

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 4, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:

**County Administration South (CAS)
Building Conference Center Room 104
425 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701**

[Click Here](#) for parking information.

Virtual Meeting Option*:

Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)

Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171

Webinar ID: 944 5349 6548

****Listen-in option only***

Committee Chair: Nichole Gideon, Individual

Committee Vice Chair: Paul Kaiser, Individual

Committee Members:

Reha Agar, Individual

Elizabeth Flores, Individual

Deborah Kraft, Individual

Miranda Mears, Individual

Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual

Larry “Smitty” Smith, Individual

Vinny Zarrella, Individual

AGENDA

Welcome and Meeting Overview – Nichole Gideon, Chair

Present: Reha Agar, Elizabeth Flores, Nichole Gideon, Deborah Kraft, Miranda Mears, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Paul Kaiser, Larry “Smitty” Smith, and Vinny Zarrella.

1. Request for Virtual Participation

The Brown Act allows exceptions for members of legislative bodies to participate remotely under two specified circumstances: (1) “just cause” or (2) “emergency circumstances”. At least a quorum of the committee must be participating in-person for the exception(s) to be voted on and enacted. Chair Nichole Gideon referenced a request from committee member Deborah Kraft to join virtually due to just cause.

Recommended Action: Allow Deborah Kraft to participate remotely for today's LEAC Committee meeting. Robert "Santa Bob" motioned to approve the recommended action. Vice Chair Paul Kaiser seconded the motion. Chair Nichole Gideon, Reha Agar, Miranda Mears, Larry "Smitty" Smith and Vinny Zarrella voted yes. Motion Passed.

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) on items listed within this agenda or matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the LEAC. Public comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes.

To address the LEAC during the Public Comment period, members of the public are to complete a Request to Address the Committee form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to Continuum of Care (CoC) staff. Staff will call your name in the order received.

Members of the public may also submit public comment by emailing CareCoordination@ocgov.com. All comments submitted via email at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the LEAC members, and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include "LEAC Meeting Comment" in the email subject line.

- Americo Morales shared experience of being homeless for many years before obtaining housing and expressed concern about the lack of rules at the housing development and the challenges faced when seeking help. Americo Morales also mentioned the lengthy process of evicting rule-breakers and the difficulties in relocating despite having health issues. Additionally, Americo Morales noted personal journey to recovery.

LEAC Member Comments – Members of the LEAC may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the LEAC. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five members wishing to speak, this time will be reduced to two minutes.

- Vinny Zarrella reported changes at Orangewood Foundation involving and noted concerns for the level of experience of case managers providing support to Transitional Age Youth (TAY). Vinny Zarrella stated concerns for staff turnover and current case managers being overwhelmed with heavy caseloads.
- Deborah Kraft inquired about the amount of LEAC member seats vacancies.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Orange County Service Provider Forum LEAC Presentation Update – Nichole Gideon, Chair

Chair Nichole Gideon gave an overview of the presentation that was shared at the August 15, 2024, Service Provider Forum meeting.

Committee Discussion:

- Deborah Kraft inquired if any action steps were discussed at the Service Provider Forum.
- 2. Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Letter of Support** – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

- a. Approve the letter of support to be signed by the Lived Experience Advisory Committee membership and included in the Orange County CoC's FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program NOFO Consolidated Application.

Felicia Boehringer gave an overview of the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program NOFO Competition, the projected timeline, and the NOFO requirement for Collaborative Applicants to submit a Lived Experience Support Letter with the CoC's Consolidated Application.

Recommended Action: Approve the letter of support to be signed by the Lived Experience Advisory Committee membership and included in the Orange County CoC's FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program NOFO Consolidated Application.

Robert "Santa Bob" motioned to approve the recommended action. Vice Chair Paul Kaiser seconded the motion. Chair Nichole Gideon, Reha Agar, Elizabeth Flores, Miranda Mears, Larry "Smitty" Smith and Vinny Zarrella voted yes. Motion Passed.

3. LEAC Member Recruitment – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

- a. Update on the LEAC Nominating Ad Hoc and recruitment of members to fill the current LEAC seat vacancies.

Felicia Boehringer presented on recruitment process for three (3) LEAC member seats: one (1) North Service Planning Area (SPA) representative, one (1) Central SPA representative and one (1) South SPA representative. Felicia Boehringer shared the work being facilitated by the Office of Care Coordination in partnership with the LEAC Nominating Ad Hoc.

Committee Discussion:

- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser emphasized the importance of increasing racial diversity and specifically highlighted the need to focus on including additional Native American/Indigenous representation.
- Reha Agar emphasized the importance of having diverse representation, particularly in regards to gender. Reha Agar acknowledged a need to fill the current seats and then work towards changing the LEAC membership composition to be more inclusive of specific identities and experiences.
- Deborah Kraft inquired about qualities that the LEAC may not desire in a new member joining the committee.

4. Orange County Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures Discussion – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination; Paul Kaiser, Vice Chair; and Nichole Gideon, Chair

- a. Discuss policy stating that participants will be made inactive in CES after 90 days of non-engagement.
- b. Discuss self-certification and third-party verification as documentation of homelessness.

Felicia Boehringer and Vice Chair Paul Kaiser led a discussion on the Orange County CES Policies and Procedures, highlighting the policy stating that participants will be made inactive in CES after 90 days of non-engagement and self-certification versus third-party verification as documentation of homelessness.

Committee Discussion:

- Miranda Mears sought clarification on the on how long a client stays active on a case manager's caseload after communication from the client has ended. Miranda Mears suggested implementing training for case managers. Miranda Mears confirmed that case managers are capable of verifying homelessness on behalf of their clients.
- Vice Chair Paul Kaiser emphasized the importance of informing clients about the 90-day period to ensure their active participation in CES.
- Deborah Kraft shared personal lived experience and highlighted the importance of knowing who to keep in contact with. Deborah Kraft stated understanding that when residing in a domestic violence shelter, a client becomes inactive in CES.
- Chair Nichole Gideon agreed that case managers should receive training regarding about keeping participants actively enrolled in CES and communicating requirements to participants. Chair Nichole Gideon inquired about CES's alignment with HUD and whether this falls within standard case manager training.
- Vinny Zarrella inquired about the process for reactivating one's status in CES after becoming inactive.
- Reha Agar discussed the challenges faced by unsheltered individuals in verifying their homelessness and proposed the establishment of a dedicated entity or navigation center for reporting homeless status.

5. CoC Updates – Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

**Due to time constraints, this item was not presented.*

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Location: TBD