

**ORANGE COUNTY
SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM**

Thursday, May 16, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location:
Orange County Housing Authority
1501 East Saint Andrew Place
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Parking is free of cost

Chair: Melanie McQueen, PATH

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Melanie McQueen, Chair
 - a. Members of the public are invited to introduce themselves
 - b. Peer Recognition Shout-Outs
2. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the Homeless Services Sector Training** – Matthew Soto, Ed.D., Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, PATH and Felicia Boehringer, Continuum of Care (CoC) Administrator, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. Overview of the C4 Innovations Orange County CoC Racial Equity Assessment Final Brief
 - b. Training on understanding diversity, equity and inclusion practices and putting them into action in the field of homeless services

Felicia Boehringer provided a brief overview of the Orange County CoC’s partnership with C4 Innovations to conduct a racial equity assessment. The Office of Care Coordination contracted with C4 Innovations to develop a Racial Equity Roadmap for the Orange County CoC. The roadmap was developed from December 2021 through December 2022 in three phases: Assessment and Learning, Action Planning and Continued Learning, and Implementation Support and Sustainability. C4 Innovations conducted a racial equity assessment of the Orange County CoC's homeless response system to prioritize areas for action and implement strategies for more racially equitable outcomes.

Matthew Soto, the Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer at PATH, led a training on understanding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the homeless services sector.

Public Comment:

- A member of the public inquired about obtaining services for clients in the presence of funding barriers.
- A member of the public reported that there are numerous barriers in South Orange County caused by a lack of resources.
- A member of the public shared about barriers that arise between clients and providers due to race and culture.
- A member of the public shared about the barriers for clients with disabilities.

3. **Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) for Families Presentation** – Amanda Brear, Regional Program Manager, and Heber Anguiano, HDAP Program Manager, Volunteers of America Los Angeles

The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) is a new county-wide initiative aimed at assisting homeless families with at least one disabled member to secure housing and maximize their benefits. Launched in December 2023, the program involves four case managers and two Housing Navigators who work across the county. As part of the Family Solutions Collaborative, HDAP serves as the access point for families seeking Coordinated Entry System (CES) assistance. The program provides advocacy for disability benefits and housing support to California residents facing or at risk of homelessness. The services provided include paying for rental assistance, application fees, and holding fees to help families find housing. They also offer case management, housing navigation, ongoing support, and assistance with the social security disability process. Additionally, they provide disability advocacy and work jointly with other family programs to support their work. The organization helps submit applications for social security disability and offers support for housing navigation. Overall, they offer comprehensive support for families in need. The program is available to families with at least one member who has a disability, at least one minor, and who are currently homeless.

Public Comment:

- A member of the public inquired about whether this program can provide assistance to undocumented workers.
- A member of the public inquired about program requirements and eligibility.
- A member of the public inquired if individuals could complete an intake via phone call or if submission of a referral form is required.

4. **CoC Update** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

- a. Coordinated Entry System (CES)
- b. CoC General Updates

Sarah Jones provided the following CoC updates:

- **Coordinator for Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Survivors Request for Proposals (RFP):** The County of Orange's Office of Care Coordination is soliciting proposals from qualified organizations to serve as the Coordinator for the CES for Survivors across all three Service Planning Areas (SPA) in Orange County. The chosen lead will be responsible for promoting regional service coordination, ensuring compliance with CES requirements, and spearheading strategic initiatives and collaborations to improve access to housing resources. Additionally, they will support the implementation of diversion and solution-focused strategies to reduce homelessness and optimize the use of available housing resources. The office seeks programs that can be quickly operationalized and have the potential to leverage additional funds to expand their impact on the target population.
- **Service Provider Forum Content Recommendations:** As key stakeholders in Orange County, we invite you to share your recommendations on content you would like to see included for the upcoming Service Provider Forum meetings via SurveyMonkey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7C5CHP7> Please complete the survey by Friday, June 14, 2024.
- **2024 VAWA and Survivor Housing Community Conversations:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is hosting a series of community conversations focused on successfully implementing the Violence Against Women Act (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 people with lived experiences from both the homelessness response and victim services worlds.
- **Orange County 2024 Point in Time Count:** HUD requires that all CoC jurisdictions across the nation complete a biennial unsheltered count and an annual sheltered count of all persons experiencing homelessness in the community on a single point in time during the last ten days of January. The County of Orange in partnership with the Orange County CoC conducted the 2024

Point In Time Count during the week of January 22, 2024. The sheltered count took place on the night of Monday, January 22, 2024, and the unsheltered count occurred between Tuesday, January 23, 2024, through January 25, 2024.

5. **Announcements, Closing Remarks and Questions** – Melanie McQueen, Chair
 - a. Members of the public are invited to share any announcements, ask questions and/or provide comments at this time.
 - *No announcements, questions or comments were made.*
6. **Networking**
 - a. Dedicated time to network and connect with local partners.

Next Meeting: August 15, 2024, at Clifton C. Miller Community Center, located at 300 Centennial Way, Tustin, CA 92780

For more information on CoC Board and Committee Meetings, the CoC email distribution list, or how to become part of the CoC General Membership, please visit the CoC Webpage at <https://ceo.ocgov.com/continuum-care> or contact the Office of Care Coordination at CareCoordination@ocgov.com