

INTEREST FORM: PART ONE

CoC General Member Information

Name:	Kelly Bruno Nelson
If you represent a specific organization in Orange County, please list your organization & role:	CalOptima Health, Executive Director of Medi-Cal and CalAIM
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?

CalOptima Health, a county-operated health system, is the primary Medi-Cal provider in Orange County and provides health insurance coverage for 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 3 children across the county. CalOptima Health is making significant investments in the local continuum of services for people experiencing homelessness in collaboration with the continuum of care. As a representative of CalOptima Health, I am seeking a position on the Continuum of Care Board to deepen that partnership, in service to our county and the safety net system that we rely on for so much of our service provision. I am personally interested in continuing my service on the Board given my extensive experience in homeless services provision, integration with the hospital and healthcare system, and career commitment to serving under-resourced communities and vulnerable populations. I believe I would make a unique contribution to this Board as a direct representative of the healthcare system, with additional, tremendous resources to contribute to the improvement of our county-wide approach to caring for those experiencing homelessness. I also currently sit on the Orange County Commission to End Homelessness and can be a conduit of information between that organized body and the CoC.

Furthermore, as Executive Director for Medi-Cal and CalAIM for CalOptima Health, for the past two and a half years I have become very familiar with the Orange County Continuum of Care and the system of care that exists in the county. I am working on a consistent basis with the Office of Care Coordination and our local providers to understand these systems, identify barriers to greater success, and support the evolution of our systems and programs. In addition, I bring experience evaluating housing and homelessness-focused programs, I am well-versed in the philosophies of care espoused by the CoC, and I have led CalOptima Health to develop, invest in and support numerous programs operating in service to the mission of eliminating homelessness.

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

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

I have a long career in the field of social work, which requires collaboration at every level. I have honed the skills of stakeholder engagement, facilitating inclusive meetings, and deep thinking around critical issues. Furthermore, my position at CalOptima Health is centered on collaborating with local partners and advocating for services for those experiencing homelessness. Not only is this a daily effort, but my entire career has been focused on these efforts, working from different perspectives and different organizations, but always for the same purpose: to better serve those most vulnerable populations. Specifically in my current position, I am working with my team to build out a county-wide strategy to best serve our most vulnerable populations including those experiencing homelessness. This strategy includes contracting with a network of local providers who provide critical housing navigation, tenancy sustaining, and other supportive services to Medi-Cal members. We partner with providers to fund their services, build their capacity, grow their partnerships, enhance their services, and more. At the heart of this work are the people we serve; those with lived experience, who guide our decisions, actions and priorities. Advocating for these individuals goes hand-in-hand with the operational and infrastructure work. At CalOptima Health, we are in a position to advocate for a county-wide approach to caring for those experiencing homelessness that centers evidence-based, best practices such as trauma-informed care, housing first principles, and harm reduction models. We are committed first and foremost to ensuring our members, and the county, have access to comprehensive care that accounts for the social determinants of health in addition to traditional medical care.

No

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:

Yes

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?

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

Yes

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?

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?

The goal that most resonates with me is Strengthen Regional Leadership and Accountability. CalOptima Health is playing a large role in solving the issue homelessness with its newly available services to directly support the population of people experiencing this crisis. It's part of our organizational responsibility to build accountability and to strengthen regional leadership around this topic. Furthermore, we have a real opportunities to invest substantial resources in continuing to tackle this regional issue.

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?

I would eliminate the concept of city-based residency across the county. It is impossible to design, execute and evaluate a county-wide effort to eradicate homelessness with this stipulation guiding so many cities' efforts to resolve this crisis. It creates competition between cities in their attempt to provide service and solutions. It makes this crisis impossible to solve when individuals are turned away because they cannot prove a connection to the city in which they are currently staying in. Overall, it pits advocates against one another rather than providing a common ground from which groups could build partnerships and collaborations. It ultimately results in ineffectiveness and inefficiency. The CoC offers an opportunity to address this issue and work toward a county-wide care system for people experiencing homelessness.

Yes

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.

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

I work in Orange County

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

INTEREST FORM: PART TWO

No

Have you experienced homelessness?

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

White

What is your race and/or ethnicity?

No, I'm not 2SLGBTQIA+

Are you 2SLGBTQIA+ (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.

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

,

I'm an older adult

2024 Continuum of Care Board Candidate Interest Form

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

Behavioral health field,

Health care field,

Homeless system programs: Street Outreach,

Homeless system programs: Prevention,

Homeless system programs: Emergency Shelter,

Homeless system programs: Permanent Supportive Housing