

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
County Administration South (CAS) Building
Conference Center
425 West Santa Ana Blvd. Room 104/106
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599
[Click Here](#) for parking information.

MINUTES

Board Members

Nichole Gideon, Individual
Eric Richardson, Volunteers of America
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Individual [Secretary]
Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Health Care Agency
Jason Phillips, Individual
Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health

Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter [Chair]
George Searcy, City of Irvine
Sandra Lozeau, City of Anaheim
Melanie McQueen, PATH
Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual
Ami Rowland, Covenant House California
Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Vice Chair]
Tim Shaw, Individual

* In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and County Language Access Policy, those requiring accommodation and/or interpreter services for this meeting should notify the Office of Care Coordination 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-5000 or email CareCoordination@ocgov.com. Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided. *

Supporting documentation is available for review by the general public at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings and at least 24 hours prior to special meetings of the CoC Board. Those wishing to review supporting documentation can visit the lobby of the CAS Building, located 601 N. Ross Street., Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599, and request a copy of the meeting materials from the Office of Care Coordination during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Call to Order – Dawn Price, Chair

Chair Dawn Price called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Secretary

Present: Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Melanie McQueen, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Becks Heyhoe, and Tim Shaw.

Absent Excused: Nichole Gideon, Eric Richardson, Nishtha Mohendra and Ami Rowland.

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 agenda item presentation. 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 complete a Request to Address the CoC Board form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to CoC Board staff. Staff will call your name in the order received.

Members of the public may also submit public comment by emailing CareCoordination@ocgov.com. All comments submitted via email at least 60 minutes before the start of the CoC Board meeting will be distributed to the CoC Board members for their consideration and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “CoC Board Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

- Diana V. provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Diana V. stated that they want to support their friend who is having health and housing issues due to stalking. Diana V. shared personal experiences that their friend has endured and emphasized confidentiality practices that service providers must follow. Diana V. asked that the CoC Board find a way to keep their friend safe.
- Stefania Ianno provided public comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. As an advocate of victims of stalking, Stefania Ianno connected with an individual who shared their personal story and has experienced stalking, doxing, and is also a sex trafficking survivor. The individual expressed that they continue to be stalked and harassed; and are traumatized and concerned for their safety. The individual has moved multiple times due to their situation. Stefania Ianno thanked the CoC Board for hearing the statements.

Board Member Comments: Members of the CoC Board may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board.

- Jason Phillips shared that throughout 2023, more than 400 people experiencing homelessness have passed away. Jason Phillips read the names of the people who have died “Without a Fixed Abode” in October 2023.
- Maricela Rios-Faust provided an update on behalf of the Code of Conduct Ad Hoc and emphasized the focus on how to best proceed as a CoC. Maricela Rios-Faust shared that one of the approaches has been reviewing the Racial Equity Analysis completed by C4 Innovations and incorporate recommendations into the CoC Code of Conduct.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse thanked the Nominating Ad Hoc and the Office of Care Coordination for all the work done during the CoC Board nomination and election. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse shared an update on the Commission to End Homelessness and the nomination of Kelly Bruno-Nelson.
- Christina Weckerly Ramirez shared that the Street Outreach Committee, which is currently not part of the CoC, has been convening to discuss, network, and meet as a group. The Street Outreach Committee is curious on how to use information that has been shared and are happy to share some of the experiences and information.
- Nishtha Mohendra provided Board Member Comment via email in advance of the CoC Board meeting. Nishtha Mohendra stated that she is deeply honored by the CoC Board election recommendation and consideration for the upcoming term for the CoC Board. Nishtha Mohendra

wanted to express her gratitude for the experience so far as it has been an enriching experience, both personally and professionally. The collective commitment to preventing and ending homelessness in Orange County has been both inspiring and impactful. Nishtha Mohendra stated that if she is granted the opportunity to continue, she is eager to contribute further to the shared mission and looks forward to the possibility of another term dedicated to making a lasting difference.

- Chair Dawn Price stated that by putting inclusion and equity as a priority, it is a step forward. Chair Dawn Price stated that she appreciates the effort and intention, and recognize that this year, great strides toward inclusion and equity were made. The CoC Vision document was used to reference and create actionable steps throughout the years. Chair Dawn Price stated that she appreciates the work of the Office of Care Coordination and thanked all the CoC Board members and said it has been an honor to serve alongside each other.

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 CoC Board Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2023**
2. **Approve the 2024 CoC Board Meeting Calendar, including the extension of CoC Board meetings to three (3) hours to be scheduled from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.**

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse motioned to approve items 1 and 2 on the Consent Calendar. Becks Heyhoe seconded the motion. Judson Brown, Maricela Rios-Faust, Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Jason Phillips, Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Dawn Price, George Searcy, Sandra Lozeau, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Becks Heyhoe, and Tim Shaw voted yes. Melanie McQueen abstained. Motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **2024 CoC Board Recommendations** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and CoC Nominating Ad Hoc Membership

Sarah Jones provided an overview of the CoC Board nomination and election process, including CoC Board seats to be filled, and the timeline of activities from September 2023 to present. The Orange County CoC and the Nominating Ad Hoc has identified eleven (11) candidates to serve on the CoC Board.

Recommended Action a: Confirm removal of seat designations for the following CoC Board members whose terms expire on December 31, 2024, to be consistent with the approved changes to the CoC Governance Charter.

- i. Judson Brown
- ii. Kelly Bruno-Nelson
- iii. Sandra Lozeau
- iv. Melanie McQueen
- v. Robert Morse
- vi. Jason Phillips
- vii. Maricela Rios-Faust
- viii. Ami Rowland
- ix. Christina Weckerly-Ramirez

Sandra Lozeau motioned to approve Recommended Action a. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommended Action b: Ratify the results from the CoC Board election to appoint the following candidates to the CoC Board.

- i. James Bacon
- ii. LaVal Brewer
- iii. Andrew Crowe
- iv. Becks Heyhoe
- v. Frank Luna
- vi. Nishtha Mohendra
- vii. Talesha Payne
- viii. Dawn Price
- ix. George Searcy
- x. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells
- xi. Tim Shaw

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve Recommended Action b. Jason Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Shaw shared that during the Meet and Greet they were amazed by the quality of candidates. Tim Shaw shared kudos to the Nominating Ad Hoc and the Office of Care Coordination as the CoC Board will have different perspectives that it has never had before, as well as having non-conflicted members with lots of experience.
- Chair Dawn Price emphasized that there was a resource in the process which was technical assistance from the State of California that was paid by someone else. Chair Dawn Price shared that accomplishments as a CoC Board may need investments of an extra hand or resource.

2. Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Recommendation – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Becks Heyhoe, PPS Committee Chair

Sarah Jones provided background on the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures review and updating process. On October 25, 2023, proposed changes to the CES Policies and Procedures were presented to the CoC Board. The CoC Board received public comment related to the recommended action and voted to continue the agenda item regarding approval of the draft CES Policies and Procedures to allow time for the Office of Care Coordination to engage with Victim Service Providers (VSPs) on additional feedback. Following the additional feedback provided by the VSPs, the Office of Care Coordination met with the VSPs to receive further feedback and edits to the draft CES Policies and Procedures. The Office of Care Coordination worked to integrate the feedback and update the revised CES Policies and Procedures accordingly through each stage of the review and feedback process.

As approved by the CES Steering Committee, the Office of Care Coordination also convened a Survivor Assessment Tool Ad Hoc for three meetings in November to recommended revisions to the Survivor Assessment Tool. The Domestic Violence (DV) Committee reviewed and approved the changes to the CES Policies and Procedures, specifically the inclusion of CES for Survivors and the Survivor Assessment Tool on November 28, 2023. At the December 12, 2023, meeting of the PPS Committee, the draft of the CES Policies and Procedures detailing the recommended changes was presented and recommended to the CoC Board for review and final approval.

Recommended Action a: Approve the recommended changes to the CES Policies and Procedures including CES for Survivors, assessment updates, a disaster prioritization policy and clarifying language, as recommended by the CES Steering Committee, DV Committee and PPS Committee.

Melanie McQueen motioned to approve Recommended Action a. Dr. Shauntina Sorrells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CoC Strategic Investment Planning Tool – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

As part of the strategic vision for the Orange County CoC, the CoC Vision Ad Hoc and CoC Board membership have elevated the need for fiscal and/or resource mapping as a way to better understand what resources are present in the homeless response system and how to strategically invest in housing resources through future funding opportunities. CoC Board officers and members expressed that Rehousing and Coordinated Investment Planning Tool (RCIPT) appears to be fitting for the need to assess current system performance and resources available within the Orange County CoC.

Recommended Action a: Approve the implementation of the Rehousing and Coordinated Investment Planning Tool – Capital (RCIPT-C) to support the Orange County CoC’s strategic planning for current and future investment of resources.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve Recommended Action a. George Searcy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Shaw stated that there has been a discussion regarding fiscal and resource mapping for more than five years and they are glad to see the recommended action. Tim Shaw stated that the CoC and Office of Care Coordination should come back to the CoC Board with a plan as to how RCIPT-C will be utilized, as well as an outline of the comprehensive strategy.

4. CalOptima Health’s Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) Update – Danielle Cameron, Director of Program Development, CalAIM, CalOptima Health

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) established the HHIP to improve health outcomes and access to whole person care services by addressing housing insecurity and instability as a social determinant of health for the Medi-Cal population. CalOptima Health provided a detailed presentation on HHIP and additional investments made by CalOptima Health’s Board of Directors to address homelessness in Orange County. In December 2022, the CalOptima Health invested in a partnership with the County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination, as the administrative entity and collaborative applicant for the CoC Board, to fund critical activities. On January 16, 2024, CalOptima Health will be releasing Round 3 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with a possibility of Round 4 in Summer 2024.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- George Searcy expressed that CalOptima Health has been how transformational in the investments made and in the ways of asking for community feedback and listening to the community. George Searcy shared a huge applause for CalOptima Health’s efforts, the results, and the services being provided to the people the CoC is committed to serve.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe expressed gratitude on behalf of United to End Homelessness and the CoC. Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe stated that the CalOptima Health has been incredible to work with and have had the ability to be creative, think outside the box, and the number of investments has been transformational.
- Tim Shaw shared the experience of grant writing and the dynamics that come with grantee and grantors and stated that CalOptima Health has an approach of reaching out and listening to the community. Tim Shaw stated that they appreciate the focus on innovation as the community in resource constrained. Tim Shaw also asked for clarification on the allocation to transitional housing.

- Kelly Bruno-Nelson clarified that the allocation to transitional housing is an effort of the CalOptima Health Board listening to the community as the previous NOFO rounds received applications that could not be funded due to being an ineligible project type.
- Chair Dawn Price stated that others should take a note in CalOptima Health's process of the ease of applying for a NOFO.

5. Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count Update – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

The Point In Time Count is a count and survey of people experiencing homelessness on a given night during the last ten days in January. The count provides vital information that helps the County of Orange and the Orange County CoC better understand homelessness in the community and guides the response to homelessness in Orange County. Opportunities to register to volunteer for the 2024 Point In Time count within your Service Planning Area (SPA) are now open. As of Monday, December 18, 2023, a total of 191 volunteers have signed up for the 2024 Point In Time count. To volunteer, please click [here](#) to sign up.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Kelly Bruno-Nelson shared that due to HHIP, CalOptima Health has gone great lengths in measuring the number of individuals who are unhoused and CalOptima Health has noted that the Point In Time count numbers is vastly different from what CalOptima Health's algorithm is showing. Kelly Bruno-Nelson explained that the number of individuals who are unhoused is very different as the Point In Time count is a single snapshot on one night. Kelly Bruno-Nelson encouraged the CoC Board to put a storyboard together that has the Point in Time count numbers, as well as the numbers currently being seen in the community.
- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe shared that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the 2023 Point In Time count report that noted an increase of homelessness nationally. Vice Chair Becks noted that for a storyboard, an ad hoc should be created to provide guidance on how the CoC shares that story. Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe stated that United to End Homelessness hosts community chats and continues to put the message out to the community that the Point in Time Count is one type of data set, but not the only data set.
- Melanie McQueen reflected on the things that are not being counted such as the individuals and families at risk of homelessness and shared that having those numbers would be able to support more funding allocation into homelessness prevention.
- Chair Dawn Price agreed with the comments and shared that the data is only as good as everyone who goes out there and does the work. Chair Dawn Price noted that the Point In Time count drives some of the funding in the homeless response system and emphasized its importance.

6. Orange County Homelessness Updates – Doug Becht, Director and Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

- a. System of Care Updates – Doug Becht provided the following System of Care Update:
 - The Commission to End Homelessness met on December 13, 2023, and recommended the appointment of the following membership to serve on the Commission to End Homelessness to the Board of Supervisors for approval: James Vanderpool, City Manager for Anaheim, as the North SPA Representative for a two-year term; Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Executive Director, CalOptima Health, as the Medi-Cal Managed Health Plan Representative for a two-year term; and Lisa Kim, City Manager for Garden Grove, as the Central SPA Representative for the balance of the two-year term ending August 8, 2024.
 - At the December 13, 2023, meeting, the Commission to End Homelessness received and filed the Homelessness Prevention and Stabilization Pilot Program as proposed by Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento. The item will go before the Board of Supervisors for approval on January 9, 2024.

- Following the discussion on the Cold Weather Emergency Shelter at the Commission to End Homelessness meeting on August 16, 2023, the Office of Care Coordination reached out to all 34 cities through a letter to explore options for a Cold Weather Emergency Shelter program in each city. The Office of Care Coordination is currently working with a few cities on potential models that could serve the people experiencing homelessness in their community. The Office of Care Coordination is also working on a plan to ensure expanded access to year-round shelters during inclement weather.
 - The Office of Care Coordination is working closely with the County Procurement Office to ensure continued oversight of contracts and respective funding. Using expenditure and revenue reporting tools, the Office of Care Coordination will be conducting a detailed review to identify current spend down of funding as well as projected expenditures.
 - The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) announced the availability of Round 3 of the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program. Applications for the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be accepted on a rolling basis until June 30, 2024, or until funds are depleted, whichever occurs first. The Office of Care Coordination is working an application and aims to submit in the first quarter of 2024.
- b. Continuum of Care Updates – Sarah Jones provided the following Continuum of Care Updates:
- On September 29, 2023, Cal ICH announced the release of HHAP Round 5 funding. The application is due on March 27, 2024. The Office of Care Coordination as the Administrative Entity for the Orange County CoC will complete the HHAP Round 5 grant application on behalf of the CoC.
 - HUD published a proposed rule in the Federal Register, which, if finalized, would require public housing agencies to provide tenants with written notification at least 30 days before filing in court for eviction due to nonpayment of rent. The proposed rule would affect an estimated 3.9 million people in 2.2 million households – 1.7 million people in 840,000 households in public housing and 2.2 million people in 1.4 million households in Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) programs.
 - HUD published the Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant NOFO and is incentivizing collaborative applications that cover large geographic areas (i.e. statewide and across multiple CoCs) and encourages applications that cover multiple funding activities with leveraged partnerships. More information, including a recorded webinar that introduces YHSI, can be found on the YHSI website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/yhsi
 - The Housing Inventory County (HIC) is a point in time inventory of housing programs within a CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness (or for permanent housing projects, were experiencing homelessness at entry). To prepare for the HIC, the HMIS Lead sent all agencies that participated in the HIC in 2022 their program descriptor, funding source, and bed inventory data. Agencies should review this data and submit a ticket to the HMIS Help Desk if any data needs to be updated.
 - The City of Garden Grove’s Economic Development and Housing Department issued the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program Operator Request for Proposals (RFP) for case management and housing providers to operate the Rental Assistance Program. Proposers are required to submit five hard copies of their proposals before this deadline, as well as an electronic submission.
 - The City of Garden Grove is accepting proposals from qualified firms (developers/proposers) to develop affordable housing and permanent supportive housing units within the city. Proposed developments can be new construction or acquisition and rehabilitation of existing multi-family rental units and be designed to serve low-income or at-risk populations within Garden Grove. The City of Garden Grove is accepting proposals from qualified providers and

the submission deadline is Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. PST. Proposers are required to submit five hard copies of their proposals before this deadline, as well as an electronic submission at the following location: <https://ggcity.org/neighborhood-improvement/affordable-housing-and-permanent-supportive-housing-development-rfp>

- On December 15, 2023, HUD released the 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): Part 1 which compiles data from Point in Time counts conducted nationally in January 2023. The 2023 AHAR Part 1 can be referenced [here](#).

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Vice Chair Becks Heyhoe inquired on the timeframe of opening a Cold Weather Emergency Shelter and asked if there is anything that the CoC Board can do to help support ramping up a shelter earlier.

Sandra Lozeau motioned to adjourn the meeting. Melanie McQueen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.