

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, February 26, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

**County Administration South (CAS) Building
Conference Center
425 West Santa Ana Blvd. Room 104/106
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599
[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: 948 5702 2698**

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

MINUTES

Board Members

LaVal Brewer, South County Outreach
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
Andrew Crowe, Scholarship Prep
Nichole Gideon, Individual [Secretary]
Shakoya Green Long, Thomas House Family Shelter
Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, OC United Way
Marisol Johnson, Dayle McIntosh Center
Sandra Lozeau, City of Anaheim
Sammie MarTínez, Individual
Melanie McQueen, PATH

Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Orangewood Foundation
Nishtha Mohendra, Families Forward [Vice Chair]
Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual
Talesha Payne, Individual
Jason Phillips, Individual
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options
George Searcy, Individual
Tim Shaw, Individual
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Individual [Chair]

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and County Language Access Policy, those requiring accommodation and/or interpreter services for this meeting should notify the Office of Care Coordination 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-5000 or email CareCoordination@ocgov.com. Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided.

Supporting documentation is available for review by the public at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings and at least 24 hours prior to special meetings of the CoC Board. Those wishing to review supporting documentation can visit the CoC Webpage [here](#) or the lobby of the CAS Building, located 601 N. Ross Street., Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599, and request a copy of the meeting materials from the Office of Care Coordination during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Call to Order – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Chair

Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Nichole Gideon, Secretary

Present: LaVal Brewer, Judson Brown, Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Nichole Gideon, Shakoya Green Long, Marisol Johnson, Sandra Lozeau, Sammie MarTínez, Melanie McQueen, Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells.

Absent Excused: Andrew Crowe, Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, Nishtha Mohendra, Dawn Price, and Tim Shaw.

Sammie MarTínez arrived during Business Calendar Item 2. Sandra Lozeau and Talesha Payne left during Business Calendar Item 3. Judson Brown left during Business Calendar Item 4.

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the CoC Board 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 CoC Board. Members of the public may address the CoC Board with public comments on agenda items in the business calendar 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. Members of the public utilizing interpreter services will be given double the amount of time to provide public comment.

To address the CoC Board, members of the public who are attending in person are to complete a Request to Address the CoC Board form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to CoC Board staff. Staff will call your name in the order received.

Members of the public, including those listening in via the virtual meeting option, may also submit public comment by emailing CareCoordination@ocgov.com. All comments submitted via email at least 24 hours before the start of the CoC Board meeting will be distributed to the CoC Board members for their consideration and all comments submitted prior to the meeting will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “CoC Board Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

- Carrie Buck shared that effective Monday, March 3, 2025, Orange County United Way will be the new fiscal sponsor for the Family Solutions Collaborative. As part of the transition, Carrie Buck will join the staff leadership of Orange County United Way as Senior Director of United to End Homelessness. Family Solutions Collaborative staff will join Orange County United Way on March 3, 2025, working within United to End Homelessness and 2-1-1 Orange County (211OC), where the operations of the Family Coordinated Entry System will be housed.
- Liz Andrade, Executive Director of 211OC, discussed Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) user fees and explained that since Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19, the number of agencies participating in HMIS has gone up approximately 115% with over 231% increase in HMIS users. With the current number of agencies, users, and software expenses, approximately \$35,000 was spent in the month of January 2025 for HMIS alone. Throughout recent fiscal years, there has been an increase in HMIS users and a decrease in funding for HMIS services.. A key challenge is the cost of software fees. As more providers have joined, the software fees have doubled to 44%. As HMIS expands, the 211 OC team remains committed to HMIS as an effective tool for the community. As solutions are sought, the 211OC team invites partnership and ideas.

Board Member Comments: Members of the CoC Board may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board.

- Jason Phillips read the names of people who have passed away without fixed abode in January 2025.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024.
2. Approve Commission to End Homelessness and CoC Board Joint Special Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2025.
3. Approve CoC Board Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2025.
4. Receive and file list of agencies and jurisdictions approved for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Access from December 14, 2024, through February 21, 2025.

Melanie McQueen motioned to approve items 1 through 4 on the Consent Calendar. Talesha Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **Federal Legislation Impacting the Orange County CoC** – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Chair; Nichole Gideon, Secretary; and the Office of Care Coordination

Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations with the Office of Care Coordination, provided background on key entities involved, timeline of the executive orders and information, and updates of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Actions. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells provided information as to how agencies can stay updated on information relating to federal legislation, as well as resources for sources of information.

Board Member Discussion:

- Maricela Rios-Faust stated that the Commission to End Homelessness received a presentation regarding the current federal legislation from a lobbying firm and noted it could be valuable to partner with the Commission to End Homelessness when advocacy for funding and legislation is needed. Maricela Rios-Faust shared that in 2016, the Housing First model was challenged, noting the importance of the CoC being clear on the impact now and long term. Maricela Rios-Faust also highlighted the importance of advocating for the disbursement the FY2024 CoC Program funds for the new cycle and the questioned what will be done if the CoC loses the \$34 million in CoC Program funding altogether.
- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse suggested the creation of the ad hoc with some members of the Commission to End Homelessness or their representatives to have coordinated efforts.
- Sandra Lozeau shared that on the state level, there are a lot of bills on pause or discussions of the Housing First language to be cognizant of. Sandra Lozeau shared some information as to what City of Anaheim did in response to concerns with federal funding freezes, such as drawing down funds early and often, noting that the City of Anaheim is looking at other funding sources to see if some of the agreements can shift funding from federal to other sources of funding.
- Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells shared that CoC documents are being reviewed to see if revisions need to be made to remain in compliance.
- Marisol Johnson provided information on safety trainings being facilitated by Dayle McIntosh Center. Marisol Johnson shared about personal advocacy efforts and noted availability to be contacted for support.
- Talesha Payne shared information on how often other agencies are drawing down funds, recommending a daily drawdown of funds and having one person dedicated to ensuring draw down and access of funds.
- Dr. Tiffany Mitchell shared that Orangewood Foundation is looking at utilizing a communication strategy that clearly communicates any changes being made to language. Dr. Tiffany Mitchell shared

that Orangewood Foundation is also working with a legal consultant to look at internal documents, job descriptions, and employee handbooks.

- Secretary Nichole Gideon shared that from the lived experience perspective, if people are on the receiving end, it may look like leaders are not doing anything but from being in the room and in the discussions, there is effort going on to figure out how to best respond. Secretary Nichole Gideon noted that just because there are not answers does not mean that work is not taking place.

2. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program – Sarah Jones, CoC Manager, and Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, Office of Care Coordination

On October 25, 2023, the Orange County CoC Board approved recommendations to fund service providers for a new contract term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, to provide Emergency Shelter Operations and Services with HHAP Round 1 and/or Round 3 funding. The programming of funds in the Operating Subsidies Interim Housing and Operating Subsidies Interim Housing Youth Set-Aside eligible use categories for HHAP CoC Rounds 3, 4 and 5 is being recommended to allow for renewals of Emergency Shelter Operations and Services contracts for a two-year term, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027, maintaining current funding levels.

At the March 27, 2024, meeting, the CoC Board approved the establishment of a HHAP Program Ad Hoc to support the Office of Care Coordination with the planning and programming of HHAP Rounds 1 through 4 remaining funds allocated to the Orange County CoC. Presently, there is a need to support the Office of Care Coordination with the planning and programming of additional HHAP Round 5 funds allocated to the Orange County CoC, with the recommendation to appoint a new HHAP Program Ad Hoc composed of non-conflicted CoC Board members and local partners.

At the May 22, 2024, CoC Board meeting, the CoC Board authorized the Office of Care Coordination to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to program remaining HHAP Rounds 3 and 4 funds allocated to the Orange County CoC. The Office of Care Coordination is working to finalize the RFP and expects for it to be released shortly.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Approve the following recommendations for the programming of HHAP funding allocated to the Orange County CoC:
 - 1) Authorize the Office of Care Coordination to renew the current HHAP-CoC funded contracts for Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for a two-year term, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027, utilizing HHAP-CoC Rounds 3, 4 and/or 5, funds under the Operating Subsidies Interim Housing and Operating Subsidies Interim Housing Youth Set-Aside eligible use categories.
 - (1) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) with Covenant House California for \$539,539.56.
 - (2) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families with Family Assistance Ministries for \$400,000.00.
 - (3) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Individuals in the South Service Planning Area with Friendship Shelter, Inc. for \$302,063.51.
 - (4) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families with The Illumination Foundation for \$304,600.00.
 - (5) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence with Interval House for \$151,600.00
 - (6) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Individuals in the North Service Planning Area with Mercy House Living Centers for \$191,600.00.

- (7) Emergency Shelter Operations and Services for Families with Pathways of Hope for \$305,423.08.
 - (8) Family Care Center Operations and Services with Shelter Providers of Orange County, Inc. dba HomeAid Orange County for \$344,600.00.
- b. Establish a HHAP Program ad hoc to be appointed by the CoC Board Officers to support the Office of Care Coordination with the planning and programming of HHAP Program Round 5 funds allocated to the Orange County CoC.

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to approve Recommended Action a. Talesha Payne seconded the motion. LaVal Brewer, Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Nichole Gideon, Shakoya Green Long, Marisol Johnson, Sandra Lozeau, Sammie MarTínez, Melanie McQueen, Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Jason Phillips, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells voted yes. Judson Brown and Talesha Payne abstained. The motion passed.

Talesha Payne motioned to approve Recommended Action b. Judson Brown seconded the motion. LaVal Brewer, Judson Brown, Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson, Nichole Gideon, Shakoya Green Long, Marisol Johnson, Sandra Lozeau, Sammie MarTínez, Melanie McQueen, Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Talesha Payne, Jason Phillips, Maricela Rios-Faust, George Searcy and Dr. Shauntina Sorrells voted yes. The motion passed.

During discussion of Recommended Action b, Judson Brown introduced a substitute motion which was seconded by Sandra Lozeau. Judson Brown withdrew the substitute motion shortly thereafter before the motion could be voted on.

Public Comments:

- Jordan Hoiberg shared that Illumination Foundation is honored to be considered for the HHAP funding. Jordan Hoiberg provided information on what the family emergency shelter provides and how their shelter furthers the Pillars for the Commission to End Homelessness. Jordan Hoiberg noted that the HHAP funding is vital for this project, as philanthropic funds are the only other source of funding for this project and can be irregular and change over time. In regard to Clarity HMIS licenses, Jordan Hoiberg noted that having licenses is important to ensure the people are being served. Additionally, Jordan Hoiberg noted the importance of considering how the Equal Access Rule can be elevated within grant contracts.
- Carrie Buck thanked the CoC Board for consideration of the HHAP funding for family emergency shelter services, on behalf of all the families and families that are looking for shelter. Carrie Buck reiterated that all shelters listed in the recommended action are split between private funding and emphasized the importance of the shelters.

Board Member Discussion:

- Talesha Payne inquired whether any agencies have returned HHAP funds. Talesha Payne asked if some of the HHAP Round 3 funds can be put aside. Talesha Payne inquired if there are any present concerns with addressing the identified special populations in the RFP.
- Sandra Lozeau provided background of the HHAP Program ad hoc and shared that the ad hoc looked at funds to ensure that funding obligations and spend downs were met. Sandra Lozeau commented that each round of HHAP is getting tougher and tougher because of different guidelines and shared that for some rounds, the funds will not be provided unless there are certain obligations met. Sandra Lozeau asked if the purpose of the HHAP Program ad hoc can be broader to focus on both HHAP Round 5 and HHAP Round 6 programming recommendations, if needed.

- Judson Brown shared appreciation for the public concerns and noted that there is a concern of recommending approval of these renewals for approximately \$2.4 million, given that this is one-time funding and severe budget cuts are likely forthcoming. Judson Brown noted that the approval of the budget from the House Appropriations Committee is still pending. Judson Brown commented that the recommendation is a serious decision in a time of extremely limited resources. Judson Brown volunteered for the HHAP Program ad hoc and also asked if there is an ad hoc reviewing the proposals for the RFP. Judson Brown also asked for an overview of HHAP expenditures of all rounds of HHAP funds allocated to the CoC, the next time the HHAP Program funding item returns to the Board.
- Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells provided context for the HHAP Program ad hoc, noting expenditure deadlines that were considered. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells also shared that the CoC Board leadership has started a discussion about including quarterly HHAP funding updates in CoC Board meeting agendas.
- Maricela Rios-Faust inquired if there was an option for the ad hoc to focus on HHAP Round 5 while also laying the groundwork for programming of the HHAP Round 6 funds.
- George Searcy asked for clarification on the recommended action and process.
- Melanie McQueen shared encouragement for streamlining and simplifying when possible. Melanie McQueen inquired on the eligible use categories for HHAP Round 6.
- Marisol Johnson agreed that everything is changing and shared that being part of an ad hoc is a lot of time and may discourage individuals from participating if there are multiple ad hocs.

Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells motion for a ten-minute recess break at 3:29 p.m. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells called the meeting back to order at 3:39 p.m.

3. CoC Strategic Plan Updates – Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Chair

Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells provided an update regarding the implementation planning for the CoC Strategic Plan. CoC Committee Chairs provided updates and feedback provided during the different committee meetings.

Board Member Discussion:

- Judson Brown, Chair of the Housing Opportunities Committee, shared that the committee reviewed CoC Strategic Plan Objective 1C. as it relates to collaborating with partners that provide non-CoC housing resources and services. Judson Brown shared that he took lead in requesting Objective 1C. and that it was helpful to have the authority to determine what to focus on. Judson Brown noted it would be helpful to have Chairs or staff delegate the various parts of the CoC Strategic Plan to committees.
- Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair of the Domestic Violence Committee, expressed that the committee was overwhelmed with the content of the CoC Strategic Plan and began prioritizing which strategic aims they see themselves moving forward based on the committee's vision-setting discussions. The committee will look at scheduling a special meeting, since the committee does not meet as frequently.
- Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Chair of the Transitional Aged Youth Collaborative Committee, provided an update that the committee will be meeting next week. Dr. Tiffany Mitchell highlighted a discussion point from the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee regarding who will be responsible for identifying gaps for the parts of the CoC Strategic Plan that are unaddressed by committees or other groups.
- Melanie McQueen, Chair of the Service Provider Forum, echoed that the committee has not yet met in 2025 and shared that the discussion at the PPS Committee suggested that breaking down the information of the CoC Strategic Plan will be helpful. Melanie McQueen looks forward to the CoC Strategic Plan planning working session that will hopefully occur in April 2025. Melanie McQueen shared that the Service Provider Forum would appreciate any leads for venues with free parking to be able to host meetings.

- Maricela Rios-Faust shared that there are parts of the CoC Strategic Plan that are more system level, where other entities outside of committees can contribute.
- Marisol Johnson, as a Vision Ad Hoc member, also shared that the Vision Ad Hoc discussed community partners being able to provide more knowledge in some areas of the CoC Strategic Plan.

4. 2025 Homeless Survey Update – Doug Becht, Director and Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations, Office of Care Coordination

The aim of the 2025 Homeless Survey is to explore the complex issues facing people who are experiencing homelessness for the first time in the past 12 months. The survey will focus on this subpopulation to help better understand the causations of homelessness and identify areas for improvement. The 2025 Homeless Survey is on track for surveys to be conducted in March 2025 with survey review and analysis in April/May 2025. City Net will conduct approximately 800 surveys.

Board Member Discussion:

- Robert “Santa Bob” Morse thanked Doug Becht for “test driving” the presentation at the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) meeting.
- Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells inquired if there were thoughts of pulling data from HMIS on who has become homeless for the first time in the past 12 months. Chair Dr. Shauntina Sorrells suggested other ways to access individuals within the targeted survey population to reduce the burden and potential re-traumatization of survey respondents.
- Marisol Johnson inquired if the suggested terminology for the disability community was taken into consideration.

5. Orange County Homelessness Updates – Doug Becht, Director, and Felicia Boehringer, CoC Administrator, Office of Care Coordination

a. System of Care Updates – Doug Becht provided the following System of Care Update:

- On February 25, 2025, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the revised Commission to End Homelessness Bylaws, inclusive of changing name to Commission to Address Homelessness; changes to mission, purpose, and function; amendment of membership and duties; changes of non-voting members to voting members; and other administrative changes.
- The Office of Care Coordination has been engaging County departments, local jurisdictions and non-profits to coordinate the OC Same Day Solutions Fair which will provide support and assistance in a convenient, accessible manner by bringing multiple resources together in one location. This collaborative effort is aimed at providing immediate on-site support to individuals experiencing homelessness by offering a range of services such as legal and document assistance, healthcare, housing resources, and workforce development. The OC Same Day Solutions Fair will be held Thursday, March 27, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Second Baptist Church located at 4300 Westminster Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92703.

b. CoC Updates – Felicia Boehringer provided the following CoC Updates:

- At the December 18, 2024, meeting, the CoC Board reviewed an HMIS data request from the University of Chicago for a one-time export of data for research that would be conducted in partnership with U.S. Census Bureau. The University of Chicago is working on addressing questions from the CoC Board, including preparing a timeline to return with the final data and report. In reviewing the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), some of the projects being proposed by the University of Chicago appear more to the benefit of the Census Bureau than to the CoC. 211OC and the Office of Care Coordination are proposing to review the project list, and potentially

other components of the draft MOU, at the upcoming PPS Committee meeting to receive feedback before bringing the request back to the CoC Board.

- The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently released the 2024 State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The State ESG NOFA will now be issued every three years by HCD. The application portal opened on February 11, 2025, and all applications will be due on March 28, 2025. As the Administrative Entity for the Orange County CoC, the County of Orange's Office of Care Coordination will submit an application for the 2024 State ESG NOFA prior to the application deadline.
- The County of Orange's Probation Department seeks proposals from qualified firms to provide vocational services to youth. Proposals must be submitted via OpenGov by March 31, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. PT. For more information, please visit the following link: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/ocgov/projects/138977>.
- The County of Orange's Probation Department seeks proposals from qualified firms to provide educational course and services to youth. Proposals must be submitted via OpenGov by March 31, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. PT. For more information, please visit the following link: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/ocgov/projects/145273>.
- The Office of Care Coordination has been providing CoC Board members with updates regarding upcoming CoC activities. Calendar Year 2025 Quarter 1 and early Quarter 2 activities are highlighted in the CoC Board Presentation.

Board Member Discussion:

- Secretary Nichole Gideon asked for clarification on the date for the OC Same Day Solutions Fair. Secretary Nichole expressed excitement and shared hopes of obtaining a flyer for the event.

Jason Phillips motioned to adjourn the meeting. Shakoya Green Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.