

**Notes/Minutes of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force;
Wednesday, April 27th, 2016, Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Pam Marshall, Al Myers, Dave Schulze; Glenna Bailey, John Sanders Jones

- Welcome and opening in prayer

- Brief updates:
 - a. River Haven refrigerator – Lynn Geller not present – discuss next meeting
 - b. Family Promise update – on 4/29 there will be a Board Meeting for Family Promise, working on obtaining a Post Office Box, forming a subcommittee to search for Host Churches; next meeting at Temple Beth Torah on 5/5/16

- Homeless Workshop – Ventura City Council Meeting April 18th, 2016:
 - a. Thoughts: Large turn-out, faith community especially. Most of the “exercises” were beyond most peoples’ understanding of homeless issues. Mayor Nasarenko to be commended for taking initiative at workshop; as a result, the City has agreed to have staff come back with recommendations regarding re-zoning and possible waiving of Conditional Use Permit fees – next Council Meeting June 13th.
 - b. Follow-up/Action Plan: Discussion of ideas for Crisis/Bridge Housing Center in Ventura:
 - Depending on property, may be multi-story
 - Facility sectioned for Families and Singles (30 each; total of 60)
 - Include a community/common area, main kitchen and garden
 - Laundry facilities, mini-kitchens, bathrooms
 - Locations set aside for animal companions
 - Respite Care beds
 - Storage so that belongings stay with people
 - Job training
 - Day Activities as needed; focus on obtaining permanent housing
 - All necessary services, including case management, available on-site or nearby
 - Transportation
 - Housing experts
 - Identify funding before agencies will be interested in Crisis/Bridge Project
 - c. Next steps: Faith Subcommittee to build arguments for why all things should be in plan, to VSSTF for presentation to City: (to Sue within 2 weeks)
 - Biblical/Scriptural arguments - Judy and Dave
 - Housing First/Low Barriers to Housing – Pam
 - Animal Companions – Glenna

- Day Activities/Services – Dave

- Coming to VSSTF: Paul White of Stronghold Institute will present – pushes sobriety first.

- Future Agenda Item: Housing issues, specifically Section 8 and Public Housing: How did we get where we are with housing issues? Housing must be addressed!
 - No redevelopment agencies
 - Recession 2008
 - Federal funding has gone down
 - Supply and demand – wages down, cost of housing up, low vacancy rate

Closed in prayer.

Next Meeting: May 25th, 2016 at 3 pm

Submitted by Pam Marshall