

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

Tuesday, April 16, 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**

**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: 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

**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](mailto: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.**

*\*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.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 18, 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