

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location:
The Village at 17th Street
Large Community Room
1505 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Virtual Meeting Option*:
Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)
Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171, 97975623556#
Webinar ID: 979 7562 3556

****Listen-in option only***

Committee Chair: Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options

Committee Members:

Jude Abusham, Student in Orange County
Brateil Aghasi, WISEPlace
Patience Biosah, Individual
Barbara Burke, Individual
Deborah Kraft, Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Orange County Family Violence Council's (OCFVC) Homelessness Domestic Violence (DV)-Sexual Assault (SA) Task Force, Housing is a Human Right OC (HHROC), Stronger Women United, DV Policy Advocate
Mark Lee, Radiant Futures
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward
Lydia Nationalesta, City of Lake Forest
Wendy Seiden, OCFVC Homelessness-DV-SA Task Force
Tianna Terry, Friendship Shelter, Individual Coordinated Entry System (CES)
Cynthia Thouvenel, Ohlone Tribe Non-Profit
Katherine Tan, Individual
Sharon Wie, Interval House

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the DV 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 DV Committee. Public 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 DV Committee, members of the public are to complete a Request to Address the Committee form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to Continuum of Care (CoC) 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 24 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the DV Committee members and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “Domestic Violence Committee Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024.
2. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **CES for Survivors Update** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination
2. **Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair
 - a. Review 2024 Point In Time data related to domestic violence subpopulation in Orange County
3. **CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Feedback** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager; Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator; and Jasmin Miranda, CoC Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination
4. **CoC Updates** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at The Village at 17th Street, Large Community Room located at 1505 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92705

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location:
Virtually on Teams
Meeting Link: [Here](#)
Meeting ID: 275 119 815 05
Passcode: ZdGxwn
Or call in (audio only): +1 949-543-0845
Phone Conference ID: 625 132 731#

Committee Chair: Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options

Committee Members:

Jude Abusham, Student in Orange County
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Mark Lee, Radiant Futures
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Lydia Nationalesta, City of Lake Forest
Wendy Seiden, OCFVC Homelessness-DV-SA Task Force and Chapman University's Homeless Policy Practicum
Tianna Terry, Friendship Shelter/Individual Coordinated Entry System (CES)
Cynthia Thouvenel, Ohlone Tribe Non-Profit
Katherine Tan, Individual
Sharon Wie, Interval House

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Present: Maricela Rios-Faust, Brateil Aghasi, Patience Biosah, Barbara Burke, Mark Lee, Nishtha Mohendra, Lydia Nationalesta, Wendy Seiden, Tianna Terry, Katherine Tan, and Sharon Wie.

Absent Excused: Deborah Kraft and Cynthia Thouvenel

Absent: Jude Abusham

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minutes. In order to address the DV Committee, members of the public are to enter their name and agenda item number in the chat box to be placed in a queue. Staff will call your name in the order listed in the chat box.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2023.**
- 2. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from November 28, 2023.**

Nishtha Mohendra motioned to approve items 1 and 2 on the Consent Calendar. Mark Lee seconded the motion. Maricela Rios-Faust, Brateil Aghasi, Patience Biosah, Barbara Burke, Mark Lee, Nishtha Mohendra, Lydia Nationalesta, Wendy Seiden, Tianna Terry, Katherine Tan, and Sharon Wie voted yes. Motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

- 1. CES for Survivors Update** – Sarah Jones, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones provided background on the review and approval process timeline for the CES Policies and Procedures, as well as the updates made to the CES Policies and Procedures. The Office of Care Coordination as the CES Lead began implementing CES Policies and Procedures updates on January 1, 2024, including CES Partner training. At this time, current challenges of implementation of CES for Survivors are that victim service providers are reporting that housing funds have largely been exhausted for the current program year and survivor dedicated housing resources are extremely limited.

Committee Discussion:

- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust asked questions regarding how if a households may be served through the different components of CES – Individuals, Families and Survivors. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust inquired on the process for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of CES for Survivors. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust shared that there is currently no funding in the CoC to provide hotel vouchers and explained that many victim service providers will soon experience an approximate 50% reduction in federal and state funding which will impact the system of care for DV survivors.
- Tianna Terry provided context on how CES for Survivors works and clarified that individuals would not lose their status on the community queue, nor would anyone get pushed down based on DV prioritization.
- Nishtha Mohendra explained that when CES for Veterans was implemented, there were unforeseen gaps and inquired if the lessons learned from CES for Veterans were considered and addressed for CES for Survivors implementation.
- Sharon Wie asked if there are any discussions taking place with the other components of CES to adjust prioritization.
- Mark Lee explained that their understanding is that victim service provider access points would conduct prioritization for DV survivors, but the survivor would not be automatically added to the other components of CES.
- Lydia Nationalesta explained that when working with DV survivors, there are many times of shelter beds not being available, and the DV survivor will ultimately go back and live with the perpetrator. Lydia Nationalesta inquired if there would be funding in the future to place survivors into a hotel while identifying permanent housing.

2. University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (BHHI) intimate partner violence (IPV) and homelessness findings – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

In January 2024, the UCSF BHHI released a report on the relationship between IPV and homelessness in California. The analysis is based on survey data and in-depth interviews from the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH). From the report, there were seven (7) findings and BHHI endorsed policy recommendations in four key areas: promote policies and programs that center violence and homelessness prevention; promote equity in responses to intimate partner violence; increase access to affordable, permanent housing options for survivors; and increase support for survivors currently experiencing homelessness.

Committee Discussion:

- Lydia Nationalista stated that their experience resonated with the report. Lydia Nationalista shared that their former college assisted with resources and emphasized that the lack of resources makes it difficult for survivors to leave IPV situations.
- Sharon Wie commented that it would be important to share BHHI policy recommendations with the CoC Board and encourage the CoC to update current CoC resources in order to shape future resources.
- Nishtha Mohendra shared that some of the findings are not exclusive to the experience of DV survivors and are applicable across the homeless service system.
- Wendy Seiden agreed with Sharon Wie's comments and noted that some of the [webinars](#) that UCSF should be shared with the CoC. Wendy Seiden also emphasized that prevention needs to be highlighted and needs to be part of the DV homelessness work. Wendy Seiden stated that services such as bus passes, childcare, and other case management services need to be part of services provided.
- Barbara Burke emphasized the policy recommendation of "promote equity in responses" because it is a good example as to why DV survivors and other individuals are part of the DV Committee and should be included in meetings. Barbara Burke stated that flexible schedules, remote options, etc. are a good way to promote equity.
- Mark Lee noted that it was interesting to see that only 5% of people experiencing IPV were staying in DV shelters. Mark Lee stated that DV shelter programs need to have equitable access to CES services, and the CoC needs additional resources. Mark Lee noted the importance for the Orange County CoC to understand that additional resources are needed to bridge the gap of victim service provider services.
- Chair Maricela-Rios Faust emphasized the importance of funding DV resources, flexible funding, preventing people from being re-victimized, and being open to reflect on the DV process. Chair Maricela-Rios Faust stated that not every survivor will come through CES for Survivors.

3. Brown Act Update – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones shared that the Office of Care Coordination received legal counsel and guidance that all CoC Committee meetings are to transition from virtual to being held in person, as the COVID-19 State of Emergency has ended and impacted allowance of continued teleconferencing without just cause and emergency circumstances. Moving forward, CoC Committee meetings will be held

in-person while the Office of Care Coordination continues exploring additional opportunities for increased engagement.

Public Comments:

- Marisol Johnson, a representative from Dayle McIntosh Center, and shared requested accommodation for other CoC meetings because their organization works with people with disabilities and in their organization still follows COVID-19 prevention protocol which impacts when staff can go to on-site meetings. Marisol Johnson encouraged virtual meetings to consider people who have disabilities.
- Francesca Cappellini agreed that having teleconferencing is much more equitable for the DV population, regardless of what the law states.

Committee Discussion:

- Katherine Tan stated that a lot of the DV Committee members do not have the privilege to take time off from work and the transition to in-person meetings will impact participation. Katherine Tan asked who the County Counsel representatives are and stated a preference to do research of their own.
- Sharon Wie asked if there is an entity that the DV Committee could directly voice concerns to in Orange County about how in-person meetings would exclude some of the survivors who serve on the DV Committee. Sharon Wie explained personal experience of serving in committees in other communities and those communities continue to meet virtually.
- Barbara Burke stated that they are a DV survivor representative of the African American community and emphasized on the importance of meeting virtually. Barbara Burke asked CoC staff to check with the UJIMA program in Washington as they dealt with the issue of meeting in-person and the UJIMA programs understands that virtual meetings is an equity issue while having the support of the government. Barbara Burke stated that the DV Committee will not have participation from homeless people, DV survivors or people of color to any great extent if flexibility and virtual participation is not allowed.
- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust committed to continued advocacy for access when other stakeholders do not.

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MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Present: Chair Maricela Rios-Faust, Brateil Aghasi, Patience Biosah, Mark Lee, Nishtha Mohendra, and Katherine Tan

Absent Excused: Jude Abusham, Barbara Burke, Deborah Kraft, Wendy Seiden, Tianna Terry, Cynthia Thouvenel, and Sharon Wie

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CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024.

**Committee did not have quorum and minutes were not approved*

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. CES for Survivors Update – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones presented on the CES for Survivors update. The Office of Care Coordination initiated CES for Survivors on January 1, 2024, enabling CES access points and Orange County United Way 2-1-1 Orange County's (211OC) Virtual Front Door to identify survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and facilitate a warm handoff to victim service providers (VSPs). In January, the Office of Care Coordination commenced training CES partners, in partnership with VSPs, on survivor identification using the Pre-Assessment tool and process of referring survivors to CES for Survivors. As of February 2024, VSP partners can refer survivors to both CES for Survivor-specific housing resources and the general CES Community Queue, while ensuring complete anonymity.

Committee Discussion:

- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust inquired about the committee's preferences for assessing the functionality of the system and identifying necessary changes. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust highlighted the opportunity to gain insight into survivors' experiences with the screening process across different systems. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust also emphasized the importance of examining data regarding the effectiveness of the process for survivors.
- Mark Lee inquired about whether CES can offer clarification on the role of VSPs not funded by the CoC in the referral process. Mark Lee has requested the committee to review the program placement of survivors in CES and assess if any improvements are required in the Policies and Procedures to ensure equitable access for survivors to both CES survivor-specific and non-survivor-specific programs.
- Nishtha Mohendra inquired about the ramp-up experience for CES for survivors' program implementation.

2. Funding Updates – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

- a. Overview of CoC and State funding updates as it relates to addressing the needs of domestic violence survivors in Orange County

Chair Maricela Rios-Faust provided background on the funding update. At the February 20, 2024, meeting, the DV Committee discussed the challenges faced by survivors due to limited housing resources and reviewed policy recommendations from the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness

and Housing Initiative report, emphasizing the need to promote policies and programs for violence and homelessness prevention, equity in responses to intimate partner violence, and increased access to affordable permanent housing options for survivors. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, crucial for supporting crime victims' needs, including housing services, counseling, and crisis response, faced budget cuts, affecting organizations across California. In Fiscal Year (FY) 23-24, California's crime victim services will receive \$87 million, a 43% reduction from FY 23.

Sarah Jones presented on the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program. The HHAP Program, administered by the State's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH), provides funds to local jurisdictions to address homelessness. At the February 28, 2024, CoC Board meeting, the Office of Care Coordination presented the HHAP Round 5 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) application. Feedback and recommendations were invited from CoC Board members and the public until March 8, 2024. Following a meeting with CoC Board Officers on March 13, 2024, it was recommended to allocate funds to special populations, allowing flexibility. On March 27, 2024, the CoC Board approved the establishment of a HHAP Program ad hoc to support the planning and programming of HHAP Program Rounds 1-4 remaining funds. Sarah Jones also presented on the CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annually releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Continuums of Care (CoCs) to apply for competitive funding. The FY 2024 CoC Program competition is expected to have a timeline similar to that of FY 2023. At the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference, HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) announced that Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funds will be available for the FY 2024 CoC Program competition.

Chair Maricela Rios-Faust also noted the VOCA budget cuts are affecting the ability of VSPs to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors and their families in Orange County. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust noted it is crucial for VSPs to have access to funding for various housing options and for service providers to have sufficient staffing to screen and connect survivors to housing. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust noted urgent advocacy is needed to address the funding gaps caused by the VOCA budget cuts for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Committee Discussion:

- Nishtha Mohendra proposed presenting a recommendation to the CoC board to pursue specific unexplored funds as a beneficial strategy. Nishtha Mohendra inquired about the potential for the CES for Survivors to collaborate with external service providers to monitor the receipt of resources by survivors. Nishtha Mohendra inquired about the possibility of partnering with CalOptima and leveraging the CalAIM program to support survivors. Nishtha Mohendra suggested a partnership with the Housing Opportunities Committee to inquire about developers interested in housing specifically for survivors of domestic violence.
- Mark Lee expressed contentment with the recent allocation of funds for survivors from the CoC for housing-specific programs and inquired about the possibility of exploring funding for other necessary program areas beyond Rapid Rehousing programs. Mark Lee inquired about how CES can be helpful in connecting survivors to housing opportunities.

3. CoC Updates – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones presented the following CoC updates:

Development and Operations of a People with Lived Experience of Homelessness Financial Compensation Coordination Program Request for Information (RFI):

The Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity of the Orange County CoC, has released an RFI for a Development and Operations of a People with Lived Experience of Homelessness Financial Compensation Coordination Program. The RFI may lead to a partnership with one or more respondents for the requested program activities. Development and Operations of a People with Lived Experience of Homelessness Financial Compensation Coordination Program RFI is available on OpenGov Procurement and proposals must be submitted by a revised deadline of April 26, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT).

County Procurement Office Supplier Outreach:

The County Procurement Office invites all interested vendors and service providers to the annual Supplier Outreach Day. The event aims to educate attendees on County of Orange procurement and contracting processes and improve partnerships to better serve the community.

Anti-Trafficking Housing Solicitation Applications Now Being Accepted:

The Office of Victims of Crime (OVC), a part of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is currently seeking applications for the FY2024 Anti Trafficking Housing Assistance Program. The program's objective is to strengthen organizations in order to offer housing and related services to victims of human trafficking. Eligible applicants include state and city governments, public institutions of higher education, county governments, public housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, and qualified nonprofit organizations.

2024 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Survivor Housing Community Conversations:

HUD will host a series of community conversations focusing on implementing VAWA and survivor-centered housing at the system, project, and human levels. Each conversation will feature a diverse panel of system leaders, project staff, and individuals with lived experiences from both the homelessness response and victim services worlds.

Committee Discussion:

- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust discussed the difficulties of in-person meetings for this committee.

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