

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Webinar:
<https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/j.php?MTID=m78381b0705d5cda70df63e3c20e22480>

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MINUTES

Board Members

Jeanne Awrey, OC Dept. of Education

Matt Bates, City Net

Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana

Natalie Bui, Veteran Affairs CRRC

Donald Dermit, The Rock Church

Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way [Secretary]

Tim Houchen, Hope4Restoration

Patti Long, Mercy House

Dawn Price, Friendship Shelter

Albert Ramirez, City of Anaheim

Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options [Vice Chair]

Soledad Rivera, Families Together of OC

George Searcy, Jamboree Housing

Tim Shaw, Individual [Chair]

Christina Weckerly Ramirez, Health Care Agency

Call to Order – Tim Shaw, Chair

Chair Tim Shaw called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Becks Heyhoe, Secretary

Present: Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Natalie Bui, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Patti Long, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez.

Absent excused: Judson Brown, Donald Dermit, and Maricela Rios-Faust.

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the Continuum of Care (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 CoC 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.

To address the CoC Board, members of the public are to enter their name and agenda item number in the WebEx chat box to be placed in a queue. CoC Board staff will call your name in the order listed in the chat box.

- Pat Davis requested guidance on how to best understand the different ‘money arenas’ of American Rescue Plan funding and shared information about hunger and homelessness awareness week from November 13-21, 2021.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters are approved by one motion unless pulled by a Board Member for discussion or separate action. The CoC Board requests that only pertinent information be discussed during this time.

1. Approve Continuum of Care Board Meeting Minutes from September 29, 2021.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. Natalie Bui seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Domestic Violence Awareness Month

a. Presentation on the Intersection of Homelessness and Domestic Violence

Sara Behmerwohld with Human Options gave a presentation on the intersection of homelessness and domestic violence, including the history and goals of the HOME Cohort, Cohort members, information about survivor’s housing rights, and a lease addendum which includes information about current laws and resources to reference.

The presentation can be found on slides 3-5: <https://www.ochealthinfo.com/sites/hca/files/2021-11/October%202021%20CoC%20Meeting%20Presentation%20-%20Final.pdf>

Public Comments:

- Ugochi Anaebere-Nicholson from the Public Law Center inquired if the lease addendum can be circulated to providers to use in their advocacy efforts. Sara Behmerwohld stated that the document is still in need of approval from the cohort before launching it in the community and will provide an update when the document is approved.
- David Gillanders from Pathways of Hope highlighted that domestic violence is understated within homelessness and additional protections need to be added for survivors served.
- Joy Webb noted that providers and landlords can protect themselves by utilizing this document at the initial time of signing a lease, and that including information about local service providers may not be needed.

2. Orange County System of Care Update – Doug Becht, Acting Director, Office of Care Coordination

Natalie Dempster, on behalf of Doug Becht, provided the following updates:

- **Project Roomkey** - The County of Orange continues to operate temporary isolation shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 sick or symptomatic.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts** – The Office of Care Coordination is working with Public Health Services and two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) on vaccination efforts for those experiencing homelessness. The FQHCs are Families Together of Orange County in Tustin and Share Our Selves in Costa Mesa.
- **State of California’s Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program** – The State of California’s ERA Program is referred to as CA COVID-19 Rent Relief or Housing is Key. Orange County tenants with rental arrears and/or past due utility bills are encouraged to apply for assistance.

Public Comments:

- Ugochi Anaebere-Nicholson from the Public Law Center noted that it would be helpful for advocates assisting in petitioning the eviction process to have documentation verifying application status for the ERA program on formal letterhead.

3. Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Update – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager

- **Training Opportunity: Domestic Violence Training for Service Providers** – The Office of Care Coordination will be hosting a training on domestic violence on October 28, 2021, at 1 p.m.
- **2022 Point in Time Count** – The Office of Care Coordination will be establishing a Planning Committee in partnership with City Net and Covenant House California to carry out the 2022 Point in Time Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness in Orange County. Zulima Lundy provided information about the upcoming timeline of activities
- **Racial Equity Analysis** – Zulima Lundy provided information about the kickoff of the Racial Equity Analysis, which will support the Orange County CoC to assess its homeless response system, prioritize areas for action, and implement strategies to achieve more racially equitable outcomes.
- **Youth Advisory Board** – The Office of Care Coordination on behalf of the Orange County CoC is facilitating the Youth Action Board (YAB) recruitment and selection process. Zulima Lundy provided updates on outreach efforts to date.
- **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Federal Strategic Plan** – USICH recently started an intensive process to create a new Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Office of Care Coordination and Orange County CoC are encouraging participation in a survey by the USICH: <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Chair Tim Shaw inquired about the volunteer needs for the Point in Time Count and how interested parties can go about participating. Zulima Lundy stated that the Office of Care Coordination is working with the Public Health Services to finalize the requirements of volunteers, which may include proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test, to ensure the safety of those participating and being surveyed.
- Matt Bates emphasized that volunteers will be needed to accommodate the volume of work for the 2022 Point in Time Count.
- Jeanne Awrey inquired about the Youth Advisory Board application process and outreach efforts. The Office of Care Coordination will be working on a FAQ guide to streamline the process and encourage participation.

Public Comments:

- Callie Rutter commented that she would like to see recipients of the Point In Time count have access to their own Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) information through an online portal.
- Pat Davis expressed concern about the lengthy questionnaire for those participating in the Point In Time count. She also noted that it may be helpful to engage with local colleges for Youth Advisory Board outreach.

4. Emergency Housing Voucher Update – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Public Housing Authorities

- Zulima Lundy provided an update on the emergency housing vouchers (EHVs), specific to the Move On Strategy aimed at supporting Permanent Supportive Housing participants transition to an EHV to receive ongoing rental assistance without the intensive supportive services. This serves as a unique opportunity for people who may have limited supportive service needs or who are getting their needs met through mainstream supportive services but would still benefit from ongoing rental assistance and creating system flow.

- The following updates were provided from the Public Housing Authorities:
 - Zulima Lundy on behalf of the Orange County Housing Authority reported that five households have leased up and a total of 200 EHV's have been issued to date since July 2021.
 - Nate Robinson on behalf of the Garden Grove Housing Authority reported that 103 EHV out of the 117 vouchers have been matched to eligible households and 8 households have leased up and are now housed.
 - Albert Ramirez on behalf of the Anaheim Housing Authority reported that 95 EHV's have been issued to date and three households have leased up, with more pending unit inspection.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Tim Houchen stated that he would like to see data about EHV recipients from each Public Housing Authority side by side for easy comparison and expressed concern about the wraparound supportive services. Tim Houchen advised the CoC Board to have oversight on the supportive services to reduce recidivism and recommended that a committee be formed to implement a tool to evaluate how the services are being provided.

Public Comments:

- Callie Rutter expressed concern about available housing inventory. She recognized that there are several barriers for voucher recipients to identify rental units, including credit checks, background checks, and past evictions. She suggested providing vouchers when clients are more likely to be able to successfully use them.
- Nikki Buckstead from the Family Solutions Collaborative emphasized the lack of inventory in the county for families or individuals to move into. She stated it is harder for larger families to get into homes due to high rent costs.
- Rebecca Kovacs shared her experience volunteering to support housing search assistance. She expressed concern over rising rents, which may price out households with an EHV. She expressed concern about awarding vouchers to households with an eviction on their record and requested that the data on voucher utilization be released to the public.

5. FY2021 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and CoC NOFO Ad Hoc

The Orange County CoC is eligible to apply for \$1,411,587, in CoC Bonus Funding for eligible project types including Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. Additional funding may be made available through the reallocation process. The Orange County CoC is eligible to apply for \$2,736,456 in Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Funding for eligible project types including Rapid Rehousing and Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing - Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH).

The Office of Care Coordination worked to establish request for Proposal (RFP) Review Panels to review and recommend proposals submitted in response to the DV Bonus and CoC Bonus and Reallocation Funding RFPs. The CoC Bonus and Reallocation RFP Review Panel recommended both projects for inclusion in the Orange County CoC Program Application, as neither requested the maximum amount available under the CoC Bonus and ranked the proposal by Families Forward first and the proposal by Illumination Foundation second. The DV Bonus RFP Review Panel recommended both projects for inclusion in the Orange County CoC Program Application, as neither requested the maximum amount available under the DV Bonus and ranked the proposal by Human Options first and the proposal by Interval House second.

The CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Ad Hoc is recommending the reallocation of 1736 Family Crisis Center's (1736FCC) renewal project named Rapid Rehousing for Homeless Veterans. The CoC NOFO Ad

Hoc does not come to this recommendation lightly and has considered the various components of the FY 2021 Rating and Ranking Criteria, specifically the project performance measures and thresholds.

The CoC NOFO Ad Hoc recommended that the reallocation funding be utilized to create expansion grants for the highest performing permanent supportive housing programs. The Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant, will be in communication with the agencies with the highest scoring permanent supportive housing renewal projects to explore this possibility and/or option, taking into consideration the agency's capacity and project.

During the September 29, 2021, meeting, the Orange County CoC approved the FY2021 Rating and Ranking Criteria for the FY2021 CoC Program NOFO to evaluate CoC renewal projects. The Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant, prepopulated the scores from the Agency Administrative Review, Project Performance Measures, and unspent funds. The CoC NOFO Ad Hoc scored the remainder of the criteria, such as Coordinated Entry System (CES) participation, housing first/low-barrier implementation, and project effectiveness. Attachment A is the FY2021 CoC Program Priority Listing as recommended by the CoC NOFO Ad Hoc and details the ranking and tiering of renewal projects, reallocation funding, and CoC Bonus and DV Bonus projects for inclusion in the Orange County CoC Program Application. Approval of the recommended action will support the Orange County CoC in fulfilling the requirements of the FY2021 CoC Program NOFO.

To appeal the Orange County CoC Board's decision, the CoC agency must submit a formal appeal by Friday, October 29, 2021, at 12 p.m. The Appeals Committee has the final authority on appeals decisions.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Approve the selection of the proposals submitted in response to the CoC Bonus and Reallocation Request for Proposals (RFP) as recommended by the RFP Review Panel for inclusion in the Orange County CoC Program NOFO collaborative application and ranking in the following order.
 - i. Families Forward
 - ii. Illumination Foundation
- b. Approve the selection of the proposals submitted in response to the Domestic Violence Bonus RFP as recommended by the RFP Review Panel for inclusion in the Orange County CoC Program NOFO collaborative application and ranking in the following order.
 - i. Human Options
 - ii. Interval House
- c. Approve the reallocation of funding for the CoC Renewal Project(s) for the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO.
 - i. 1736 Family Crisis Center – \$414,065
- d. Approve the CoC NOFO Ad Hoc recommendation to utilize the reallocation funding to expand the highest scoring Permanent Supportive Housing Renewal Project(s).
- e. Approve the CoC Project Ranking and Tiering order as recommended by the CoC NOFO Ad Hoc to be included in the FY 2021 CoC Program Priority Listing.

CoC Board Member Comments:

- Matt Bates questioned if the fact that the amount requested by applicants didn't total the amount of money available means that there could be a capacity issue in the county and a lack of opportunity for homeless individuals. Matt Bates suggested that the CoC Board think about what it would take to attract additional agencies.
- Dawn Price pointed out that the turnaround is too quick to be collaborative and thoughtful. She suggested having the priorities set earlier next year to allow for more time to collaborate.

Patti Long motioned to approve all the recommended actions. George Searcy seconded the motion. Point of Order noted that CoC Board members who have a conflict of interest must abstain from voting on the items for which there is a conflict. No vote was held, motion void.

Patti Long motioned to approve items 5a, 5b, and 5c. George Searcy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Tim Houchen motioned to approve items 5d and 5e. Becks Heyhoe seconded the motion. Patti Long and Dawn Price abstained. Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Natalie Bui, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Albert Ramirez, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, Tim Shaw, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez voted yes. The motion passed.

Chair Tim Shaw requested to move item 8 to the next item.

6. Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) Committee Update – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager

Zulima Lundy provided an overview of the proposed updates to the Anti-Discrimination Policy and CoC Board Membership Composition and Election Process.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Approve the PPS Committee recommendation to adopt an Anti-Discrimination Policy for the Orange County CoC in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

George Searcy motioned to approve item 6a. Patti Long seconded the motion. Matt Bates, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, Soledad Rivera, and Tim Shaw voted yes. Jeanne Awrey, Natalie Bui, and Christina Weckerly-Ramirez were no longer in attendance and did not vote. The motion passed.

- b. Approve the recommended changes to the sections of the Orange County CoC Governance Charter related to the CoC Board Membership Composition and Election Process as proposed by the CoC Nominating and recommended by PPS Committees.

Patti Long motioned to approve item 6b. Dawn Price seconded the motion. Matt Bates, Becks Heyhoe, Tim Houchen, Albert Ramirez, Soledad Rivera, George Searcy, and Tim Shaw voted yes. Jeanne Awrey, Natalie Bui, Christina Weckerly-Ramirez were no longer in attendance and did not vote. The motion passed.

7. OC Housing Finance Trust Advisory Board – Zulima Lundy, CoC Manager and Adam Eliason, OC Finance Trust

- a. Appoint a CoC Board Member to the Orange County Housing Finance Trust Advisory Board to advise the OC Housing Finance Trust Board of Directors.

Item was continued to the November 17, 2021 meeting of the Orange County CoC Board.

8. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week – Becks Heyhoe, OC United Way

Becks Heyhoe provided information about the efforts OC United Way is leading for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, including the itinerary of events for the week, and how to get involved. This year's awareness week is November 13-21, 2021 and will focus on making sure that everyone in Orange County knows that "Housing Ends Homelessness for Our Neighbors". More information can be found at: Bit.ocuw.org/HHAW

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.