

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting February 3, 2010

Attending - total of 22 (Neal Andrews, Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cantle, Harold Cartlidge, David Deutsch, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Todd L. Goehner, John Jones, Donna Mason, Loretta McCarty, Mike Merewether, Kate Mills, Rose Ann Morrissey, Ken Porter, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Beth Sutherland, Mark Trindad)

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

Self-introductions performed.

- I. **Report on City Activity by Peter Brown**
 - A. City Council Homeless Committee made up of Neal Andrews, Christy Weir, and Brian Brennan will meet January 11. The agenda will include a) Safe Sleep and the criteria for choosing sites 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.
 - B. Ken Belden's position will not be funded by the City past July and maybe not that long. City must make 4 million dollars more in cuts. Contract stipulates full time managers cannot be laid off until part time managers go first, which is Ken's position. He also is funded partially by County, that funding is not in jeopardy. Peter brought up the idea of VSSTF allocating all or part of the **unspent VSSTF money (\$25,000) to fund Ken's position. There was general approval** and general commendation for Ken and the outreach work he is doing, and the rapport he has built with people. He is also able to work well in cooperation with VPD. His position meets the #8 objective in the 10 year strategy...to link people with services for which they are eligible. Ken keeps good records and there is ample documentation of success. March 8 Peter is going to Council.
 - C. The RV operating manager of the resort on upper Main Street near Emma Wood Park contacted Peter about the negative impact of homeless individuals. These include frequent bicycle theft, attempts to break into person's trailers, and persons bathing in the bathrooms.
 - D. Census at the Winter Warming Shelter is running greater than 100 every night, higher than previous years.
 - E. The Homeless Count went well. Results will probably be available in April. Cathy Brudnicki reminds us of the extreme importance of everyone being counted in the census. Each person counted translates into \$1000 a year for the following 10 years for homeless services. They are hiring enumerators and paying \$15 an hour. Apply at Job and Career Center.
- II. Councilman Neal Andrews introduced a petition to place on the State ballot an amendment prohibiting the State from taking City or County

money. CA League of Cities is the sponsor. In the last decade, \$40 million has gone from the City alone of tax dollars to the State, money which should have been used for local programs. The petition was passed around.

III. Subcommittee reports (meeting times / locations at end)

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finley

1. Safe sleep Program will start in February with 2 locations. **Proposal that Peter Brown, Mark Stadler and Bill form the committee to fine tune the criteria for sites agreed on by voice vote.**
2. Roseanne Morrissey reported that Kingdom Center is opening soon. Four families have been selected. Twelve units are completed. They ran into difficulties with ADA requirements for handicapped unit. Also need a front loading ADA approved washer, and small refrigerators. Call 650-7422 if you can help. Roseanne will be doing primarily crisis counseling and David Christensen will coordinate Operation Embrace services.
3. Proposal from Faith Committee to designate a fall month as Homeless Awareness Month , to get proclamation from City Council and plan church events as well as business, arts, service clubs, etc. activities during this month. Decision made to designate November since there is a National Day (week?) of Homeless Awareness in Nov. **Agreed by voice vote to plan and encourage activities and call on City Council to declare November, Homeless Awareness Month in Ventura.** Neal Andrews and Peter Brown abstaining.
4. The Community Presbyterian Circle of Caring that Jack Broms and Donna Mason are involved in around a woman and her adult daughter has successes to report. Carole, the helpee, continues to be employed, the daughter is now receiving SSDI. Their 5th wheel trailer has been permanently located and they are living in it. A lot of support as well as \$4-5,000 has been expended, and this family is no longer homeless. They had been living in their car, which then was repossessed, or in a relative's apartment with 10 people there. This is the second Caring Circle connected to VSSTF which has been successful in permanently housing people and helping them to be self supporting and in a stable situation.

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cantle

1. Catholic Charities assisted 10 households with an average of \$668. 118 total households assisted. Fund stands at \$2300 and

a \$10,000 donation from VC Together will come soon. Frans reports he is seeing 4 applicants a day and has appointments booked through April.

2. A request was submitted for EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program) monies.
3. Some changes made to VHPF rules: a) Federal Funds should be used first if applicants are eligible b) follow up contacts being taken over by Cindy or someone she delegates.
4. Steven Meyer is working on idea for concerts to benefit VHPF. He will come back with specifics.
5. Ventura County has free discount prescription cards. Go to www.coast2coastrx.com/venturaca for more info or call Cindy.

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. Susan Everett from HA is working on the project. Muriel is working as a volunteer and Ken Finning is coming to One Stop to help get people into Home Share. Elks will publish article about Home Share if one is submitted.
2. Jeff Lambert, Community Development, City of Ventura will be coming again to speak to the committee. Topics to include transitional and emergency shelter.
3. New meeting place and time, second Wednesdays at Housing Authority on 11122 Snapdragon Lane, 4:30-6PM.

D. Gateway Report by Bill Finley

Explorations are ongoing to move forward with plan.

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. The Community Outreach meeting will be held in November as part of Homeless Awareness Month. Meeting to include success stories and future needed actions.
2. League of Women voters will be doing a morning meeting on Homelessness in April or May with VSSTF involvement.
2. Need a new chair for committee. Please consider taking on this opportunity.

F. Steering Committee by John Jones

1. Beginning to make plans for a 3 hour retreat in spring with facilitator (likely to be Laurie Flack) to hash out direction and accountability within Task Force. Maximum of 15-18 persons to be involved.
2. The committee to evaluate funding proposals to the City will meet soon.

3. Reminder to Committee Chairs to give email contact for all committee members to John.
4. **Steering Committee will meet at Starbucks every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:30.**
5. Several people going to NAEH conference Feb 11-12 in LA: John, Debora, Sherry, Bill, Danny, Cathy, Karol, Cindy, and Susan Everett, so far. Bill will drive a van to commute.
6. Steering committee members will be meeting with VPD Ken Corney and/or Mark Stadler also with new Councilman Mike Tracy. Possibility of VSSTF members going on ride-alongs with police.
7. NAMI walk is May 1. Again we are putting together a team; all are encouraged to walk with VSSTF Vulnerable Persons Unit. A \$500 donation was made on behalf of VSSTF which makes us a sponsor to be listed on the T-shirts.

V. Old Business

1. Report on One Stop by Kate Mills.
Last Tuesday 31 new persons were served. It was very busy and rewarding. There is a paid part time pharmacy position available for up to 9 hours a week.

VI. Announcements

1. Lift UpYour Voice is doing training with homeless or previously homeless persons to become advocates and spokespersons. They are waiting to hear if they were awarded a McCune grant. Contact Beth at LUV.Beth@gmail.com or 861-8341.
2. Free Income Tax Service available; call 211 to locate sites. It is vitally important that low income people file and apply for EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) Last year there was 9 million dollars not claimed in Ventura County.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting March 3, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

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, March 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. March 3, 3-5 PM,

The **Community Education** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Tuesday, **3:30-5:00 PM**, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003, March 9 3:30 PM

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at Supervisor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4th Floor, Ventura 93003 Feb 24

The **Housing Options** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy. Feb 10, March 10

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM, Feb 17, March 17

<http://www.onecityventura.org>