



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
November 7, 2023

TOPIC: Memorandum of Understanding with CalOptima Health

AGENDA TITLE

Authorize staff to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with CalOptima Health, Orange County Housing Authority, Anaheim Housing Authority, and Garden Grove Housing Authority, to facilitate access to supportive services for voucher holders assisted by the Housing Authority

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the Executive Director of the Housing Authority to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with CalOptima Health to facilitate access to supportive services for voucher holders assisted by the Housing Authority

GOVERNMENT CODE §84308 APPLIES: Yes

DISCUSSION

The Santa Ana Housing Authority ("SAHA") is one of four housing authorities operating within Orange County that administers the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD's") Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher ("HCV") Program. The HCV program assists very low-income, elderly, and disabled families so that they can afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Throughout Orange County, the Anaheim Housing Authority, Garden Grove Housing Authority, and SAHA administer the program within their respective city jurisdictions, while the Orange County Housing Authority administers the program in all other Orange County cities and unincorporated areas. Despite each housing authority administering its own HCV Program independently, they have long established a collaborative, working partnership and regularly engage in collaborative efforts to enhance service delivery for voucher holders throughout Orange County.

Over the last five years, these housing authorities have been awarded new funding to manage additional rental assistance programs commonly referred to as Special Purpose Vouchers ("SPVs") such as the Emergency Housing Voucher program, Stability Voucher program, Mainstream Voucher program, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, Non-Elderly Disabled program, Family Unification program, and Foster Youth to Independence program. While the new funding is a significant benefit for our communities, it has given rise to an increasing need for supportive services. The rising

need for supportive services can be attributed to the diverse needs of families and individuals that face different health challenges and barriers to leasing up with their voucher. Supportive services, traditionally not the primary focus of housing authorities, have become essential to ensuring the success and well-being of our voucher holders (“program participants”).

In line with the commitment to offer comprehensive services to all program participants, discussions among the four housing authorities have led to the creation of a joint Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Orange County Health Authority, a public agency doing business as CalOptima Health (“CalOptima”), to provide referrals for supportive services through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (“CalAIM”) program. CalOptima is Orange County’s single largest health insurer and provides health care coverage for Orange County low-income residents who are eligible for Medi-Cal. CalOptima participates in the CalAIM program, which offers services directed at supporting some of the most vulnerable populations in Orange County, including people experiencing homelessness, older adults, children with complex care needs, and people involved with the justice system.

Under the MOU, each Housing Authority will request the voluntary written interest and consent of program participants. With consent from a program participant, CalOptima will assess program participants for eligibility and refer eligible participants to CalAIM providers for Community Support and Enhanced Care Management (“ECM”) services. In addition to ECM services, the Community Support services include but are not limited to:

1. Housing transition navigation services;
2. Housing deposits;
3. Housing tenancy and sustaining services;
4. Short-term post-hospitalization housing;
5. Recuperative care;
6. Respite services;
7. Day habilitation services;
8. Asthma remediation;
9. Medically tailored meals/medically-supportive food;
10. Community transition services/nursing facility transition to a home;
11. Personal care and homemaker services;
12. Environmental accessibility adaptations (home modifications); and
13. Nursing facility transition/diversion to assisted living facilities, such as Residential Care facilities for elderly and adult residential facilities.

This joint MOU is designed to establish a referral framework and facilitate access to CalAIM’s program resources for SAHA’s HCV and SPV program participants. It may also be expanded to HCV program applicants in the future. The objective is to provide program participants with county-wide access to valuable resources and streamline

referrals to supportive health services. This joint MOU would allow SAHA to leverage CalOptima's existing resources and expertise in healthcare and social services. As a result, SAHA can seamlessly refer program participants to supportive services at no cost to the agency. By participating in this joint MOU, SAHA can best serve the public by facilitating referrals to essential health services, improving the overall health of our community, and contributing to the efficient use of resources.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. MOU with CalOptima Health

Submitted By: Michael L. Garcia, Executive Director of Community Development

Approved By: Steven A. Mendoza, Acting City Manager