

## INTEREST FORM: PART ONE

### CoC General Member Information

Name: **Dr. Kara Sandoval**

If you represent a specific organization in Orange County, please list your organization & role: **advocate**

Pronouns (for example: she/her, he/him, they/them, xe/hir): **she/her**

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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?

As a person that has been directly impacted by houselessness I have a unique opportunity to address the ongoing housing crisis in Orange County. During my Doctorate program I specifically focused on Orange County's unhoused population. More specifically the stigma, discrimination and criminalization that the unhoused community faces daily. I will work to ensure that our unhoused neighbors voices are heard and their concerns are brought forward. Currently, I advocate on behalf of our unhoused neighbors to navigate the complex housing systems.

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

I have worked with various stakeholders, including NGOs and public agencies to advocate for unhoused people to receive various services, including case management, vouchers, public assistance etc. During my Doctorate program I worked with various non-profits to create my Capstone program. I have been an advocate in Orange County for over 12 years working with various political stakeholders to fight for housing as a human right.

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2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

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](#).

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

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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?

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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?

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## 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?

Permanently housing people that are experiencing houselessness within an efficient, and dignified system. I believe that every individual should have access to Permanent Supportive Housing under the Housing First program model. However, throughout Orange County individuals are being placed in PSH that is not being implemented correctly. Individuals that are placed under the PSH program model should be offered access to 24-hour case management services, low barrier/scattered site housing and immediate access to housing, and trauma informed care approach. If PSH was implemented correctly people would not face evictions or lose their housing. There needs to be accountability and transparency from the agencies that are offering these housing programs.

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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?

The continued criminalization, stigma and discrimination that unhoused people face continues to perpetuate the houselessness crisis. Unhoused people are not allowed to exist outside in encampments and are not forced into shelters or jail. The continued carceral and punitive nature of shelters makes them unlivable for unhoused individuals. Moreover, shelters have become a long-term solution for unhoused individuals and it should not be. Most people in Orange County label unhoused individuals as lazy, drug addicts with mental health issues which dehumanizes the entire population. Unhoused people deserve to be treated with dignity, respect and empathy. I feel that these false stereotypes can be reversed through narrative storytelling.

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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**

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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**

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

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INTEREST FORM: PART TWO

Have you experienced homelessness?

Yes

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

**I have experienced homelessness as an adult on my own or with a partner, but without children in my household**

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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**

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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.

**Prefer not to answer**

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

**I'm neurodivergent (e.g., I have ADHD or am autistic),  
I have experienced domestic violence or intimate partner violence**

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

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funded agency or recipient agency,**  
**Public Housing Agency (PHA),**  
**Domestic violence agency or programming,**  
**Education field / McKinney-Vento liaison,**  
**Behavioral health field,**  
**Health care field,**  
**Affordable housing development background,**  
**Homeless system programs: Street Outreach,**  
**Homeless system programs: Prevention,**  
**Homeless system programs: Emergency Shelter,**  
**Homeless system programs: Rapid Rehousing,**  
**Homeless system programs: Permanent Supportive Housing**

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