



Meeting Agenda
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
3:30pm-5pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 871 1841 0223
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118410223>

1. Call to Order
2. Board Comments
3. CoC Staff Comments
4. Public Comments: Public Comment is an opportunity for the public to participate in public meetings by addressing the Ventura County Continuum of Care Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. This meeting is subject to the Brown Act and public comments may be submitted by using one of the following options:

Email in advance of the meeting: If you wish to make public comment on an agenda item via email, please submit your comment via email by 4:30pm on the day prior to the Board meeting. Send emails to: venturacoc@ventura.org. Please indicate the agenda item you would like to speak on if relevant and whether you would like your message read by staff or you will be participating and would like to provide your comments during the live meeting.

During the meeting: Participants may use the chat function in zoom to indicate they would like to make a comment. Staff will call on participants during the public comment section of the meeting or during specific item following staff presentation of the item.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

5. Approval of Board Minutes from January 11, 2022.
6. Receive an update on the County Board of Supervisors' approval for consultant services from LeSar Development Consultants to update the Ventura County Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and generate actionable recommendations.
7. Review and approve the Ventura County Continuum of Care's intent to apply for the State's Encampment Resolution Funding Program in coordination with local jurisdictions.
8. Receive an update from the workgroup engaging people with lived expertise.
9. Receive and file VC CoC Committee, Workgroups and Staff updates.



**Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board**

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

3:30 pm - 5 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: **871 1841 0223**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118410223>

1. **Call to Order:** Dawn Dyer, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at **3:33pm**.

Board Members: Dawn Dyer, Ingrid Hardy, Mara Malch, Emilio Ramirez, Manuel Minjares, Nancy Wharfie, Juliana Gallardo, Stefany Gonzalez, Paul Drenenstedt

Absent: Kevin Clerici, Michael Nigh, Dr. Sevet Johnson

Staff: Luis Equihua, Felipe Flores, Alicia Morales McKinney, Jennifer Harkey, Christy Madden

2. **Board Comments:** Dawn Dyer, VC CoC Board Chair, invited meeting attendees to the Housing Trust Fund Ventura County for our 2023 Annual Meeting on Wednesday January 18th from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Registrations can be made at the following link:

<https://www.housingtrustfundvc.org/2023annualmeeting.html>

3. **CoC Staff Comments:** There were no comments

4. **Public Comments:** There were no comments

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

5. **Approval of Board Minutes from December 14, 2022.**

Emilio Ramirez moved approval; Manuel Minjares seconded. All in favor.

6. **Receive a presentation from the City of Oxnard on the HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) and provide input on strategies to address homelessness.**

Andrea Palmer, City of Oxnard, introduced their consultant, Mr. Daryl Stantz - Managing Partner of the Randy Group, who presented on the HOME – ARP use of funds for the City of Oxnard. Daryl explained that for the allotted \$2.7M in funding, the City of Oxnard would be seeking input and recommendations from the CoC on priorities as allowed by the HOME ARP eligible uses.

VC CoC Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

Page 2

Emilio Ramirez, CoC Board member, reaffirmed the request for feedback and Jenn Harkey suggested using some funds for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), extremely affordable housing and more importantly, Supportive Services. Juliana Gallardo, CoC Board member, shared that gap funding for developers would be helpful. She also recommended that (Supportive) Services, funding for operation costs and rental assistance. Stefany Gonzalez, CoC Board member, expressed that at-risk individuals/families also be connected with Supportive Services to ensure their success. Andrea then shared the link for public input: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oxn_serviceproviders. Juliana asked if there were more funds available in addition to the \$2.7M. Daryl explained that there may be as time went on. Dawn also provided some brief input confirming the needs in the community.

7. Receive an Update from the Workgroup Engaging People with Lived Expertise.

Elizabeth R. Stone was not available to present. However, Jenn presented a high-level overview on the Workgroup and commented that 6 Persons With Lived Experience (PLE) were actively participating within the community. This update will be rescheduled for the next CoC Board meeting.

8. Discuss and Approve the Priority Encampment(s) and Relocation Locations for the State's Encampment Resolution Funding Program Application.

Jenn presented a unique grant opportunity from the State of California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CalICH), which specifically addresses providing assistance to persons living in Encampments. CalICH released the corresponding Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on December 1, 2022, with applications for the first window due February 28, 2023. Applications will be on a rolling basis and it is anticipated that the VC CoC's application may be funded within the first window. RFP's to the cities were published and the cities of Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula and Oxnard submitted Letters of Intent. Jenn then opened this item for discussion, specifically, on suggested uses of funds as the approach is different to other programs. Emilio asked what is the maximum amount of funds that can be applied for and Jenn replied that up to an average of \$5M can be requested. For the current round overall, \$300M is available but there may be no limit. Paul Drevengstedt, CoC Board member, asked if we could apply for funding of all 3 projects and Jenn explained that we could however, funding would be dependent on priority use, what the State deems as a priority and the amount of remaining funds available at the time of review. Documentation and Letters of Support for the 3 candidate applicants are ready to go. Dawn shared that she further reviewed the NOFA and noted that \$150M is prioritized for persons living in State Right of Ways and asked if any of the applicants have identified this type of encampment. Jenn confirmed that Santa Paula and Thousand Oaks has already pre-identified areas. Juliana then asked for more detail on the available funds and asked if Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) would be available. Jenn replied that Thousand Oaks and Oxnard was already considering PSH and the transitioning of persons. For Santa Paula, the city is proposing a development to address the encampment and place people in it. Jenn further noted that eligible use of funds include acquisition, rehabilitation, conversions or the purchase of modular, interim shelter. ac. Paul asked if the 3 proposals fit the model being requested by the RFP.

VC CoC Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

Page 2

Jenn replied that they did however, it appeared Santa Paula might be slightly behind since they would be developing PSH, in comparison to Oxnard and Thousand Oaks that already has units in development. Ingrid Hardy, CoC Board member shared that in line with this RFP, the City of Thousand Oaks Council's priorities were housing as noted with the recently approved around Homekey. Emilio also shared that housing is a priority in the City of Oxnard as noted with the various housing projects coming online. He also asked if some of the encampments crossed jurisdictional boundaries to which Jenn confirmed for Santa Paula. Jenn also commented that the City of Ventura had expressed an interest in submitting a proposal however, their LOI came in late. She further shared that there is still good interest from Ventura and may be preparing a submittal within the second window of applications. Overlapping jurisdictions will also be looked at. Dawn asked if all 9 area encampments in each of the 3 jurisdictions could be applied for. Jenn explained that for each jurisdiction, only 1 application could be submitted. Partner support from within each jurisdiction is an important part of the application and will be looked at closely. Dawn expressed she would like to prioritize encampments that were close to right of ways. Emilio indicated that it was important to acknowledge that Thousand Oaks already had projects getting ready to go. He also asked if all three proposals be submitted at the same time and if this would affect award outcomes. Jenn replied there would be no issues submitting all 3 at the same time. Paul asked if the three submittals were connected and if their scoring would be as a whole (for the VC CoC) or if each would be independent of each other, resulting in the possible approval of one project and not another. Jenn confirmed these would be scored separately for each jurisdiction as different projects. Manuel Minjares asked if funds could be used for predevelopment costs and she replied that it may be possible, since there are items that can be paid for with the funding. Jenn asked the VC CoC Board for direction and priorities when preparing the application for submittal. A full update would be provided to the VC CoC Board in February. Dawn confirmed the eligible uses and Jenn indicated that these were similar to the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program. Dawn stressed the importance of meeting CalICH priorities and asked if a proposal from Ventura would be considered for the second window of application. Jenn confirmed. Paul then asked if a proposal can be resubmitted in the second window of application if it scores lower in the first. Jenn replied she was unsure and will find out with CalICH. Dawn then asked if there were priorities for each application to which Jenn replied all 3 can be submitted at the same time. Paul moved approval; Juliana seconded; All in favor.

Additional Items not on Agenda: No further comments**Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm**

February 8, 2023

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive an update on the County Board of Supervisors' approval for consultant services from LeSar Development Consultants to update the Ventura County Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and generate actionable recommendations.

BACKGROUND: In response to a request from the Board of Supervisors (Board) on October 4, 2022, County staff sought and received permission to release Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking consultant services to facilitate an assessment addressing the entrenched issue of homelessness. The assessment would include a review of the current homeless service delivery system; identification of gaps and possible areas of over-investment; and recommendations to enhance system performance and improve outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness. The Board also requested that the consultant services identify potential funds that should be pursued to help fund this work and advise whether local governments should consider future commitments to improve and sustain outcomes. Since homelessness is a regional concern, area cities were invited to join the County, and the cities of Thousand Oaks, San Buenaventura, and Oxnard responded seeking jurisdiction-specific recommendations for their communities as part of this work.

Four responses were received during the RFP process. The proposals were evaluated by County staff, Continuum of Care (CoC) staff and participating jurisdictions who unanimously recommended hiring LeSar Development Consultants (LDC) for requested services. LDC highlighted their extensive work with government partners and Continuums of Care (CoC), including developing homelessness plans, facilitating the creation of a Coordinated Entry System and Performance Management Plan, and preparing mid- and long-range affordable housing plans for local governments and housing authorities. LDC incorporates system-level, person-centered strategies to address homelessness within the communities that hire them and adhere to guiding principles including (1) engaging persons with lived experience, (2) promoting equity to ensure persons over-represented in the homeless service system can access services, and (3) promoting systems-level collaboration. With their work throughout Southern California, they are familiar with the adverse impact of the affordable housing crisis and entrenched issue of homelessness. Their general approach and strategy will address our request for both a quantitative gaps analysis and qualitative assessment of the homeless services system that will ultimately inform specific recommendations in the Plan.

LDC anticipates that the entirety of their work would be concluded in September 2023, assuming a contract term start date of mid-to-late January 2023, and provided that data inputs are delivered within 2 weeks of the start of the term and all interviews, survey results and work groups are concluded within the first six weeks of the start of the term. Data availability and scheduling with survey participants may impact this schedule, but all efforts will be made to work within their timeline.

DISCUSSION: LDC will complete a quantitative and qualitative analysis through a combination of data analysis, surveys, in-person interviews, virtual and in-person focus groups and ‘ride-alongs’ to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the perceptions and experiences of those accessing and/or using the service system. Their outreach will extend to community members, the business community, elected officials, service and housing providers, school districts and, most importantly, persons with lived experience (PLE). LDC will work with the National Health Foundation who recently received a CoC grant to gain an understanding directly from PLE about their experiences with, and suggested improvements to, the homeless services delivery system. Throughout the term of the Contract, LDC will provide the following deliverables:

1. Following an initial kickoff meeting, a summary confirming the approach, communication protocols, roles and responsibilities and next steps;
2. A summary of the quantitative findings for County, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, and Oxnard’s existing programs;
3. Qualitative findings informed by stakeholder input and community feedback for the same communities;
4. Initial draft of the Plan presented to relevant stakeholders as identified by participating jurisdictions;
5. Second draft incorporating comments received;
6. Final draft of the Plan including an analysis of gaps and needs, strategies to address homelessness and next steps for implementation (including specific recommendations for participating cities); and
7. Virtual presentation on findings that communicate how/why the strategies were developed to address the gaps and needs within the service delivery system.

February 8, 2023

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Review and Approve the Ventura County Continuum of Care's Intent to Apply for the State's Encampment Resolution Funding Program in Coordination with Local Jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION: The State of California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) (https://www.bcsn.ca.gov/calich/documents/erf_2r_nofa.pdf) on December 1, 2022 to solicit proposals that resolve unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments. The Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program was authorized in 2021 through Assembly Bill 140 with an allocation of \$50 million and Assembly Bill 178 allocated an additional \$300 million for round 2. The goal of this funding is to transition individuals from prioritized encampments into permanent housing. Applications will be received by the State through 6/30/2023 with the first application window open from 12/1/2022 to 2/28/2023.

At your meeting of January 11, the Board authorized staff to work with the cities of Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Santa Paula to gather more information about their proposed projects, as outlined below:

- 1) City of Thousand Oaks – approximately 45 individuals in 3 area encampments;
 - Service providers and law enforcement to offer relocation to the new navigation center.
 - Leverage funding from a cost sharing agreement with the City and County funding.
 - Prioritize chronically homeless individuals for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) placement at the City's new Shangri-La and Step Up on Second Homekey project.
- 2) City of Santa Paula – approximately 30 individuals in 2 area encampments;
 - Intent to purchase a parcel with a motel and vacant property behind the building with the State Homekey 3.0 funding to develop interim shelter units and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
 - Collaboration with Dignity Moves, Hope Mission, Housing Trust Fund Ventura County, Many Mansions, Santa Paula Housing Authority and Ventura County Community Foundation.
 - Prioritize people from the encampments for the interim shelter units with housing navigation and wrap around services for a transition into PSH or other permanent housing units.
- 3) City of Oxnard – approximately 80 individuals in 4 area encampments.
 - Expand street outreach services to engage people living in encampments.
 - Offer non-congregate shelter through motel vouchers while case management is provided.
 - Case managers to facilitate gathering chronic homelessness documentation for PSH.
 - Transition PSH eligible clients to new PSH units at various projects through Coordinated Entry.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve VC CoC Staff to apply for the State's Encampment Resolution Funding Program in coordination with the cities of Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula and Oxnard by February 28, 2023.



February 8, 2023

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive an update from the Workgroup Engaging People with Lived Expertise

BACKGROUND: The Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) authorized HUD CoC Planning Grant Funds to contract with the National Health Foundation to engage people with lived experience. The intent of this program is to “hold space” for those who are willing to share their lived expertise, by providing unconditional support and actively seeking input from different perspectives to make a positive impact on our homelessness system.

DISCUSSION: The National Health Foundation has partnered with peer support services, A Friend In Deed, which is managed and led by Elizabeth R. Stone. This program is called “Making Space for People with Live Expertise”. Elizabeth has been actively engaging with those who are unsheltered, by providing peer support and meeting regularly with the newly formed workgroup. An update will be shared with the VC CoC Board on the progress that has been made since November 2022.

February 8, 2023

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive and file VC CoC Committee, Workgroups and Staff updates

Housing & Services Committee: This committee reconvened on January 18, 2023 and included a diverse group of providers and stakeholders with various backgrounds and expertise, including healthcare providers, shelter providers, transitional housing providers, supportive services providers, outreach providers, persons with lived expertise, behavioral health, and city partners. The committee is working toward developing scope of work, goals, and strategies with intention to identify priorities. The Housing and Services subcommittee is built on a strategic agreement by the Ventura County Continuum of Care, homeless services, and housing providers to coordinate services for homeless individuals and households most in need in the most expedient fashion. To do this, all service providers will be engaged and guided by regional goals using data trends to determine gaps in our system of care. By embracing regionalism through shared learning and collaboration this will support systems coordination and integration to align local implementation plans, strengthen local homelessness care systems and better address homelessness across the region. Next Housing and Services Committee meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023, at 9:30am.

HMIS Steering Committee: Continuing to onboard programs onto HMIS, including Gold Coast Health Plan's CalAIM Care Management Team. VC CoC staff continue to review the onboarding requests to ensure priority is given to the appropriate programs. HMIS staff is developing new online training modules to allow newly licensed users the ability to complete training remotely.

Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee: The Data Committee will be reviewing and analyzing the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 4 applications in February 2023. Funding recommendations will be brought to the CoC Board in March 2023. CoC staff will be providing quarterly updates with system performance measures for the Data Committee to review.

Public Information and Outreach Committee: Expanding outreach through VC CoC social media to educate the public and raise awareness on homelessness issues. This committee will be incorporating people with lived experience this year. This Committee will be meeting on a quarterly basis to provide additional time to work on developing community outreach projects. Creative projects suggested include:

- Special Roundtable Session with Persons with Lived Expertise (PLE)
- Topic Film Screening and discussion
- YouTube Channel, Facebook and Instagram social media apps for dissemination of news
- Next PIO meeting on April 26, 2023 at 1:30 pm

Veterans Case Conference Workgroup: This workgroup is focused on ending Veteran homelessness in Ventura County by ensuring referrals are being made to the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and other local housing providers.

Youth Collaborative Workgroup: Over 20 youth providers participate in this workgroup. These providers ensured that unaccompanied homeless youth were counted in the 2023 Homeless Count surveys on Tuesday, January 24th.

Staff: VC CoC staff are currently in the process of hiring a new Program Assistant to support the team. Interviews are currently taking place through the County Executive Office and we hope to welcome a new staff member by mid-March 2023.