

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Location:**  
The Village at 17th Street  
Large Community Room  
1505 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92705

**Virtual Meeting Option\*:**  
**Zoom Meeting Link:** [Click here for meeting link](#)  
**Join by phone:** +16694449171,97975623556#  
**Webinar ID:** 979 7562 3556

*\*Listen-in option only*

**Committee Chair:** Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options

**Committee Members:**

Jude Abusham, Student in Orange County  
Brateil Aghasi, WISEPlace  
Patience Biosah, Individual  
Barbara Burke, Individual  
Deborah Kraft, Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Orange County Family Violence Council's (OCFVC) Homelessness Domestic Violence (DV)-Sexual Assault (SA) Task Force, Housing is a Human Right OC (HHROC), Stronger Women United, DV Policy Advocate  
Mark Lee, Radiant Futures  
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward  
Lydia Nationalesta, City of Lake Forest  
Wendy Seiden, OCFVC Homelessness-DV-SA Task Force  
Tianna Terry, Friendship Shelter, Individual Coordinated Entry System (CES)  
Cynthia Thouvenel, Ohlone Tribe Non-Profit  
Katherine Tan, Individual  
Sharon Wie, Interval House

**MINUTES**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Present: Brateil Aghasi, Mark Lee, Nishtha Mohendra, Maricela Rios-Faust, Wendy Seiden, Cynthia Thouvenel, Katherine Tan, and Sharon Wie

Absent Excused: Jude Abusham, Barbara Burke, Deborah Kraft, Lydia Natoinalesta, and Tianna Terry

Absent: Patience Biosah

**Public Comments** – Members of the public may address the DV 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 DV Committee. 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 DV Committee, 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](mailto:CareCoordination@ocgov.com). All comments submitted via email at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the DV Committee members, and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “Domestic Violence Committee Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

- A member of the public provided public comment via email in advance of the DV Committee meeting. Member of the public shared experiences and current challenges faced when approaching the County Healthcare system while suffering from extreme symptoms of complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Special Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2024.
2. Approve the DV Committee Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2024.

Nishtha Mohendra motioned to approve Consent Calendar, Items 1 - 2. Wendy Seiden requested that an edit be made on page three of the October 15, 2024, DV Committee meeting minutes under committee discussion, stating that the end of the third sentence can be deleted. Nishtha Mohendra agreed to an amended motion to incorporate edits requested by Wendy Seiden for the October 15, 2024, DV Committee meeting minutes. Sharon Wie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

1. **Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Survivors Assessment Recommendation** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Sarah Jones provided background on the CES Pre-Assessment Screening and CES Survivor Assessment Tool recommendation. The public feedback period for the revised draft of the CES Pre-Assessment Screening and CES Survivor Assessment Tool occurred from September 26, 2024, through October 9, 2024. Additionally, following the feedback received during the October 9, 2024, meeting, the Office of Care Coordination made updates to the Survivor Assessment Tool Guide, to ensure instructions for the assessments included disclosing any mandated reporting requirements.

Public Comment:

- Alan Achterberg provided public comment via email in advance of the DV Committee meeting. Alan Achterberg stated that someone who has experienced recent or recurring trauma has most likely had their senses of reality altered, which takes time to recover, often in bits and pieces. Alan Achterberg suggested that those administrating and evaluating the Pre-Screening tool interview questions should take an Orange County standardized class on Trauma Informed Care to help develop a base vocabulary and dialogue for the community.

Committee Discussion:

- Sharon Wie thanked the Office of Care Coordination staff for their efforts and expressed appreciation for the preparation of the agenda packet.

Recommended Action a: Approve revised CES Pre-Assessment Screening and CES Survivor Assessment Tool.

Sharon Wie motioned to approve recommended action a. Mark Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Domestic Violence Committee Vision Setting** – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination and Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair
- a. Continued discussion related to goals and vision for the Domestic Violence Committee.

Sarah Jones and Chair Maricela Rios-Faust led a vision-setting discussion with the DV Committee, using the DV Committee Governance Charter as a foundation. Building from previous discussions, the DV Committee discussed the purpose and role of the committee in addressing the needs of survivors in Orange County, as well as priorities to seek for Calendar Year 2025.

Public Comments:

- Alan Achterberg expressed appreciation for the work on the CoC Strategic Plan, especially in regard to trauma-informed care. Alan Achterberg noted trainings and technology being used nationally and internationally to incorporate cultural diversity within mental health trainings, which could be beneficial to Orange County. Alan Achterberg emphasized that discussions at the committee could lead to grant applications for nonprofit agencies.

Committee Discussion:

- Sharon Wie highlighted the need for long-term housing vouchers for survivors and suggested setting aside a specific percentage for survivors of domestic violence. Sharon Wie emphasized a need to continue improving the CES matching process and noted that increased outreach may lead to receiving more reports of domestic violence, reflecting increased survivor trust with service providers.
- Mark Lee raised concerns about assisting DV victims confidentially, particularly when the abuser is involved in housing applications.

- Nishtha Mohendra emphasized integrating advocacy for survivors into broader CoC discussions, focusing on prevention and education and fostering knowledge-sharing across teams.
- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust stressed that there is an underreporting of domestic violence cases, highlighted the importance of trauma-informed care, and noted the importance of integrating survivor needs into all support areas. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust stated the importance of access and service integration with CES as well as training around prevention for victims and survivors. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust also suggested cross-collaboration with the Lived Experience Advisory Committee and sharing successes during DV Committee meetings.
- Wendy Seiden advocated for including human trafficking and sexual assault in definitions and discussions about services for survivors. Wendy Seiden noted gaps in the CoC Strategic Plan survey regarding domestic violence survivor services integration.
- Katherine Tan shared lived experience as a survivor who navigated the housing process and suggested early intervention programs and financial literacy training for survivors could be beneficial.
- Brateil Aghasi noted that the CoC has a great strategic plan, but that it does not mention survivors of domestic violence. Brateil Aghasi questioned how the DV Committee can help incorporate a focus on survivors into the CoC Strategic Plan.

### **3. CoC Updates – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination**

Felicia Boehringer requested feedback from the committee regarding the meeting calendar for 2025. Sarah Jones presented the following CoC updates:

- 2025 Sheltered Point In Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count: The Orange County CoC's 2025 Sheltered PIT Count will be taking place the night of Monday, January 27, 2025. Orange County United Way's 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC) will be facilitating training for agencies that are required to submit data as part of the Sheltered PIT Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC). If your agency is required to participate in the Sheltered PIT and/or HIC, please note email communication from 211OC and the Office of Care Coordination will be forthcoming.
- The Office of Care Coordination provided details on upcoming CoC meetings.
- The Office of Care Coordination is Hiring: The Office of Care Coordination is currently recruiting to fill one Staff Specialist – Extra Help position to support with CoC and CES projects and initiatives being led by the Office of Care Coordination. Questions pertaining to this recruitment or interested applicants may contact or submit a resume to Aida Lomeli at [aida.lomeli@ocgov.com](mailto:aida.lomeli@ocgov.com).
- CoC Board Nomination and Election Timeline: Selected candidates will be presented to the CoC Board for ratification at the December 18, 2024, CoC Board meeting.
- CES for Survivors: The CES Administrator responsibilities for CES for Survivors is transitioning from the Office of Care Coordination to Friendship Shelter. The Office of Care Coordination will support to ensure a smooth transition.

Committee Discussion:

- Nishtha Mohendra inquired about a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the CES for Survivors administration. Nishtha Mohendra thanked Maricela Rios-Faust for the work invested in the DV Committee.
- Chair Maricela Rios-Faust noted that there had been discussion on switching to a quarterly schedule for the DV Committee meeting. Chair Maricela Rios-Faust also shared that term limits for CoC Board members and CoC Committee Chairs may be explored. Additionally, Chair Maricela Rios-Faust encouraged DV Committee members to considering applying for the CoC Board for next year.
- Mark Lee asked whether there is any written guidance stating who is required to participate in the Sheltered PIT Count and Housing Inventory Count.
- Sharon Wie expressed a desire for trainings to incorporate success stories and case studies from service providers who had positive outcomes using creative solutions to addressing the needs of survivors.

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