

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION Housing Authority Board

Report Period January 2022-December 2022

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
ANNUAL REPORT/ WORK PLAN FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Commissioners appreciates the dedication of all the volunteers on their boards and commissions and welcomes input from various boards and commissions throughout the year. Please complete the following information, limited to the front and back of this form. Other background materials may be provided as a supplement to, but not as a substitute for, this form.

Board/Commission Name: **Orange County Housing Authority Board**

Person to address the BOCC and contact information: **Alice Mahood, Chair**

Primary County Staff Contact: **Blake Rosser, HCV Manager**

How many times per month does this board/commission meet, including any special meetings and sub-committee meetings?

Once

Brief Statement of Board/Commission's Assigned Charge and Responsibilities.

The OCHA Board is a federally-mandated advisory board that governs the compliance, fiscal viability and strategic planning of the county's Housing Authority. They possess ultimate decision-making power over all Housing Authority programs (chiefly the Housing Choice Voucher program).

What are your Board/Commission's most important accomplishments?

- Increase voucher utilization from 566 to 575, issued primarily to those experiencing homelessness**
- Spend down reserves**
- Obtained 5 new special program vouchers (Foster Youth to Independence), issued 5 of them, leased 2**

- Reopened application process for Homeownership Voucher program (after 5 years)**
- Issued 16 of 19 Emergency Housing Vouchers, leased up 10 of them.**
- Gained 10 vouchers in new HUD allocation**
- Applied for new program (Stability Vouchers)**

List of Specific Tasks, Events, or Functions Performed or Sponsored Annually.

Functions: monthly meetings monitoring, reviewing and amending processes of the HCV program

Due to pandemic, and board member attrition/turnover, we have not been well-positioned to perform or sponsor specific tasks or events

Describe this board/commission's activities/accomplishments in carrying out BOCC goal(s)/priorities, if applicable.

Board of County Commissioners Goals & Priorities

- Ensure a community network of basic human services and infrastructure that maintains, protects, and promotes the well-being of all county residents
- Implement planning and economic development policies which create a balanced, dynamic local economy, and which promote diversity, sustainable growth, and enhanced revenue while embracing community values
- Promote an interactive and engaging system of governance that reflects community values
- Invest in quality County facilities, a diverse work force, and technology to achieve a high performing County government
- Create, preserve, and protect a natural environment that includes clean water, clean air, wildlife, important natural lands, and sustainable energy for present and future generations
- Ensure a high quality of life and lifelong learning that champions diversity, education at all levels, libraries, parks, recreation, and animal welfare

- Continuing to work to fill board vacancies**
- Worked to fulfill goal toward affordable housing and reducing homelessness in county (Increased voucher utilization from 566 to 575, issued primarily to those experiencing homelessness)**
- Worked to incorporate trauma-informed care in every aspect of Housing Authority, addressing the 1st, 3rd and last goals/priorities**

Describe the collaboration relationship(s) this particular board has with other advisory boards and commissions?

**Affordable Housing Advisory Board
Orange Co. Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Team**

-Staff connects between boards to share updates and inform of feedback.
-HCV program collaborates with OCPEH with its Move On initiative, which issues vouchers to clients utilizing various Permanent Supportive Housing options. This helps them transition from PSH to subsidized housing without case management supports

Identify any activities this board/commission expects to carry out in 2023 as they relate to established BOCC goals and priorities. If applicable, is there a fiscal impact (i.e., funding, staff time, other resources) associated with these proposed activities (please list).

Board of County Commissioners Goals & Priorities

- Ensure a community network of basic human services and infrastructure that maintains, protects, and promotes the well-being of all county residents
- Implement planning and economic development policies which create a balanced, dynamic local economy, and which promote diversity, sustainable growth, and enhanced revenue while embracing community values
- Promote an interactive and engaging system of governance that reflects community values
- Invest in quality County facilities, a diverse work force, and technology to achieve a high performing County government
- Create, preserve, and protect a natural environment that includes clean water, clean air, wildlife, important natural lands, and sustainable energy for present and future generations
- Ensure a high quality of life and lifelong learning that champions diversity, education at all levels, libraries, parks, recreation, and animal welfare

-Complete Administrative Plan review (interactive/engaging system of governance reflecting comm. Values)
-Joint session with Affordable Housing Advisory Board, in order to address Project Based Vouchers (PBV), hear of upcoming affordable housing opportunities, and brainstorm ideas on expanding inventory (Goals 1 & 3)
-In-person event with program participants (Goal 1 & 3)
-Fill board vacancies with at least two program participants (Goals 1, 3, 5)
-Changing software system to improve interface between program and community stakeholders (Goals 3 & 4)

There is a fiscal impact for the Admin Plan review (several hours of staff time) and for the change of software system (~\$10k for new system). The change in software system will significantly reduce costs for this service.

What are the concerns or emerging issues your board has identified for the upcoming year that it plans to address, or wishes to bring to the Commissioners' attention?

The lack of affordable housing inventory for voucher holders continues to be the major obstacle to achieving our mission of providing stable, dignified housing. Our board is interested in exploring all possible options for increasing inventory, including development of Greene Tract properties and intercounty collaboration for affordable housing projects.

Our board has also struggled to recruit new board members, especially those with lived experience (including program participants).