MINUTES

Board Member Names

Jason Austin, OC Health Care Agency
Jeanne Awrey, OC Dept. of Education [Secretary]
Matt Bates, City Net
Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Natalie Bui, Veteran Affairs CRRC
Donald Dermit, The Rock Church
Curtis Gamble, Hope Lifted
Vacant

Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way
Patti Long, Mercy House
Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter
Albert Ramirez, City of Anaheim
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options
George Searcy, Jamboree Housing [Chair]
Tim Shaw, Individual [Vice-Chair]

Call to Order – George Searcy, Chair

Board Member Roll Call – Jeanne Awrey, Secretary

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Continuum of Care 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 Continuum of Care Board. Members of the public may address the Continuum of Care Board with public comments on agenda items in the business calendar after the Continuum of Care Board member discussion. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Update from the Office of Care Coordination regarding COVID-19 – Paul Duncan, CoC Manager

2. Report from the CoC Board Chair regarding COVID-19 advocacy letter to the County of Orange – George Searcy, CoC Board Chair

The CoC Board approved the Continuum of Care Executive Recommendations, COVID-19 Homeless Resource Strategy’s 7 priorities as presented by George Searcy but amended priority 7 bullet point 3 to include:

Establish a Coordination Team composed of the CoC Board Chair, Vice Chair and OCHCA CoC staff to act to deploy future CoC COVID-19 funds that may be received to align with such funding across the system. Consult with representatives from south serving planning area, the western coastal cities and cities receiving direct allocations from State sources.
The CoC Board voted and approved Shelter System COVID-19 Response Priorities as presented by Dawn Price.

3. **Update on 2018 State Emergency Solutions Grant Program Disaster Funding** – Paul Duncan, CoC Manager

4. **Homeless Emergency Aid Program ( HEAP ) Funding Discussion and Evaluation** – Paul Duncan, CoC Board Manager

   Authorize the Orange County Health Care Agency Staff to assess current HEAP expenditures and unencumber any HEAP funding that projects to be underspent. Authorize the Orange County Health Care Agency to utilize HEAP funds with the approval from the CoC Board Chair and CoC Board Vice Chair to provide additional resources for the homeless population in response to COVID-19.

   The CoC Board approved by unanimous consent.

5. **Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention ( HHAP ) COVID-19 Funds Recommendation** – Paul Duncan, CoC Board Manager

   Authorize the Orange County Health Care Agency to utilize HHAP funds with the approval from the CoC Board Chair and CoC Board Vice Chair to provide additional resources for the homeless population in response to COVID-19.

   Authorize the Orange County Health Care Agency to utilize and distribute additional funds received by HUD with the approval from the CoC Board Chair and CoC Board Vice Chair to provide additional resources for the homeless population in response to COVID-19.

   The CoC Board approved by unanimous consent.

6. **Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Request for Proposals Update and Recommendation** – Paul Duncan, CoC Manager

   Authorize the Health Care Agency to utilize up to ten percent of HHAP’s RFP funds to support the ongoing COVID-19 efforts with the CoC Board Chair and CoC Vice Chair authority.

   The CoC Board did not vote on the item. Instead, the CoC Board Chair, Vice Chair and OCHCA CoC staff agreed to discuss developing a strategy or process for the HHAP Request for Proposals.

**Next Meeting:** April 22, 2020

County of Orange
1501 E St. Andrew Pl
Conference Room 134
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Shelter

Priority Requirement 1:
Maintain adequate staffing levels in our emergency shelters

Resource Needed:
• Agencies need additional funding for staff.
• Many of their employees cannot come in to work due to health issues or childcare issues they themselves face. This in turn means that other staff are working overtime.

Priority Requirement 2:
Provide additional isolated spaces - shelter/beds for high risk populations, those who are unwell and those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19

Resource Needed:
• State trailers, leased motel rooms, vacant student housing, County-controlled properties and facilities the county owns which might be quickly converted into isolation beds.  
  o Isolation beds and food for those who are high risk – over 65, health conditions  
  o Isolation beds and food supplies for those who are unwell but haven’t been tested yet, and funding for care support to provide assistance to those who are unwell  
  o Isolation beds for those who have tested positive who are not sick enough to be in hospital, and funding for care support, food, supplies to run these facilities  
• Develop pool of “shelter-trained” staff to support isolation units (trailers/motel rooms/other) and to coordinate transfer from hospitals those exiting to isolation units  
• Coordinate at the system level with Orange County Hospitals to transfer persons and provide support personnel to allow those transferred persons successfully remain in isolation  
• Secure government work force (HCA, National Guard, Military) to staff new isolation/quarantine beds

Priority Requirement 3:
Increase transportation assistance to affected homeless individuals who may need quarantine, treatment or recovery due to COVID-19

Resource Needed:
• Transportation, the ability to safely move people to the right locations so they may access treatment or recover from having received medical treatment.

Priority Requirement 4:
Adequate emergency shelter feeding programs that promote the health and well-being of vulnerable homeless populations

Resource Needed:
• Funding is needed to increase the amount of food purchased by shelter operators to off-set the costs of lost food donations due to quarantine restrictions on volunteer groups.
Continuum of Care Executive Recommendations  
COVID-19 Homeless Resource Strategy  
Business Calendar Item 2 – Presented by Chair George Searcy and Vice Chair Tim Shaw

- Funding needed to supply food to increased population in isolation facilities

**Priority Requirement 5:**
Increase the inventory of infectious disease prevention supplies in our homeless emergency shelters and inventory of isolation housing

**Resource Needed:**
- Shelters and the added inventory of isolation units, (trailers/motels/student housing), need additional supplies e.g. masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, gloves, thermometers, trash cans etc.

**Homeless Prevention**

**Priority Requirement 6:**
Temporarily halt evictions for 90 days and support resource availability to meet critical rent and household expenses to avoid expanding homeless population

- Pause eviction proceedings in Orange County for 90 days, or minimally calling on landlords to adopt voluntary eviction moratorium (see Jamboree policy)
- Additional funding for 211OC to increase capacity for call volume increase
- Funding for the homeless prevention fund at United Way

**COVID-HHAP State Funding**

**Priority Requirement 7:**
Align new State funding to support unified strategy to reduce epidemic spread in homeless population

- CoC leadership has called an Emergency CoC Board meeting for March 25th to authorize CoC staff to act in consultation with CoC Chair and Vice-Chair to immediately allocate CoC’s $1,292,979 in HHAP funds without further Board review to align with Orange County’s HHAP allocation and deployment in this crisis.
- County and HHAP City recipients immediately coordinate HHAP funding and all State funding possible to support these requirements.
- Establish a Coordination Team composed of the CoC Board Chair, Vice Chair and OCHCA CoC staff to act to deploy future CoC COVID-19 funds that may be received to align with such funding across the system. Consult with representatives from south serving planning area, the western coastal cities and cities receiving direct allocations from State sources.

Authored by:

George Searcy, Continuum of Care Chair  
Tim Shaw, Continuum of Care Vice-Chair  
Dawn Price, Continuum of Care Board Member, Chair – Shelter Committee  
Becks Heyhoe, Continuum of Care Board Member, Chair – TAY Committee
Business Calendar Item 2 – Presented by Dawn Price

Shelter System COVID-19 Response Priorities

ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Our shelter population is among our County’s most vulnerable.
2. Without proper planning and intervention at this time, this population will tax our hospital systems unnecessarily.
3. This is a public health problem and public health should lead solutions.
4. Shelter providers need a place at the table for best results and to preserve effectiveness of our shelter system during this crisis.

ORANGE COUNTY SHOULD ADOPT KING COUNTY’S THREE PRIORITY INITIATIVES:

1. Reinforce and De-Intensify Existing Shelters
   a. Supplies, food, staffing
   b. Use accelerated housing and strategic motel placements to get shelter numbers manageable for social distancing

2. Create and Implement Isolation and Quarantine System
   a. Face-to-face workers here are medically trained personnel
   b. Contains vulnerable homeless population diagnosed, experiencing symptoms or who have documented exposure, but who do not require hospitalization
   c. Reassures and keeps shelter staff supported to ensure their ongoing service.

3. Consider congregate assessment/recovery centers for short-term emergency care (reduce strain on hospitals)
   a. King County’s Plan includes this, OC should assess whether it is needed here.

CREATE A TEAM TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THESE INITIATIVES:

1. Led by HCA
2. Includes at least one team member medical training (MD, RN)
3. Includes shelter providers from each SPA.
4. Shelter representatives should have hands-on experience in shelter environments