

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION

Report Period January 2023-December 2023

**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 (Board Chair), alimahood@gmail.com

Primary County Staff Contact:

Blake Rosser (Interim Director, Housing Dept)

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

1x/Month

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?

(LAST YEAR's):

-Increase voucher utilization from 575 to 630, issued primarily to those

experiencing homelessness

- Client event “Meet and Greet” in August, 1st client event since COVID**
- Approved & Published updated Administrative Plan**
 - Removed many causes for termination**
- Initiating opening of waitlist for first time since at least 2017**
- Obtaining more housing possibilities for voucher holders (with new landlords)**
- Issued all 19 Emergency Housing Vouchers, leased up 17 of them.**
- Applying for Moving to Work**
- Got to full board recruitment for the first time in at least 3 years, with the most program participants ever on the board (2)**
- 4 new participants approved for Homeownership Program**

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

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

- Meet and Greet with clients in August**

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 575 to 630, 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

**-Spent down last reserves of emergency funding disbursed during COVID.
-Implemented new software services with PHA-Web, providing greater ease of interface, including applicant/participant/landlord portals which will increase accessibility for all clients and stakeholders.**

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 2024 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

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**-Implementing client and partner portals in software system (#3), new software system is 1/3 the price of old software system
-Goal is to reopen waitlist by Spring of 2024, and conduct lottery pull shortly after (Goals 1 and 6)
-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 events with program participants (Goal 1 & 3)
-Applying for Moving to Work Program which will allow greater fiscal flexibility with federal funds (no local funding impact)

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.