



*Working for a Better World*  
*a grassroots advocacy organization founded in 1984*

## November 2020

**Join us for a live online panel discussion**

### **The Intersection of Homelessness, Mental Health, and Law Enforcement**

**Monday, November 16, 2020**

**1:50 Join**

**2:00 - 3:00 pm - Zoom Panel Discussion**

**3:00 - 3:30 pm Brief Question & Answer**

Orange County can end homelessness. We have the land and the money; all we need is the political will to do it. Low income seniors and people with disabilities are among the fastest growing and most vulnerable populations today. Those that wind up on our streets are often criminalized and fall into a gap in our justice system.

Providing housing for seniors, veterans, those living with a mental illness, families in need and anyone who is experiencing housing insecurity will transform lives and strengthen communities.

Every human being has the right to live with dignity and independence.

We are pleased to present a panel of experts and advocates to discuss the current state, and intersection, of homelessness, mental health, and law enforcement in Orange County.

#### **Panelists include:**

**Brooke Weitzman**, Co-Founder and Directing Attorney of the ELDR Center. The Elder Law and Disability Rights Center (ELDR Center) is working to close the justice gap by providing free and low-cost legal services and successfully litigating in Federal Court to protect the civil rights of people experiencing homelessness in Orange County.

**Pat Davis**, Founding Member and Facilitator of Housing Is a Human Right, Orange County (HHROC). HHROC is a coalition of organizations and volunteers working together to achieve supportive, affordable, and permanent housing for individuals in Orange County. With the People's Homeless Task Force OC, Pat participated in the Riverbed Eviction litigation to address the rights of the unhoused who are disabled.

**Kimberly Adams**, Manager of the Housing Advocacy Program for OC United Way's United to End Homelessness. The Program has a network of volunteers and organizations who have gained approval for housing developments in cities across Orange County. Kimberly recruits, trains, and mobilizes volunteers to advocate at the local level for permanent, supportive, and affordable housing for the unhoused and those living in unstable housing conditions.

**Maura Mikulec**, Co-Founder and leader of South County Homeless Task Force. Maura has a Masters in Social Work and a combined 12 years working in the medical, mental health and protective services fields providing counseling and case management for diverse populations. She is currently a volunteer street outreach worker and advocate for people experiencing homelessness.

## Join Zoom Panel Discussion

<https://zoom.us/j/99280643643?pwd=L01KUVc5ZnVCQ1hBekcrdlJY3Zndz09>

Meeting ID: 992 8064 3643

Passcode: 894373

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### Women For: Orange County membership

Due to Covid-19, we are extending all current memberships to December 31, 2021.

If you are not a current member and would like to join, go to <http://www.womenfororangecounty.org/membership>, then print membership application, fill it in, and mail it with your check to:

W4OC  
P.O. Box 5402  
Irvine, CA 92626-4502

Our annual membership dues have remained at \$40.00 and \$20.00 for students/low income individuals. As always, any donations will be gratefully accepted and much appreciated.

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### What's coming for Women For: Orange County?

W4OC will continue to meet online until further notice.

December 2020 - No meeting scheduled. Please enjoy a safe holiday season, smile, maintain social distance, wash your hands, and keep wearing your masks.

We are planning some exciting, relevant meetings for next year. We appreciate your continued support and participation. *As soon as we confirm our speakers and events for 2021, we will update you through our website and these newsletters.*

Stay tuned!

January 2021 - Looking Forward: Pressing Issues for the New Year

Please note → As of now, the Women's March 2021, will be an online event.

February 2021 - Meeting will honor and pertain to Black History Month

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### What have we accomplished this year?

Although it seems like a lifetime ago, **Women For: Orange County** supported the Women's March on January 18<sup>th</sup>. At our February meeting, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Suffrage with the League of Women Voters' presentation of "The Suffrage Movement Across Time."

In an abundance of caution and uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, we cancelled the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Great American Write-In. And then, like everyone else, we transitioned to an "online" presence. Our first newsletter was published in June - another consequence of Covid-19.

We have had several changes in our Board sadly saying good-bye to Judy Curry as president but welcoming Sharon O'Hara as Parliamentarian and Carol Tuch as President. We co-sponsored our first online event with Americans United, Orange County in June when Katherine Steward addressed us. [Women For: Orange County](#) supported the People's Budget, Orange County in "re-imagining a budget for and by the people."

As with so many events, our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffrage Day Luncheon was canceled due to the pandemic, in August. However, Suffrage Day was replaced by our first-ever online afternoon movie viewing of "62 Days" followed by a great discussion led by Sandy Sudweeks.

We were able to have our traditional September meeting when Steph Campbell once again artfully presented "The League of Women Voters: Pros and Cons of California Propositions." We had 100 participants! Due to incredible interest, we started publishing the recordings of these meetings. Because of restrictions beyond our control, these publications are only available online for a month. We will continue to record our meetings when possible and post the information on our website.

Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters for Orange County, gave a fabulous presentation on "How to safely navigate voting in "The OC"" in October. It was quite clear after listening to Mr. Kelley that we are lucky to live and vote in Orange County.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we also canceled our Rise Against Hunger food packing event in November. However, we look forward to the November 16<sup>th</sup> panel discussion of **The Intersection of Homelessness, Mental Health, and Law Enforcement on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.**

We look forward to safely coming together again soon,  
and we wish every one of you a safe and joyful holiday season.

The W4OC Board

[womenforoc@aol.com](mailto:womenforoc@aol.com) <http://www.womenfororangecounty.org>

**Please 'like' our WF:OC Facebook page:**

[www.facebook.com/Women-For-Orange-County-180712315298354/](http://www.facebook.com/Women-For-Orange-County-180712315298354/)