?MTID=m78381b0705d5cda70df63e3c20e22480>

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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 – Maricela Rios-Faust, Vice Chair

Maricela Rios-Faust 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, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Maricela Rios-Faust, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez.

Absent excused: Jeanne Awrey, Patti Long, and Tim Shaw.

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.

- There were no public comments.

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 October 27, 2021.

Dawn Price motioned to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. Matt Bates seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Orange County System of Care Update – Doug Becht, Acting Director, Office of Care Coordination

Doug Becht provided the following updates:

- **Project Roomkey** – The County of Orange (County) continues to operate temporary isolation shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 sick or symptomatic. The capacity remains at 150.
- **Project Homekey** – Project Homekey began operations on November 23, 2020. Jamboree Housing received tax credits and is ready to begin construction to turn the Tahiti Motel and Stanton Inn & Suites into permanent housing. Referrals to project Homekey will end on November 30, 2021.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Encampment Resolution Funding Program** – Doug Becht provided an overview of the Encampment Resolution Funding Program, which funds local demonstration projects that provide services to address the immediate crisis of experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments, to support people living in encampments onto paths to safe and stable housing, and supports sustainable restoration of public spaces to their intended uses while safeguarding the needs of unhoused people seeking shelter. The Office of Care Coordination is determining if there is an opportunity to apply for funding. Local jurisdictions that are interested in applying or partnering with the County are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Care Coordination.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Houchen inquired about the length of time reported for participants in Project Homekey and how the Office of Care coordination has determined the average length of stay. Tim Houchen also inquired about the types and numbers of exits from Project Homekey, including exits to permanent housing.
- Donald Dermit requested information about where individuals exit to, if not to permanent housing. The Office of Care Coordination committed to provide additional information at a future CoC Board meeting.

Public Comments:

- Thomas Fielder from Housing is a Human Right, inquired about the “encampment strategy,” and what types of strategies are currently being funded. Thomas Fielder inquired about the creation of more services like Project Homekey and encouraged for advocacy for more of these programs.

- John Underwood requested that data be provided focusing on the number of individuals who transitioned to permanent supportive housing out of the two Project Homekey.

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

Zulima Lundy provided the following updates:

- **FY 2021 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** – The Office of Care Coordination on behalf of the Orange County CoC successfully submitted the consolidated application for the FY2021 CoC Program NOFO on Monday, November 15, 2021. Zulima Lundy reviewed the CoC FY2021 Priority Listings as submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **CoC Board Nomination and Election Process** – The Orange County CoC is looking to identify nine candidates to fill upcoming vacancies on the CoC Board. Zulima Lundy outlined the seats available, timeline of activities, and nomination process for those interested in nominating or self-nominating.
- **HUD Equal Access Rule Assessment Tool** – HUD Equal Access Rule Assessment Tool has been updated and re-released. This tool provides specific action steps for HUD recipients and subrecipients to meet the requirements of the Equal Access Rule in shelters and homeless service settings. Zulima Lundy reviewed the uses of the tool and steps necessary for creating inclusive and safe access.
- **Racial Equity Analysis** – Zulima Lundy provided information about Phase 1 of the Racial Equity Analysis, which will support the Orange County CoC to assess its homeless response system, prioritize areas for action, and implement strategies to achieve more racially equitable outcomes. Phase 1 includes the Community Kickoff Meeting on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. and registration is required to participate.
- **Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policy Update Listening Session** – The Office of Care Coordination, in partnership with OC CES Administrators, presented on proposed changes to the CES assessment and prioritization policies at the CES Steering Committee on November 4, 2021. Zulima Lundy reviewed the CES policy updates, which includes replacing the VI-SPDAT with data collected in the program entry screen and utilizing length of homelessness as the primary and sole prioritization factor. The Office of Care Coordination and CES Administrators will be hosting a public listening session on Thursday, November 18, 2021, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Youth Advisory Board** – The Office of Care Coordination on behalf of the Orange County CoC is facilitating the Youth Action Board (YAB) recruitment and selection process. The YAB is a collaborative effort aimed at ensuring the perspectives of transitional aged youth (TAY), ages 18 to 24, with current and/or past lived experience of homelessness are included in the decision-making process. Zulima Lundy provided updates on outreach efforts to date.
- **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Federal Strategic Plan** – USICH started an intensive process to create a new Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Office of Care Coordination and Orange County CoC are encouraging participation in a survey by the USICH: <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>. The deadline for submitting feedback is November 30, 2021.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Houchen inquired about the reasoning for eliminating the VI-SPDAT. Zulima Lundy explained that given the number of questions and invasiveness of the VI-SPDAT, its use may be inadvertently creating biases and additional barriers to housing for those seeking to access services.
- George Searcy inquired about the possibility that the Tier 2 projects in the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO priority listing may not be funded. Zulima Lundy provided information on the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Projects, explaining that those projects have a higher likelihood to be funded, as well as the 10 bonus points for demonstrating housing and healthcare resource leveraging.
- George Searcy inquired about the proposed CES policy changes and the timeline for those changes being presented to the CoC Board. The CES policy changes are tentatively scheduled to go to the

Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee in December 2021 and will subsequently be presented to the CoC Board in January 2022.

- Christina Weckerly-Ramirez inquired about the CES policy changes, including where to find the analysis, what other tools are being considered, and ways to provide feedback. CoC Board members are invited to join the ongoing discussions about the policy changes and may also provide written feedback via email to carecoordination@ochca.com.
- Judson Brown requested an update on the Marching Home Strategy. The Office of Care Coordination will bring an update to the CoC Board at a future meeting.

3. Brown Act Update and Determination – 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 continue teleconferenced meeting for the next 30 days.

Continued teleconference meetings for the next 30 days will support the Orange County CoC in continuing to meet to further the goals of the CoC and ensure continuity of CoC activities. Additionally, it will provide the CoC membership and the CoC general membership ample time to plan for the transition to in-person meetings and implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols.

Recommended Action:

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the Orange County CoC Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and has determined that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

George Searcy motioned to approve the recommended action. Natalie Bui seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Emergency Housing Voucher Update – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Public Housing Authorities

Zulima Lundy provided an update on the emergency housing vouchers (EHVs), specific to the coordination the Office of Care Coordination facilitated with the four public housing authorities (PHAs) to establish a consistent set of data points to be reported by all PHAs going forward.

The EHV updates are detailed in the final meeting presentation materials for the November 17, 2021, CoC Board Meeting.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Houchen commented that he would like to see prioritization for households whose EHV will soon expire and the number of household's whose EHV's expire. Tim Houchen would like relevant data to be reported for households close to expiring.
- Albert Ramirez provided an update on behalf of the Anaheim Housing Authority.
- Judson Brown provided information about how the Santa Ana Housing Authority tracks expiring vouchers and reaches out to encourage households at risk to apply for an extension. Judson noted that vouchers rarely expire, and it is not a data point that the City of Santa Ana currently collects.

- Becks Heyhoe expressed concern around the lease up numbers provided.

Public Comments:

- Thomas Fielder recognized that the Garden Grove Housing Authority (GGHA) has issued about 15 percent of all EHV issued countywide and is responsible for a large number of leases. Thomas Fielder inquired if GGHA may be doing something differently to ensure success.
- David Gillanders expressed concern about the difficulty of working with landlords to find housing placements for the EHV's to be utilized.
- John Underwood inquired about which members of the unhoused population belong to which PHAs jurisdiction and wondered if there is any overlap between the Orange County Housing Authority and other PHAs.

5. OC Finance Trust Advisory Board – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Adam Eliason, OC Finance Trust

On September 15, 2021, the Orange County Housing Finance Trust (OCHFT) adopted Bylaws (reference Item VII. Attachment A) detailing the creation of an Advisory Board. The Bylaws detail that one of the seven members of the Advisory Board will be a member who also serves on the Orange County CoC Board. The CoC Board member shall be appointed by the majority of the Orange County CoC Board to serve as the representative from the Orange County CoC. Appointing a CoC Board Member to the Advisory Board will add value, bringing knowledge of funded homeless services and programs into the OCHFT conversation to finance the development of affordable and permanent supportive housing units in a holistic and regional approach of ending homelessness in Orange County advise the OCHFT Board of Directors.

Recommended Action:

Appoint a CoC Board Member to the Orange County Housing Finance Trust Advisory Board to advise the OC Housing Finance Trust Board of Directors.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- George Searcy inquired if the goal of the nomination is to avoid any potential conflict. Adam Eliason clarified that since the OCHFT is a funding entity, it would be beneficial to have a member who is familiar with financing the development of permanent supportive housing while avoiding a conflict of interest of voting on those matters. Adam Eliason clarified that the commitment would likely only be one to two hours per quarter.
- Dawn Price recommended tabling the election of a CoC Board representative until after the CoC Board election, as nine seats are currently up for re-election.
- Donald Dermot expressed his availability to serve on the OCHFT Advisory Board.

Public Comment:

- Thomas Fielder noted that there are 900 dwelling units that have been completed. He would like to know how many are privately owned, what percentage are currently occupied, if units are all eligible for vouchers, and their income category. He stated that key to providing efficient permanent supportive housing is to cut out the landlord and utilize City and/or County properties.

George Searcy motioned to delay this item until the new CoC Board is appointed in 2022. Tim Houchen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. North Service Planning Area Request for Proposal (RFP) – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager

On March 24, 2021, the CoC Board approved Project C – COVID-19 Response Homeless Service Vendor recommendation for the North, Central and South Service Planning Area. The recommended proposal for

Project C – COVID-19 Response Homeless Service for the North Service Planning Area did not end up moving forward in contracting or implementation. Approval will allow the release of the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Request for Proposal for the North Service Planning Area and make available up to \$500,000 in Homelessness, Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program Round 1 funding allocated to the Orange County CoC.

Recommended Action:

Approve the release of the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Request for Proposals for the North Service Planning Area.

Dawn Price motioned to approve the recommended action. Tim Houchen seconded the motion. Matt Bates abstained. Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Becks Heyhoe, Albert Ramirez, Maricela Rios-Faust, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez voted yes. Motion passed.

7. Orange County CoC Leadership Vision for Calendar Year (CY) 2022-24 – Tim Shaw, Chair and CoC Vision Ad Hoc

Item was continued to the December 15, 2021, meeting of the Orange County CoC Board.

8. Friendship Shelter HMIS Data Request – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Connor Stephenson, CES Manager, Friendship Shelter

On August 26, 2021, Friendship Shelter submitted a data request to 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) requesting a de-identified client level list of individuals and adult only households experiencing homelessness in the North and Central Service Planning Area and who are active in Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing Projects and Supportive Services Only projects from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The data request is for the reporting period from December 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021. Zulima Lundy reviewed the data points detailed in the request.

Connor Stephenson provided background on Friendship Shelter’s interest for the data, detailed the data being requested, and provided information about the Collaborative Case Conferencing Intervention implemented in the South Service Planning Area and how the data would support in evaluating its efficacy.

Recommended Action:

Approve Friendship Shelter’s data release request utilizing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Matt Bates requested a report back to the CoC Board of the discoveries and analysis, as the findings may help support systems moving forward.
- Christina Weckerly-Ramirez inquired about having access to a client identifier and expressed concerns about privacy.

Beck Heyhoe motioned to approve the recommended action. Donald Dermit seconded the motion. Dawn Price abstained. Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Tim Houchen, Albert Ramirez, Maricela Rios-Faust, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez voted yes. Motion passed.

9. Orange County Point In Time Count - Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and City Net

Item was continued to the December 15, 2021, meeting of the Orange County CoC Board.

Becks Heyhoe provided an update on the 'Passing the Mic' event, which was featured on Good Day LA as a part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.