

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
VETERANS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, September 19, 2024
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location:
Orange County United Way
18012 Mitchell South,
Irvine, CA 92614

Committee Chair: Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Orange County United Way

Committee Members:

Ruby Lara, Santa Ana Housing Authority
Melanie Martins, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Jeffery Pagano, Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative
Eric Richardson, Volunteers of America Los Angeles
Jade Smith, Acera Health
Larry “Smitty” Smith, Individual

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions – Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Chair

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the Veterans Committee 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 Veterans Committee. Members of the public may address the Veterans Committee with public comments on agenda items after the agenda item presentation. 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 Veterans Committee during the Public Comment period, members of the public are to complete a Speaker Request Form prior to the beginning of each agenda item. 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 or at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the Veterans Committee members and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “Veterans Committee Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

- A member of the public introduced himself.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the Veterans Committee meeting minutes from July 11, 2024.

MINUTES

September 19, 2024

Melanie Martins motioned to approve Item 1 on the Consent Calendar. Jeffrey Pagano seconded the motion. Chair Becks Heyhoe, Larry Smith, Jeffrey Pagano, Ruby Lara and Melanie Martins voted “yes”. Motion passed.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

- 1. Data Review** – Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Chair; Eric Richardson, Director for Housing, Volunteers of America Los Angeles; and Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. Orange County 2024 Point In Time Count Data Update
 - a. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Veteran Registry Data and Update
 - b. Targeted Outreach for Veterans Update and Impact

Sarah Jones presented updates on the Orange County 2024 Point in Time (PIT) count data and the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Veteran Registry data.

Public Comments

- A member of the public inquired about the number of individuals experiencing homelessness who are still actively serving in the military and not included in the Veterans’ resources.

Committee Discussion

- Melanie Martins highlighted the higher rates in trauma and mental health conditions among Veterans, particularly affecting the older adult population in Orange County. Melanie Martins stated that homelessness of women Veterans is on the rise. Melanie Martins shared that many Veterans remain in Orange County after being discharged, raising questions about the impact of military service time on homelessness. Melanie Martins shared that there is a need to support National Guard members as well and provide resources for those unable to access Veterans services.
- Chair Becks Heyhoe-Khalil highlighted a significant disparity between general population PIT count data and Veteran PIT count data related to physical disabilities, particularly in relation to Veterans living with HIV/AIDS. Chair Becks Heyhoe-Khalil noted that data on older adult Veterans shows higher rates of health conditions, and there is a substantial difference in the prevalence of these conditions between genders.
- Jeffery Pagano shared various potential reasons for the high rate of Veterans with disabilities found in the PIT count data.
- Larry “Smitty” Smith inquired about reasoning for the 2024 PIT Count survey having two separate questions for people who served in the National Guard versus people who are active military members. Larry “Smitty” Smith expressed that there should not be a division between the two and proposed consideration for questions being combined in future PIT counts.

- 2. HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Change in Income Eligibility Requirements** – Ruby Lara, Housing Specialist II, Santa Ana Housing Authority

Ruby Lara presented on changes related to the HUD-VASH income eligibility requirements.

Committee Discussion

- Melanie Martins inquired if the available housing vouchers are being provided through State funding.

3. Veterans Affairs (VA) One Team Approach Update – Melanie Martins, Supervisory Social Worker, Coordinated Entry System and Homeless Outreach, Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center VA Long Beach Healthcare System

Melanie Martins presented on the One Team Approach, which refers to coordinated, united actions and interconnection between programs focused on working toward the joint mission to end Veteran homelessness.

Committee Discussion

- Ruby Lara expressed concern that Veterans with tenant-based vouchers may not know who to contact during the transition into housing.

4. HUD-VASH Tenant-Based Voucher Update – Melanie Martins, Supervisory Social Worker, Coordinated Entry System and Homeless Outreach, Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center VA Long Beach Healthcare System and Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Chair

- a. Tenant-Based Voucher Update
- b. WelcomeHomeOC Program Update

Melanie Martins presented an update on HUD-VASH tenant-based vouchers.

Chair Becks Heyhoe-Khalil shared an update on the WelcomeHomeOC program.

Committee Comments

- Melanie Martins inquired if there was any resource leveraging.

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

Felicia Boehringer presented an update on the Continuum of Care Builds (CoCBuilds) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the CoCBuilds NOFO Request for Proposals (RFP) and shared an update on upcoming meetings for the CoC Board and CoC Committees.

Next Meeting: Special meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Orange County United Way, located at 18012 Mitchell South, Irvine, CA 92614

All are invited to stay after the meeting for a brief Orange County Veteran and Military Family Collaborative (OCVMFC) Housing Working Group presentation, from 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.