

**ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Webinar:
<https://www.gotomeet.me/HCACareCoordination/cocboard>
Dial by Phone: +1 (571) 317-3112
Access Code: 994-868-397

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

Chair George Searcy called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Board Member Roll Call – Jeanne Awrey, Secretary

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

Absent Excused: Jason Austin and Curtis Gamble

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.

- Susan Price from the City of Costa Mesa commented on the State funding available to support the ongoing response to the Novel Coronavirus.
- Larry Haynes from Mercy House commented on partnerships with the County and cities to support efforts to quickly locate motels for people experiencing homelessness.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

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

Paul Duncan, Continuum of Care (CoC) Manager, thanked the CoC Board for the ongoing support during this difficult time. The Office of Care Coordination created an email address (OCHomelessnessResponse@ochca.com) to assist with answering questions and sharing information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cold Weather Shelters operating in Santa Ana and Fullerton Armories were closed on March 23, 2020. Two alternative locations were immediately identified for the ongoing operations of the Cold Weather Shelter Program and transitioned to a 24/7 facility. The change in program operations support the ongoing efforts to slow the virus by allowing participants to stay in the facility and practice Safer at Home.

Public Comments:

- Briana Stickney from the City of Fullerton thanked the County and Mercy House for how quickly the Fullerton Alternative Shelter Site was up and running after transitioning from the Fullerton Armory.

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

Maricela Rios-Faust motioned to amend Priority 7 bullet point 3 of the Continuum of Care Executive Recommendations, COVID-19 Homeless Resource Strategy's 7 priorities as presented by Chair George Searcy to include the following:

Establish a Coordination Team composed of the CoC Board Chair, Vice Chair and OC Health Care Agency 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 the south service planning area, the coastal cities and cities receiving direct allocations from State sources.

Jeannie Awrey seconded the amendment. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The balance of the Continuum of Care Executive Recommendations, COVID-19 Homeless Resource Strategy's 7 priorities as presented by George Searcy passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comments:

- Barry Ross from St. Joseph commented on allowing hospitals to act as an access points to refer into homeless services.
- Susan Price from the City of Costa Mesa commented on increasing the Service Planning Area consultants for Coordination Team as the current two cities may not be representative of an entire Service Planning Area.

The CoC Board voted and approved by unanimous consent the Shelter System COVID-19 Response Priorities as presented by Dawn Price. Dawn Price has agreed to support with the initiative.

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

In 2018, approximately \$2 million of ESG funding was underspent across the state. The State of California has received approval from HUD to extend the funding for another year. The Orange County CoC has requested to the State to receive funding to support the ongoing COVID-19 efforts. The amount to be received by the Orange County CoC is pending.

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

Authorize the OC Health Care Agency Staff to assess current HEAP expenditures and unencumber any HEAP funding that projects to be underspent. Authorize the OC 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.

Judson Brown motioned to approve the recommendation. Natalie Bui seconded the recommendation. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comments:

- Jerry Frimond from the City of Laguna Beach commented on using the funds for additional isolation shelters or needs as they arise.

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

Authorize the OC 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.

Judson Brown motioned to approve the amended motion. Donald Dermit seconds the motion. The amended motion passed by unanimous consent.

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

Authorize the OC Health Care Agency to utilize up to ten percent of HHAP's Request For Proposals 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 OC Health Care Agency staff agreed to discuss developing a strategy or process for the HHAP Request for Proposals.

Public Comment:

- Susan Price from the City of Costa Mesa commented on HHAP funding and the trailers being provided by the State.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:27 P.M.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2020