

**Minutes of the Faith Subcommittee Meeting
of March 26, 2014
Submitted by Kathy Powell**

In attendance: Judy Alexandre, Kent Brinkmeyer, Sue Brinkmeyer, Jim Duran, Lynn Geller, John Sanders Jones, Jerome Kahler, Jennifer Mokos, Kathy Powell, David Pyle, Dave Schulze, Chuck Terra

Speaker request: The group clarified a past request for a speaker on mental health issues, saying they wanted more information about the intersection of homelessness, elder care, and mental health. Jim proposed combining the speaker with an event from Project Understanding or Faith in Action. They will request someone from Turning Point.

Gas Company: Ted Humphrey will address the VSSTF at its April 2 meeting on programs available from Southern California Gas to help those with low incomes.

City Center: Jim reported that the on site manager is in. The Board has developed a new way to sponsor, not specific to the room; a wall will be placed with donors names at various levels of support. Project will continue to support case management pro bono through the end of May and will most likely stay involved at least through the end of the year. Staff will be employees of Project to ease burden on The City Center for payroll-related bookkeeping. There are 13 families in. Ten rooms still need refurbishing and 6 rooms are open now.

Project Understanding: Project is moving its intake and referral office. They are looking to lease a property behind Target. The Pantry is at First Christian Church. H2H will operate out of Turning Point until a H2H building is found.

Food Share: The Mobile Food Pantry will have kitchen built by end of July. The kitchen will serve hot meals; they hope it will be used to teach cooking classes as well. The Mobile Kitchen and Pantry will be up and running in Port Hueneme at first; they hope to involve health, wellness, education, food pantry and perhaps be a One Stop type of service for the whole county eventually.

Harbor Church: The hearing before the Council is scheduled for April 21st (it has since been postponed until May12.)

Senior Concerns: The group has met for a year, looking at three issues most likely to be problematic and potentially lead to homelessness among seniors and dependent adults: bill payment, food acquisition, and transportation. The draft of a bill payment program with case management is complete, subject to finding a lead agency to take it on. The group will begin work on a program to help those who can't drive get food delivered, filling in where gaps in current services exist. Next meeting is Monday, May

12th at 10am VCAAA; Food Share and alal groups involved in food services for seniors and dependent adults are invited.

Lift Up Your Voice: Sleep In benefitting UUCV's program to help people qualify for the Safe Sleep program by paying fees associated with program requirements: driver's license, car registration, and insurance. Jerry Kahler recently spoke with an officer in the Ventura PD who did not know how to refer someone to the Safe Sleep program. The group concluded that Safe Sleep needs cards describing program and giving contact information for use by law enforcement. Rev David will look into that. The response to the mailing that went out to 60 faith communities regarding the opportunity to host the Photo Project has been very positive, with groups tying their requested dates to their church calendar, e.g., having it during a period focused on compassion or the Good Samaritan. Jerry Kahler and another local minister have agreed to be "ambassadors" of a sort and speak with the Mission Church inviting them to engage with us in ways they feel called to.

Centralized Intake Form: A meeting was held March 18 at the River Community Church to review with those at churches who often are asked to provide assistance for those in need a simple form {4 questions} gauging people's needs and where to refer them for services in Ventura, helping to make them 1st responders. They will have one number to call to schedule a same-day appointment with an H2H intake person, who will do a more in-depth interview and make a referral to one appropriate agency. This program should be fully rolled out by fall.

Database/Google Doc of services provided by each faith community: The brochure we currently have listing the services provided by each faith community is already well out of date. Rev Jim and Kathy will work on this and Jennifer will advise on how to do this on Google document so churches may edit on their own as their services change and it can be available for easy access on the website. An updated form could be mailed out perhaps twice a year.

Sharing information: Blurbs of things our organizations are working on, need help with, or want to have publicized in the faith community will now be sent to Rev Jim to be included in the Faith In Action newsletter. Sue will share this update with the full VSSTF.

Networking: March 29, Sleep in at UUCV, May 3, NAMI walk; May 8, Project Understanding's Hope Worth Giving breakfast

Next meeting: April 23 - On the agenda - discussion of health care speaker and event focusing on ways cooperation allows faith communities to do more, while still allowing each to carve out its own niche