

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting January 6, 2010

Attending - total of 28 (Neal Andrews, Kore Basu, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Harold Carlidge, Sherry Cash, Jan Christian, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Jill Forman, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Mike Merewether, Steven Myer, Kate Mills, Clyde Reynolds, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Daniel Zapata)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones at 3:04

Self-introductions performed.

I. Steering Committee elections

A. The following was proposed for adoption:

Responsibilities and Expectations for VSSTF Steering Committee (SC) Members

- Attendance (present and on time)
If a SC Member is absent from any 3 out of 5 consecutive SC meetings, they may be replaced upon recommendation of the SC Members and vote of the full VSSTF.
- Support of positions, policies, and programs of VSSTF
SC Members are expected to actively support the mission of the VSSTF and should not publicly express a position against policies which have been voted on or clearly embraced by the VSSTF.
- Active member of 1-2 subcommittees
- On direction of VSSTF or SC, attend meetings or events, represent VSSTF, and perform assignments. SC Members can be asked at any time to prepare a report on their activities. It is expected that SC Members will actively pursue activities which support the mission of the VSSTF.

Moved by Bill Finley and seconded by Debora Schreiber. **Adopted.** Voting no: Ken Finning, Sherry Cash, Daniel Zapata.

- B. The steering committee recommends going back to a **3 member committee**. It is difficult to coordinate time to meet for 4 people, an odd number is preferable in case of tie vote, and 3 is the number set out in the Membership Policy, adding a member was done as a trial for 2 years. **Motion** made by Mike Merrewether seconded by Neal Andrews, **passed.** Abstain, Daniel Zapata. A suggestion was made that the steering committee schedule one firm meeting a month and publicize the time and place on the web page. Suggestion accepted.

- C. Chair of the meeting was handed to Neal to conduct the elections. Nomination was made by Peter Brown, to elect **John Jones chair**: Jan Christian nominated **Bill Finley as vice chair**. Both were elected by acclamation, with Danny Zapata abstaining. Mike Merrewether nominated **Debora Schreiber for secretary**. elected by acclamation, Sherry Cash and Danny abstaining.

II. **Report on City Activity by Peter Brown**

- A. Homeless Count on Tuesday January 26. Please sign up to help. Shifts are in AM or PM. **To volunteer go to VolunteerVenturaCounty.org . the exact link is:**
http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/user/events/one.tcl?event_id=10348588274
- B. City Council Homeless Committee not yet appointed (update: Mayor Fulton is recommending Neal Andrews, Christy Weir, and Mike Tracy). The appointments will be made at Council meeting on 1/11. A meeting will take place of this committee in January. The agenda will include a) Safe Sleep b) request by VSSTF to allow city money given to VSSTF to go to help individuals with basic needs(currently not allowed) c) River Haven update and d) Neal agreed to place on the agenda the VSSTF request regarding moving forward with plans for a permanent shelter.
- C. Winter Warming at Armory running slightly below previous years, probably due to lack of designated transportation. Karol Schulkin notes that the clients seem to be more vulnerable physically than in previous years. No problems have been reported to police nor complaints from the Mall or elsewhere.
- D. Kingdom Center was approved and persons will move in very soon. Operation Embrace, the Day Program, must go back to Planning and Council for CUP. They are not planning to open for several months.
- E. The mini-park behind the Farmer's Market lot is privately owned and plans are underway to gate it off for catering party events. This will be before DRC on 1/13.
- F. Issue brought up about the resolution which VSSTF brought to Council last fall regarding Permanent Shelter and Housing Element. Site location and funding part did go forward to Economic Development. Neal will bring issue forward at January Council Homeless Committee meeting. Gateway Committee has done some work on site search.

III. **El Patio report Jill Martinez**

Peoples' Self Help Housing now owns El Patio. There are 20 vacancies. The on site manager is Michel. They are cleaning up illegal activities and moving forward. Renovations taking place.

IV. **Subcommittee reports (meeting times / locations at end)**

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

Long discussion at meeting about accountability and moving the process forward ...who is leading the process? Need increased clarification of the role of the Task Force and increased leadership to make projects move.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

1. No meeting was held in Dec. In Nov., Catholic Charities assisted 2 households, in Dec. 3 households. They will have the fund in Jan. In Feb, Project will. In March, Salvation Army. In December, \$5262 was received. Fund stands at around \$7000. EFSP funds applied for. Hope that VHPF money can help to fill in gaps for Federal Funds (HPRP) which exclude some people. Estimated roughly that 2/3 of HPRP money will go for eviction prevention and 1/3 to put people in housing.

C. Housing Options by Loretta McCarty

1. Home Share Program up and running 477-7324 or homeshare@gmail.com. Several presentations have been made to spread the word and flyers are available. Muriel is working as a volunteer and Ken Finning is coming to One Stop to help get people into Home Share.
2. Housing Authority is moving forward with 2 housing projects. One on Oak and Thompson next to Salvation Army. The lot is fully entitled. It will have 37 units for very low income. The second site is the old Bandar site on Main which will be special needs population using HUD 811 funds which includes case management.
3. New meeting place and time, second Wednesdays at Housing Authority on 11122 Snapdragon Lane, 4:30-6PM,

D. Gateway Report by Clyde Reynolds

There was no Dec. committee meeting. Service Providers met to discuss ways to co-locate services. Further discussions will be held and outreach to the private sector will be made.

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. No Dec meeting.
2. Need a new chair for committee.
3. Interest in an Out-Reach meeting...Neal Andrews and Cathy Brudnicki support. Bill feels need more clarity as to what will happen at the meeting. Others point out that people want to know what actions they can take.
4. Time change to 3:30.

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

1. Beginning to make plans for a 3 hour retreat with facilitator to hash out direction and accountability within Task Force
2. The committee to evaluate funding proposals to the City will meet soon.
3. Several people going to NAEH in LA: John, Debora, Sherry, Bill, Danny, Cathy, so far. Bill can drive a van to commute.

4. Possibility of turning public testimony supporting Kingdom Center into a brief 10 minute video. Anyone interested and have ability to work with CAPS on it?

5. In April there is a Housing Conference in Sacramento. Cathy suggests presenting the VHPF and maybe HomeShare. The presenter can attend free of charge.

V. Old Business

1. Report on One Stop by Kate Mills. By end of the calendar year 2009, more than 3000 persons and 1200 unduplicated persons served. Over 490 are younger than 35. 5300 lunches have been distributed , 1500 persons (half) seen in clinic. Attempting to connect HomeShare with General Relief (GR) allocation to help people get housing and money in a package.

2. Homeless Count on Jan 26. Not required at this time but garners the county increased points with HUD for funding. Please sign up to help.

VI. Announcements

1. Cathy says CSUCI students are doing data search for information. What info might be useful? Bill suggest finding out how many people are sleeping in their cars. Also possibly of value, number of ER visits by homeless persons.

2. Lift UpYour Voice is doing training with homeless or previously homeless persons to become advocates and spokespersons. Contact Beth at LUV.Beth@gmail.com or 861-8341.

3. The LUV exhibition of photographs has been well received. Mary Stewart took the pictures from Foster library to a large library meeting in Camarillo. Contact Beth if you know of venues where photos could be displayed.

4. Project Understanding executive director position (to replace Rick Pearson) is posted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39.

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting February 3, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

Homeless Count January 26. Sign up on line: VolunteerVenturaCounty.org
NAEH Conference in LA Feb 11-12

Regular Meeting Schedules

The **Faith Community** Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00

PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003,
Feb 2

The **Ventura Social Services Task Force** meets every 1st Wednesday,
3:00-5:00 PM, at Family to Family, 303 N Ventura Ave # E, Ventura
93001. 3-5 PM, Feb 3

The **Community Education** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Tuesday,
3:30-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura
93003, Jan 12

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday,
4:00-5:00 PM, at Supervisor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4th
Floor, Ventura 93003, **Jan 27**

The **Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30
PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy.

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM,
Jan 15

<http://www.onecityventura.org>