

**ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 29, 2020
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Webinar:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/303523669>
Dial by Phone: +1 (571) 317-3112
Access Code: 303-523-669

MINUTES

Board Member Names

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
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

Chair George Searcy called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Board Member Roll Call

Present: Jeanne Awrey, Matt Bates, Judson Brown, Natalie Bui, Donald Dermit, Curtis Gamble, Becks Heyhoe, Patti Long, Dawn Price, Albert Ramirez, George Searcy and Tim Shaw.

Absent Excused: Maricela Rios-Faust

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.

- No Public Comments

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. Update from the Office of Care Coordination regarding COVID-19 response – Jason Austin, Director

Jason Austin was welcomed by the CoC Board Chair as the new Director for the Office of Care Coordination. Through Project Roomkey, four hotels/motels are currently operating in Orange County as temporary shelters, two locations are for individuals who are sick or symptomatic for COVID-19 and two location is for

asymptomatic and medically vulnerable populations residing in shelters. The County anticipates an additional three hotels/motels becoming available in the next week. In total, the County anticipates a total capacity of 665 motel/hotel beds for individuals who are sick and symptomatic and vulnerable population. The hotel sites have nurses and site supervision to support the clients. To enter into the program, clients must be referred through an access point that includes, the shelter system, outreach teams, hospitals, and law enforcement. The Joplin Facility is now operating as a shelter site with 100 bed capacity for the South Service Planning Area.

2. Update from the Continuum of Care Manager regarding COVID-19 response – Paul Duncan, CoC Manager

Continuum of Care funds are being utilized to support families experiencing unsheltered homelessness and any individuals experiencing homelessness who are unable to use the County of Orange's Project Roomkey program. Service providers and cities qualify for the available funds. Currently 40 households have accessed the resources. Anyone interested that qualifies under the CDC's definition as vulnerable must first email OCHomelessnessResponse@ochca.com.

OC Health Care Agency staff coordinated a conference call with cities receiving Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES funding to discuss the COVID-19 response on the city-level. OC Health Care Agency staff intends to continue coordinating meeting with stakeholders to support regional needs.

3. Report from the CoC Board Chair regarding the COVID-19 Advocacy Letter for funding to address housing and homelessness – George Searcy, CoC Board Chair

The Orange County Housing Finance Trust, the Orange County CoC, and County of Orange created a joint advocacy letter to request a State budget allocation of \$35 million that will provide an immediate short-term response to the need for COVID-19 isolation units and a long-term increase in affordable and supportive housing units in Orange County.

4. Update on CARES Act Funding regarding the allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program funds– Paul Duncan, CoC Manager

Through the CARES Act funding, it is estimated that Orange County will receive approximately \$2,468,762 from the State of California. The administrative entity (HCA) is required to collaborate and receive input and agreement from the CoC on how funding is utilized. There is additional funding that will be allocated from HUD that is expected to be announced within the next week or two. Allocations within the second round of funding awards will be distributed in a different formula, which will take into account both the number of persons experiencing homelessness as well as persons that are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Remaining unallocated CARES Act funding is \$3 billion in CDBG and \$2 billion in ESG.

5. Family Solutions Collaborative one-time funding allocation – Paul Duncan, CoC Board Manager

Action: Authorize the allocation of a one-time funding award in the amount of \$50,000 to the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC) to support structural shifts in the operations of the collaborative. Any additional funding requires a financial analysis and must be brought to the CoC Board for approval.

Chair George Searcy motioned to approve the recommendation. Donald Dermit seconded the recommendation. Patti Long abstained from voting. The recommendation passed by unanimous consent.

6. Update regarding procurement and utilization of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) and California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) - Paul Duncan, CoC Board Manager

The Office of Care Coordination recommends that this RFP is done in conjunction with a RFP that will utilize State funding to the CoC for COVID-19 response as well as HHAP and CESH funding dependent upon the proposals and need. The authorization for that was given to the CoC Chair and Vice-Chair. OC Health Care Agency staff will be working with the Chair and Vice-Chair to finalize and release an RFP for that purpose. At the same time the Office of Care Coordination recognizes the need for timely availability of capital funds for projects that may be already in the works or quick capital needed to respond to COVID-19 needs. With strained capacity by many entities the OC Health Care Agency would look to create a simplified procurement that ensured interested entities were not further strained during a time of needed capacity for crisis response. The Office of Care Coordination recommends the CoC consider prioritizing the award of capital funding to a project(s) that bring on new services, increases services, or significantly enhances existing service.

7. HHAP Request for Proposals (RFP) for capital funds recommendation – Paul Duncan, CoC Manager

- Authorize the OC Health Care Agency to release an RFP to solicit proposals for capital projects.
- Authorize the creation of an ad-hoc group for review and scoring of proposals that are received through this procurement.
- Run this in concurrence with a procurement that provides funding from HHAP and California Emergency Solutions Housing (CESH) that responds to service and resources needs for crisis response related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice Chair Tim Shaw motioned to approve the recommendation. Matt Bates seconded the recommendation. The motion passed.

8. Special listening section: The Orange County CoC Board and Office of Care Coordination request your input on what needs are being seen around homeless response in relation to COVID-19

This section is meant to provide opportunity to listen to emerging needs around COVID-19. If there is an emergent need that is surfaced during this portion of the meeting, the CoC Board may elect to take action specifically relating to the health and well-being of persons who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Karen William from 2-1-1 Orange County complimented the efforts to date in response to COVID-19 and shared insight on the new calls coming into 2-1-1 Orange County's Information and Referral.
- Julie Dodd Thomas commented on establishing a plan to support on the potential rise in homelessness as a result of COVID-19, specifically in South Orange County.
- Elizabeth Andrade from Family Assistance Ministries echoed Julie's comment and commented on creating initiatives for prevention efforts and commented an increased need for rental assistance in South County.

9. CoC Board Member Comments

- Tim Shaw commented on the efforts from staff in response to COVID-19.
- Matt Bates commented on prevention and diversion efforts and considering involving the smaller non-profits, churches and small groups.
- Dawn Price commented on using this response as a learning opportunity and in the future, review lessons learned.
- Chair George Searcy echoed the above comments and closed the meeting in honor of all the homeless services frontline staff.

Meeting adjourned: 11:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2020