

ORANGE COUNTY
SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM
Thursday, November 21, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location:
Fullerton Free Church
2904 Brea Blvd., Room NC 190,
Fullerton, CA 92835

Chair: Melanie McQueen, PATH
Vice Chair: Jason Phillips, Individual

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Melanie McQueen, Chair
 - a. Members of the public are invited to introduce themselves.
2. **Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County Presentation** – Kelly Alesi, Director of Supply Chain, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Kelly Alesi, Director of Supply Chain, presented on Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County located in Irvine, which operates two farms, partners with over 286 organizations and distributes 3.8 million pounds of food each year, the organization focus on addressing food insecurity for all.

Public Comment:

- A member of the public inquired about how organizations can partner and collaborate with Second Harvest Food Bank.
- Chair Melanie McQueen highlighted the crucial work being done and expressed disbelief that so many individuals, families, and youth in the United States continue to face food insecurity.

3. **Orange County's Inaugural TGI Survey: We Deserve Housing Justice Presentation** – Khloè Ríos-Wyatt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alianza Translatinx

Khloè Ríos-Wyatt, CEO of Alianza Translatinx, presented a comprehensive report on housing needs for the TGI community in Orange County. Key findings include discrimination, housing instability, low income, and lack of educational and employment opportunities with recommendations emphasized on ending stigma, improving access to gender-affirming housing, and increasing support services for TGI individuals.

Public Comment:

- A member of the public inquired about the availability of a drop-in center for clients and providers to access direct services and information on TGI issues.
- A member of the public asked about the total number of TGI clients served with housing assistance vouchers provided by Alainza Translatinx.

- A member of the public questioned whether the housing assistance vouchers are temporary or an ongoing service.
- A member of the public proposed a partnership with Alainza Translatinx to offer TGI client's opportunities to apply for a paid community health work apprenticeship.
- A member of the public asked if Alainza Translatinx could provide resources for non-profit agencies to access gender-affirming documentation processes and connect with TGI-friendly healthcare providers.
- A member of the public asked if there are plans for an annual performance review of the manifesto with recommendations to support housing stability for the TGI community.

4. **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Jasmin Miranda and Cameron Pastrano, CoC Staff Specialists, provided updates on the Office of Care Coordination, including the CoC election, upcoming committee meetings, and ongoing recruitment for an open position.

5. **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Update** – Michael Shepherd, Associate Director, Community Strategies, Orange County United Way

- Update on Orange County United Way's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Initiatives

Michael Shepherd, Associate Director, Community Strategies, Orange County United Way highlighted Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week as an opportunity to unite the community, educate the public, and share strategies for ending homelessness, focusing on engagement, partnerships, and resources through initiatives like 211 Orange County and collaborations with local organizations, with the goal is to create a sense of belonging for all, improving services and building connections to support those experiencing homelessness.

6. **Announcements, Closing Remarks and Questions** – Melanie McQueen, Chair

- Members of the public are invited to share any announcements, ask questions and/or provide comments at this time.

Public Comments:

- James Bacon, CES Staff Specialist, Office of Care Coordination, offered connections with providers offering or seeking veteran-specific opportunities.
- A member of the public invited community members and unhoused neighbors to the Sisters of the Holy Cross Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, 11/23/24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering free food, clothes, and services like CalFresh, medical care, housing navigation, and immigration law assistance.
- The Orangewood Foundation distributed informational flyers and resource packets detailing their services and available programs.

7. **Networking**

- Dedicated time to network and connect with local partners.

Next Meeting: To be determined, pending approval of the 2025 CoC Board and Committee calendar.