

**Minutes for the Faith Subcommittee
Ventura Social Services Task Force
April 24, 2013
Prepared by Sue Brinkmeyer**

Attendance: Neal Andrews, Kent Brinkmeyer, Susan Brinkmeyer, Janine Dykstra, Lynn Geller, Diana Goulet, Donna Mason-Lutrull, Kathy Powell, David Pyle, Debora Schreiber, Sid Ward

1. Opening Words
2. Introductions
3. Coordination of services: food pantries
 - a. Steps are being taken to make food pantries and services within faith communities a more integrated part of the social safety net:
 - i. Some food pantries, like Project Understanding, are using the HMIS in a very limited way. Each individual who comes in for services is interviewed and entered in the system, and a determination is made if that individual should receive just USDA, or limited food pantry services, or full food-pantry services. The individual is also connected with any other services that are needed. Individuals who come in to use the food pantry are interviewed on a regular basis, and their records/needs/referrals/services are updated. The food pantry at Project is often an individual's first contact with the social safety net, so it's important to make that contact as productive as possible.
 - ii. Several churches have begun giving out cards that indicate that that particular faith community is referring an individual to Project Understanding for assistance. The church's information is printed on one side of the card and Project's information is on the other. This referral process allows the individual to receive the broadest help possible and allows the help received and the individual's ongoing situation/needs to be tracked. Rev. David will meet with Janine to see if UUCV might adopt this practice as well.
4. Outreach and two-way information sharing; broadening our reach
 - a. The first issue of church bulletin inserts will be sent in May. It was agreed that we might highlight a few different items or organizations each month. Among the items mentioned were FoodShare; Homeshare, One Stop; 211; Operation Embrace's need for donations of casual clothing, backpacks and sleeping bags; Family to Family. Information will be included to share with

faith communities how they can reduce homelessness in Ventura by supporting the organizations that provide a hand up. Faith communities will be invited to include one or all of the items in their newsletter or bulletin, post one or all on a bulletin board, and/or share the items with their social action leaders.

- b. Inviting all to attend a meeting at which we had a speaker who would draw great interest within the faith community was discussed. Suggestions included the individual who spoke at a Project Understanding event perhaps two years ago on spirituality and homelessness and sold books (Rob Orth should be able to provide the name and contact); the CEO of Patagonia

5. Announcements:

- a. The community meeting to discuss Harbor Church will be April 30 at 5:30 at City Hall Community Room, 501 Poli

Next meeting: 4th Wednesday of every month -- **May 22 at 3 p.m.** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston, Ventura