

INTEREST FORM: PART ONE

CoC General Member Information

Name:	Christina Weckerly Ramirez
If you represent a specific organization in Orange County, please list your organization & role:	OC Health Care Agency, Senior Manager in Behavioral Health Services
Pronouns (for example: she/her, he/him, they/them, xe/hir):	she/her

What qualities, skills, and experience do you bring that would help the CoC Board to further its work in ending homelessness and furthering equity and inclusion?

I am fortunate to have worked with individuals experiencing homelessness, with a particular focus on those with mental health or substance use disorders and veterans, for the past 23 years as a direct service provider, program supervisor, and manager. I am passionate about working with under-served populations because I am motivated to help individuals where they are, instilling hope, and addressing system barriers so they are successful. Serving on the CoC Board for an additional term would provide me the opportunity to lend a behavioral health and street outreach perspective to support systems-level change that fosters inclusion and equity through a commitment to authenticity, listening and learning, and accountability. My role in advancing equity and inclusion in this space is built upon being humble and staying curious to continuously learn and grow, embracing diverse perspectives, and having the courage to act. Lastly, to further equity and inclusion within our system of care, we need to recognize and strategize to address the disparities and inequities that currently exist, as well as the drivers of homelessness. Diversity is one of our greatest strengths as a CoC because the greater the contrast in our differences, the greater the potential for creativity and innovation.

What qualities or characteristics do you bring to a collaborative environment?

Collaboration is vital to a successful CoC. As a Senior Manager at the Orange County Health Care Agency, I have experience in partnering across multiple sectors and disciplines to address homelessness. I am motivated by the meaningful difference our collaborative efforts have made for individuals and families who have been served throughout the continuum and am inspired by the work to come. In addition to the professional skillset and experience I bring to the collaborative space of addressing homelessness, I also bring a growth mindset that is consistent with my personal values of integrity, authenticity, and altruism. I live these values when collaborating by staying curious and engaging in challenging conversations, seeking first to understand, extending trust and compassion, beginning with the end in mind by keeping our purpose and client as the keystone of our work, using a strength-based lens, and welcoming diverse perspectives and experiences.

While having a conflict of interest does not make you ineligible to serve on the CoC Board, it helps CoC staff for record keeping purposes. Do you have any current conflicts of interest or previous ties to any agency that is a recipient or sub-recipient of CoC funding in the Orange County CoC? Examples of conflicts might include: Current or former staff, Board member, volunteer or client/participant at a CoC-funded agency, etc. For further information on what constitutes a conflict of interest, please click [here](#). For a current list of CoC-funded agencies, please click [here](#).

If yes or not sure, please describe the potential conflict(s) of interest:

We want to make sure that people who are elected to the Board have the support from their employer, agency, or group they represent (if applicable) to fully participate in the CoC Board. If applicable: is your employer, agency, or the group you represent aware that you plan to run for a CoC Board seat?

If applicable: does your employer understand the full commitment that you are making to the CoC Board, including time commitments to meetings, potential time away from work, and responsibilities you'll hold?

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

The CoC Board aims to accomplish the following goals: Permanently House Those Experiencing Homelessness
Ensure an Efficient, Dignified System Promote an Equitable, Just System Drive System-Wide Engagement and
Collaboration Strengthen Regional Leadership and Accountability Smartly Allocate Funds to Match the Greatest
Needs Which of these goals resonate with you most, and where would you like to contribute to accomplishing these
goals?

Two of the CoC's goals resonate with me because they are intertwined: ensuring an efficient and dignified system and promoting an equitable and just system. I plan to contribute to these goals by actively participating in the various roles and processes of the CoC, such as contributing to committees, advocating for clients and services, challenging inequities, identifying strategies for improvement, recognizing my sphere of influence and championing partners into this space, collaborating, supporting best practices and bright spots, and taking a system's level view to make the greatest impact.

Please discuss one (1) significant challenge to addressing homelessness in Orange County. If you could wave a magic wand to address this challenge, what would your solution be?

One significant challenge to addressing homelessness in Orange County is timely access to shelter and housing opportunities. If I had a magic wand to address this challenge, the system would 1. have daily access to a variety of shelter options that were varied to meet the diverse needs of the unhoused community (i.e. specialized populations, culturally competent, local to their city of residence, inclusive of pets, families, and couples, non-congregate options, and accepting of sex offender status), and 2. move chronically and newly homeless and vulnerable populations into a permanent housing option quickly (including the process of housing application, navigation, and move in). These are lofty goals that require complex and multi-sector collaboration, resources, and political will. Although I do not have the solution, I am hopeful we will solve homelessness in Orange County by working together to generate innovative and creative solutions that encompass dignity, compassion, and equity.

Are you able to commit to attending at least 75% of CoC Board meetings each year? The CoC Board meets monthly, currently every fourth Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., though that time is subject to change. **Yes**

Are you able to commit to serving on at least one CoC committee, working group, or ad-hoc committee, and to attend at least 75% of that committee, working group, or ad-hoc's meetings? This is usually 1-2 hours per month, though, depending on the group you choose to participate in, the time commitment could be higher. **Yes**

Do you currently live or work in Orange County? Please select all that apply. **I live in Orange County**

INTEREST FORM: PART TWO

Have you experienced homelessness?

No

If you answered "yes" to the question above, please check all of the following that apply and that you feel comfortable disclosing.

What is your race and/or ethnicity?

Person of Color (including but not limited to people who are: Asian, Asian-American, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Latino/a/e/x, Central American, South American, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, North African)
,
Mixed race

Are you 2SLGBTQQIA+ (2-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic, +)? Please check all of the following that apply and that you feel comfortable disclosing.

No, I'm not 2SLGBTQQIA+

Do any of the following identities or experiences apply to you?

Someone in my immediate family has served in the military or armed forces,
I have experienced domestic violence or intimate partner violence

Please select all of the entities or areas with which you have a personal or professional background or experience.

Veteran/military service-focused agency or programming,
Behavioral health field,
Homeless system programs: Street Outreach
