

**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  
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 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

**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. Members of the public may address the DV Committee with public comments on agenda items 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. 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.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.