

## ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

### VETERANS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 16, 2023

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



**Committee Chair:** Eric Richardson, Volunteers of America

### AGENDA

**Welcome and Introductions** – Eric Richardson, Chair

**Public Comments** – Members of the public may address the Veterans Committee 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 Veterans Committee. Members of the public may address the Veterans Committee with public comments on agenda items after the Veterans Committee 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 Veterans Committee, members of the public are to complete a Speaker Request Form prior to the beginning of each agenda item. Staff will call your name in the order received.

1. **Veterans Committee Orientation** – Eric Richardson, Chair, and Sarah Jones, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager, Office of Care Coordination
  - a. Membership involved in Veterans Committee
  - b. Meeting structure
  - c. Review current data related to veterans experiencing homelessness in Orange County
2. **Discuss Vision and Purpose of the Veterans Committee** – Eric Richardson, Chair
  - a. Overview of Veterans Committee Charter and CoC Board Leadership Vision
  - b. Open discussion related to vision and purpose of the Veterans Committee

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Orange County Continuum of Care  
Veterans Committee  
Governance Charter

At the meeting dated August 24, 2022, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved the creation of the Veterans Committee. The Veterans Committee was created to ensuring that the CoC is actively working to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for veterans, and measuring progress on these efforts.

**1. Name**

The technical name of this committee is the Veterans Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”.

**2. Purpose**

The Committee will function as an advisory group to the CoC Board and align its efforts to those of the Orange County CoC Board Vision. This Committee aligns with the intent of ensuring that the CoC is actively working to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness for veterans, and measuring progress on these efforts. The Committee will provide leadership on the issue of veteran homelessness and coordinate efforts to better serve veterans and their families in becoming permanently housed and achieving housing stability.

**3. Responsibilities**

The Committee is responsible for advising the CoC Board and exercising the following functions:

- Support the CoC in identifying all veterans experiencing homelessness and connecting them to the Veteran Registry.
- Coordinate efforts of the CoC’s measuring progress towards ending veteran homelessness through the analysis of data and information sharing.
- Coordinate the delivery of services to support veterans at risk of homelessness become achieve housing stability and veterans experiencing homelessness quickly secure housing.
- Convening local, state, federal and regional stakeholders working to address veteran homelessness together to share information on events, funding opportunities, and troubleshoot problems.
- Educate and inform the CoC on the needs and issues of veterans and veteran homelessness.
- Commit to advancing equity in the Orange County CoC, specifically addressing veteran populations who have been most disproportionately impacted by homelessness, to ensure all people in Orange County experiencing homelessness and those at-risk will have equitable access to navigation, housing, and supportive services in ways that ensure equitable outcomes including overall well-being and long-term housing stability

**4. Recommendations**

Matters referred to the Committee by the CoC Board, sub-committees or workgroups shall be placed on the calendar for consideration and action at the first meeting of the Veterans Committee after such reference. If there is an issue of importance to the Committee, the Committee may submit recommendations to the Policies, Procedures and Standards Committee and/or CoC Board for their consideration in coordination with the Collaborative Applicant. The CoC Board may adopt, amend, or reject the recommendations of the Committee in the best interest of the CoC.

## **5. Membership**

The Committee shall be chaired by the CoC Board member elected to serve in the seat designated for a veteran or veteran services agency representative. The Chair may appoint a Vice Chair, if desired.

The CoC aims to build a diverse and inclusive Committee. The Committee is to be representative of different regions, service providers, and stakeholders involved in the work of preventing and ending veteran homelessness within Orange County. The following representation within the Committee is highly desirable:

- Representative from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Representative from the Orange County Veterans & Military Families Collaborative (OCVMFC)
- Representative with current or past lived experience of homelessness as a Veteran
- Representative (s) from Orange County Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) service provider agencies
- Representative from United Way Welcome Home OC Program
- Representative (s) from Orange County housing providers and/or Public Housing Authorities
- Representative from a health care agency that serves veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Representative from an employment-focused agency that serves veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness

## **6. Meeting Schedule**

The Committee will meet bi-monthly, every odd month, and will be open to the public except as otherwise determined by the Committee. Any person who attends a meeting may be asked by the Committee Chair to leave if the person is disruptive; if a conflict of interest applies; or if an agenda business item(s) is deemed by the Committee Chair to be of such nature that it involves only Orange County CoC closed session business.

## **7. Voting and Quorum**

A quorum is necessary to conduct business and make recommendations. A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of more than 50% of the appointed members of the Veterans Committee.

A majority vote of those members present is required to take any action. Each member shall be entitled to one vote; no proxy votes will be accepted.

## **8. Conflict of Interest**

Membership of the Committee shall abstain from voting on any issue in which they may be personally vested to avoid a conflict of interest in accordance with County, State and Federal laws, regulations and ordinances and shall refrain from engaging in any behavior that conflicts with the best interest of CoC.

Orange County Continuum of Care Board  
Calendar Year 2023 - 25 Leadership Vision and Objectives

Strategic Aim 1: Permanently House those Experiencing Homelessness

**Long-Term Goal 1:** The CoC has led the collaborative effort to build and sustain a fluid system to prevent homelessness and quickly intervene with solutions to end homelessness among veterans, Transitional Aged Youth (TAY), and families, while making significant, measurable progress for all populations experiencing homelessness.

**Objectives:**

- 1.1 The CoC Board has adopted evidence-based approaches to effectively assist those at-risk of losing housing through activities and funding requirements associated with prevention and diversion efforts within the System of Care in Orange County and annual evaluation and review of relevant data reports.
- 1.2 The CoC Board has a consistent data collection methodology, using an equity lens, providing annual data updates so that all providers, members, and the public have access to clear, consistent, and regular analyses of the demand for resources in every intervention and/or project type within the System of Care.
- 1.3 The CoC Board has implemented a System of Care dashboard, in collaboration with the Commission to End Homelessness and other key stakeholders, generating real time updates on system/CoC capacity to provide resources and information, consistent with the needs of providers, members, and the public, to address homelessness.
- 1.4 The CoC Board is engaging in ongoing, rigorous review and evaluation of Orange County's homeless service system to understand service needs and gaps and assign funding priorities, ensuring appropriate funding allocations, and shifting or resources as needed.

## Strategic Aim 2: Ensure an Efficient, Dignified System

**Long-Term Goal 2:** The regional homelessness response system provides multiple points of access for all populations experiencing homelessness, reduces length of stay in shelters through more housing opportunities, creates fluidity among interventions in the Coordinated Entry System, promotes long-term housing stability, and measurably reduces returns to homelessness.

**Objectives:**

- 2.1 The CoC Board promotes and supports collaboration across the CoC to create consistency among providers in training on evidence-based practices and participant engagement.
- 2.2 The CoC Board works collaboratively with public housing authorities, the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, and other local housing partners, to create consistency within housing project types and facilitate fluidity among housing opportunities to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- 2.3 The CoC Board ensures data is communicated in ways that provide meaningful, actionable strategies and practices that reduce the length of homelessness, promote increased housing stability, and reduce returns to homelessness.
- 2.4 The CoC Board provides multi-platform opportunities for and incorporates feedback regarding the accessibility and efficiency of the Orange County homeless response system through intentional engagement with people with lived expertise, frontline staff, and system leaders.

## Strategic Aim 3: Promote an Equitable, Just System

**Long-Term Goal 3:** The CoC has assessed the homelessness response system and implemented policies, procedures, and practices rooted in deep understanding of historical, systemic inequities and injustices in housing and homeless services for underrepresented and marginalized groups to promote more equitable outcomes.

### Objectives:

- 3.1 The CoC Board, committees and Administrative Entity membership demonstrate understanding of the dynamics of systemic racial and cultural barriers to housing as evidenced by a clear and consistent focus on priority actions and policies which promote equity and justice.
- 3.2 The CoC Board has implemented the highest priority recommendations from the C4 Innovations-led CoC Racial Equity Assessment and assesses recommendations on a six-month basis to evaluate the impact of change.
- 3.3 The CoC Board employs a comprehensive and continuous process to assess and develop appropriate responses to racial inequities outside of the CoC's jurisdiction when they adversely impact unhoused people or impede the end of homelessness.
- 3.4 In addition to the racial equity framework, the CoC Board has developed and implemented strategies to address systemic inequities and injustices for other historically marginalized groups.

## Strategic Aim 4: Drive System-Wide Engagement and Collaboration

**Long-Term Goal 4:** The CoC is a model for community education and engagement, creating broad and better understanding of the CoC's role, aligning with cities, the County and private resources, partnering to reimagine law enforcement's role in homelessness response, strengthening policy agenda partnerships with other CoCs, and centering the voices of those with lived experience in decision-making.

### Objectives:

- 4.1 The CoC Board, in collaboration with the Administrative Entity, offers educational opportunities for service providers and community partners, resulting in strong alignment and partnership, and increased understanding and agreement of the role and purview of the CoC Board and program among CoC members, city representatives, County departments, and private funders.
- 4.2 The CoC Board regularly coordinates resource allocation priorities with and has achieved broad understanding of the role and participation of private funding sources, as evidenced by comprehensive investment and resource mapping.
- 4.3 The CoC Board has implemented an ongoing process of engagement with local police departments and the Sheriff's Department and launched at least one collaborative initiative to reimagine the role of law enforcement in homelessness.
- 4.4 The CoC Board has developed a policy agenda and legislative priorities and is working closely with other California CoCs to enact federal and state changes to measurably improve the resources and performance of the CoC.
- 4.5 CoC policies, processes, plans, and priorities are evaluated and informed by those with lived experience.

## Strategic Aim 5: Strengthen Regional Leadership and Accountability

**Long-Term Goal 5:** The CoC is primarily accountable for the strategy to end homelessness in Orange County, and promote a human right to housing, aligned with the state action plan and federal programs, and recognized as the model for innovative approaches through decision-making processes undeterred by politics or bureaucracy, with decisions and strategy set by experts, practitioners, and those with lived experience.

### **Objectives:**

- 5.1 The CoC Board has agreed on a strategic vision for preventing and ending homelessness in Orange County that impacts decision-making towards CoC funding opportunities and initiatives.
- 5.2 All CoC Board members and related subcommittee members receive training and education to ensure they have comprehensive knowledge about the CoC strategic vision, acknowledged best practices, the CoC's scope of influence related to its policies, and funding decisions.



## Strategic Aim 6: Smartly Allocate Funds to Match the Greatest Needs

**Long-Term Goal 6:** The CoC partners with all relevant stakeholders on comprehensive fiscal and resource mapping and analysis of data to inform funding decisions and priorities, ensure clear performance metrics, maximize pooled resources, and allocate funding in a fiscally accountable way.

- 6.1 The CoC Board analyzes other funding sources, identifies leveraging opportunities to support addressing homelessness, and engages in outreach to other CoCs to learn about additional funding initiatives and best practices.
- 6.2 The CoC Board plans and conducts an in-depth analysis of investment and resource mapping tools to identify and target relevant fiscal resources for CoC funding decisions and priorities.