

**ORANGE COUNTY
SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM**

Thursday, August 15, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Location:
Clifton C. Miller Community Center
300 Centennial Way, Tustin, CA 92780**

Chair: Melanie McQueen, PATH

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Melanie McQueen, Chair
 - a. Members of the public are invited to introduce themselves.
2. **2024 Orange County Point In Time Count Presentation and Discussion** – Sarah Jones, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager, Office of Care Coordination; Tim Shaw, CoC Board Chair and Nichole Gideon, CoC Board Secretary
 - a. Overview of the 2024 Orange County Point In Time Data Summary
 - b. Discuss notable observations, feedback and actionable insights

Sarah Jones and Nichole Gideon presented and led a discussion around the 2024 Orange County Point In Time Count.

Public Comments

- A member of the public shared that winter shelters should have representatives present to assist homeless individuals who may not have access to phones or resources.
- A member of the public shared that the PIT Count's accuracy might be compromised as some individuals avoided talking with volunteers who were partnered with police officers during the PIT Count and many individuals were not in their usual locations, indicating they may have been aware of the count.
- A member of the public expressed concerns about the PIT count starting early in the morning, noting challenges in approach people to survey as some are still asleep.
- A member of the public suggested that exploring new partnership opportunities with local stakeholders to ensure a more accurate count.

3. **Orange County's Inaugural TGI Survey: We Deserve Housing Justice Presentation** – Khloè Ríos-Wyatt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alianza Translatinx

**Agenda Item was not presented at this meeting.*

4. **Service Provider Highlight: WISEPlace** – Lupita Gomez-Lamas, Director of Programs, WISEPlace

WISEPlace is the only Orange County-based nonprofit leading the effort to end homelessness for unaccompanied women. WISEPlace provides women with safe shelter, counseling and mental

health services, case management and addiction recovery, and employment assistance to help rebuild their lives. At WISEPlace, the women served often lack the support system of a spouse, significant other, or children. Nearly half are disabled, over eighty percent have experienced domestic violence and nearly all have incomes well below the poverty line. These and other factors put the women WISEPlace serves at a greater risk of becoming homeless.

Public Comments

- A member inquired about the age requirement for the program.
- A member of the public asked if the program uses the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for client referrals.
- A member of the public inquired about the length of the referral process and if it is through the Bed Reservation System.
- A member of the public inquired if individuals may call directly for an intake.
- A member of the public inquired about any geographic requirements or city ties necessary to enroll in the program.
- A member of the public asked if an individual must be chronically homeless to be eligible for services.
- A member of the public inquired about the statistical outcome for graduates of the WISEPlace programs.
- A member of the public inquired whether the shelter beds set aside for domestic violence are located in the Central Spa.

5. **Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) Update** – Nichole Gideon, LEAC Chair, CoC Board Secretary and LEAC Members

- a. Overview of LEAC
- b. Update on LEAC member recruitment and public meetings

Nichole Gideon, as Chair of the LEAC, presented an overview of the focus and purpose of the LEAC.

Public Comments

- A member of the public noted that some individuals experiencing homelessness may be on probation and suggested advocacy efforts to support securing of job opportunities.

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

Sarah Jones presented the following updates:

- FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- CoC Training Opportunities
 - Housing First Training
 - Trauma Informed Care Training
- Upcoming Meetings

7. **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.

Public Comments

- Chair Melanie McQueen shared that the Yale Navigation Center is now being operated by the Salvation Army, as of August 1, 2024.
- A member of the public asked if the referral process remains the same for Yale Navigation Center.
- A member of the public suggested that all shelter staff should be members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- A member of the public inquired about possible plans for a cold weather shelter.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse mentioned that the Commission to End Homelessness is currently focused on establishing a cold weather shelter.
- A member of the public inquired about the whether the shelter would be enacted for all inclement weather.

8. Networking

- a. Dedicated time to network and connect with local partners.

Next Meeting: November 21, 2024, location to be determined.

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